

Minerals Management Service, Interior

§ 227.200

your existing agreement until its expiration date. Before the agreement expires, if you wish to continue to perform one or more of the delegated functions you performed under the expired agreement, you must request a new delegation agreement meeting the requirements of this part and the applicable standards.

(b) If you want to perform royalty management functions in addition to those authorized under your existing agreement, you must request a new delegation agreement under this part.

(c) MMS may extend any delegation agreement in effect on the effective date of this regulation for up to 3 years beyond the date it is due to expire.

COMPENSATION

§ 227.112 What compensation will a State receive to perform delegated functions?

You will receive compensation for your costs to perform each delegated function subject to the following conditions:

(a) Compensation for costs is subject to Congressional appropriations;

(b) Compensation may not exceed the reasonably anticipated expenditures that MMS would incur to perform the same function;

(c) The cost for which you request compensation must be directly related to your performance of a delegated function and necessary for your performance of that delegated function;

(d) At a minimum, you must provide vouchers detailing your expenditures quarterly during the fiscal year. However, you may agree to provide vouchers on a monthly basis in your delegation agreement;

(e) You must maintain adequate books and records to support your vouchers;

(f) MMS will pay you quarterly or monthly during the fiscal year as stated in your delegation agreement; and

(g) MMS may withhold compensation to you for your failure to properly perform any delegated function as provided in section 227.801 of this part.

STATES' RESPONSIBILITIES TO PERFORM DELEGATED FUNCTIONS

§ 227.200 What are a State's general responsibilities if it accepts a delegation?

For each delegated function you perform, you must:

(a) Operate in compliance with all Federal laws, regulations, and Secretarial and MMS determinations and orders relating to calculating, reporting, and paying mineral royalties and other revenues. You must seek information or guidance from MMS regarding new, complex, or unique issues. If MMS determines that written guidance or interpretation is appropriate, MMS will provide the guidance or interpretation in writing to you and you must follow the interpretation or guidance given;

(b) Comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). You must:

(1) Provide complete disclosure of financial results of activities;

(2) Maintain correct and accurate records of all mineral-related transactions and accounts;

(3) Maintain effective controls and accountability;

(4) Maintain a system of accounts that includes a comprehensive audit trail so that all entries may be traced to one or more source documents; and

(5) Maintain adequate royalty and production information for royalty management purposes;

(c) Assist MMS in meeting the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) as well as assisting in developing and endeavoring to comply with the MMS Strategic Plan and Performance Measurements;

(d) Maintain all records you obtain or create under your delegated function, such as royalty reports, production reports, and other related information. You must maintain such records in a safe, secure manner, including taking appropriate measures for protecting confidential and proprietary information and assisting MMS in responding to Freedom of Information Act requests when necessary. You must maintain such records for at least 7 years;

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(e) Provide reports to MMS about your activities under your delegated functions. MMS will specify in your delegation agreement what reports you must submit and how often you must submit them. At a minimum, you must provide periodic statistical reports to MMS summarizing the activities you carried out, such as:

- (1) Production and royalty reports processed;
- (2) Erroneous reports corrected;
- (3) Results of automated verification findings;
- (4) Number of audits performed; and
- (5) Enforcement documents issued.

(f) Assist MMS in maintaining adequate reference, royalty, and production databases as provided in the *Standards* issued under § 227.201 of this part and the delegation agreement;

(g) Develop annual work plans that:

- (1) Specify the work you will perform for each delegated function; and
- (2) Identify the resources you will commit to perform each delegated function;

(h) Help MMS respond to requests for information from other Federal agencies, Congress, and the public;

(i) Cooperate with MMS's monitoring of your delegated functions; and

(j) Comply with the *Standards* as required under § 227.201 of this part.

§ 227.201 What standards must a State comply with for performing delegated functions?

(a) If MMS delegates royalty management functions to you, you must comply with the *Standards*. The *Standards* explain how you must carry out the activities under each of the delegable functions.

(b) Your delegation agreement may include additional standards specifically applicable to the functions delegated to you.

(c) Failure to comply with your delegation agreement, the *Standards*, or any of the specific standards and requirements in the delegation agreement, is grounds for termination of all or part of your delegation agreement, or other actions as provided under §§ 227.801 and 227.802.

(d) MMS may revise the *Standards* and will provide notice of those changes in the FEDERAL REGISTER. You

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must comply with any changes to the *Standards*.

§ 227.300 What audit functions may a State perform?

An audit consists of an examination of records to verify that royalty reports and payments accurately reflect actual production, sales, revenues and costs, and compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, lease terms, and MMS policy determinations.

(a) If you request delegation of audit functions, you must perform at least the following:

- (1) Submitting requests for records;
- (2) Examining royalty and production reports;

(3) Examining lessee production and sales records, including contracts, payments, invoices, and transportation and processing costs to substantiate production and royalty reporting;

(4) Providing assistance to MMS for appealed demands or orders, including preparing field reports, performing remanded actions, modifying orders, and providing oral and written briefing and testimony as expert witnesses.

(b) If necessary for a particular audit, you may also perform any of the following:

- (1) Issuing engagement letters;
- (2) Arranging for entrance conferences;
- (3) Scheduling site visits; and
- (4) Issuing record releases and audit closure letters; and
- (5) Holding closeout conferences.

§ 227.301 What are a State's responsibilities if it performs audits?

If you perform audits you must:

(a) Comply with the *MMS Audit Procedures Manual* and the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States;

(b) Follow the MMS Annual Audit Work Plan and 5-year Audit Strategy, which MMS will develop in consultation with States having delegated audit authority;

(c) Agree to undertake special audit initiatives MMS identifies targeting specific royalty issues, such as valuation or volume determinations;