

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3103.4-1

(1) 12½ percent on all leases, including exchange and renewal leases and leases issued in lieu of unpatented oil placer mining claims under §3108.2-4 of this title, issued after December 22, 1987, except:

(i) Leases issued after December 22, 1987, resulting from offers to lease or bids filed on or before December 22, 1987, which are subject to the rates in effect on December 22, 1987; and

(ii) Leases issued on or before December 22, 1987, which are subject to the rates contained in the lease or in regulations at the time of issuance;

(2) 16⅓ percent on noncompetitive leases reinstated under §3108.2-3 of this title plus an additional 2 percentage-point increase added for each succeeding reinstatement;

(3) Not less than 4 percentage points above the rate used for royalty determination contained in the lease that is reinstated or in force at the time of issuance of the lease that is reinstated for competitive leases, plus an additional 2 percentage-point increase added for each succeeding reinstatement.

(b) Leases that qualify under specific provisions of the Act of August 8, 1946 (30 U.S.C. 226c) may apply for a limitation of a 12½ percent royalty rate.

(c) The average production per well per day for oil and gas shall be determined pursuant to 43 CFR 3162.7-4.

(d) Payment of a royalty on the helium component of gas shall not convey the right to extract the helium. Applications for the right to extract helium shall be made under part 16 of this title.

[53 FR 22838, June 17, 1988]

§ 3103.3-2 Minimum royalties.

(a) A minimum royalty shall be payable at the expiration of each lease year beginning on or after a discovery of oil or gas in paying quantities on the lands leased, except that on unitized leases the minimum royalty shall be payable only on the participating acreage, at the following rates:

(1) On leases issued on or after August 8, 1946, and on those issued prior thereto if the lessee files an election under section 15 of the Act of August 8, 1946, a minimum royalty of \$1 per acre or fraction thereof in lieu of rental, ex-

cept as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section; and

(2) On leases issued from offers filed after December 22, 1987, and on competitive leases issued from successful bids placed at oral auctions conducted after December 22, 1987, a minimum royalty in lieu of rental of not less than the amount of rental which otherwise would be required for that lease year.

(b) Minimum royalties shall not be prorated for any lands in which the United States owns a fractional interest but shall be payable on the full acreage of the lease.

(c) Minimum royalties and rentals on non-participating acreage shall be payable to the Service.

(d) The minimum royalty provisions of this section shall be applicable to leases reinstated under §3108.2-3 of this title and leases issued under §3108.2-4 of this title.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 11637, Mar. 27, 1984; 49 FR 30448, July 30, 1984; 53 FR 22838, June 17, 1988]

§ 3103.4 Production incentives.

§ 3103.4-1 Royalty reductions.

(a) In order to encourage the greatest ultimate recovery of oil or gas and in the interest of conservation, the Secretary, upon a determination that it is necessary to promote development or that the leases cannot be successfully operated under the terms provided therein, may waive, suspend or reduce the rental or minimum royalty or reduce the royalty on an entire leasehold, or any portion thereof.

(b)(1) An application for the benefits under paragraph (a) of this section on other than stripper oil well leases or heavy oil properties must be filed by the operator/payor in the proper BLM office. (Royalty reductions specifically for stripper oil well leases or heavy oil properties are discussed in §3103.4-2 and §3103.4-3 respectively.) The application must contain the serial number of the leases, the names of the record title holders, operating rights owners (sublessees), and operators for each lease, the description of lands by legal subdivision and a description of the relief requested.