

**Bureau of Land Management, Interior**

**§ 3160.0-9**

shall not be considered to have been off of production unless it is incapable of production.

(n) *Notice to lessees and operators (NTL)* means a written notice issued by the authorized officer. NTL's implement the regulations in this part and operating orders, and serve as instructions on specific item(s) of importance within a State, District, or Area.

(o) *Onshore oil and gas order* means a formal numbered order issued by the Director that implements and supplements the regulations in this part.

(p) *Operating rights owner* means a person or entity holding operating rights in a lease issued by the United States. A lessee also may be an operating rights owner if the operating rights in a lease or portion thereof have not been severed from record title.

(q) *Operator* means any person or entity including but not limited to the lessee or operating rights owner, who has stated in writing to the authorized officer that it is responsible under the terms and conditions of the lease for the operations conducted on the leased lands or a portion thereof.

(r) *Paying well* means a well that is capable of producing oil or gas of sufficient value to exceed direct operating costs and the costs of lease rentals or minimum royalty.

(s) *Person* means any individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, consortium or joint venture.

(t) *Production in paying quantities* means production from a lease of oil and/or gas of sufficient value to exceed direct operating costs and the cost of lease rentals or minimum royalties.

(u) *Superintendent* means the superintendent of an Indian Agency, or other officer authorized to act in matters of record and law with respect to oil and gas leases on restricted Indian lands.

(v) *Surface use plan of operations* means a plan for surface use, disturbance, and reclamation.

(w) *Waste of oil or gas* means any act or failure to act by the operator that is not sanctioned by the authorized officer as necessary for proper development and production and which results in: (1) A reduction in the quantity or quality of oil and gas ultimately pro-

ducible from a reservoir under prudent and proper operations; or (2) avoidable surface loss of oil or gas.

[53 FR 17362, May 16, 1988, as amended at 53 FR 22846, June 17, 1988]

**§ 3160.0-7 Cross references.**

25 CFR parts 221, 212, 213, and 227  
30 CFR Group 200  
40 CFR Chapter V  
43 CFR parts 2, 4, and 1820 and Groups 3000, 3100 and 3500

[48 FR 36584, Aug. 12, 1983]

**§ 3160.0-9 Information collection.**

(a) The information collection requirements contained in §§3162.3, 3162.3-1, 3162.3-2, 3162.3-3, 3162.3-4, 3162.4-1, 3162.4-2, 3162.5-1, 3162.5-2, 3162.5-3, 3162.6, 3162.7-1, 3162.7-2, 3162.7-3, 3162.7-5, 3164.3, 3165.1, and 3165.3 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned clearance Number 1004-0134. The information may be collected from some operators either to provide data so that proposed operations may be approved or to enable the monitoring of compliance with granted approvals. The information will be used to grant approval to begin or alter operations or to allow operations to continue. The obligation to respond is required to obtain benefits under the lease.

(b) Public reporting burden for this information is estimated to average 0.4962 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information Collection Clearance Officer (783), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC 20240, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, 1004-0134, Washington, DC 20503.

(c)(1) The information collection requirements contained in part 3160 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned the following Clearance Numbers:

**§3161.1**

**OPERATING FORMS**

Form No.	Name and filing date	OMB No.
3160-3	Application for Permit to Drill, Deepen, or Plug Back—Filed 30 days prior to planned action .....	1004-0136
3160-4	With Completion of Recompletion Report and Log—Due 30 days after well completion .....	1004-0137
3160-5	Sundry Notice and Reports on Wells—Subsequent report due 30 days after operations completed .....	1004-0135

The information will be used to manage Federal and Indian oil and gas leases. It will be used to allow evaluation of the technical, safety, and environmental factors involved with drilling and producing oil and gas on Federal and Indian oil and gas leases. Response is mandatory only if the operator elects to initiate drilling, completion, or subsequent operations on an oil and gas well, in accordance with 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*

(2) Public reporting burden for this information is estimated to average 25 minutes per response for clearance number 1004-0135, 30 minutes per response for clearance number 1004-0136, and 1 hour per response for clearance number 1004-0137, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information Collection Clearance Officer (783), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC 20240, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, 1004-0135, 1004-0136, or 1004-0137, as appropriate, Washington, DC 20503.

(d) There are many leases and agreements currently in effect, and which will remain in effect, involving both Federal and Indian oil and gas leases which specifically refer to the United States Geological Survey, USGS, Minerals Management Service, MMS, or Conservation Division. These leases and agreements also often specifically refer to various officers such as Supervisor, Conservation Manager, Deputy Conservation Manager, Minerals Manager, and Deputy Minerals Manager. In

addition, many leases and agreements specifically refer to 30 CFR part 221 or specific sections thereof, which has been redesignated as 43 CFR part 3160. Those references shall now be read in the context of Secretarial Order 3087 and now mean either the Bureau of Land Management or Minerals Management Service, as appropriate.

[57 FR 3024, Jan. 27, 1992]

**Subpart 3161—Jurisdiction and Responsibility**

**§3161.1 Jurisdiction.**

(a) All operations conducted on a Federal or Indian oil and gas lease by the operator are subject to the regulations in this part.

(b) Regulations in this part relating to site security, measurement, reporting of production and operations, and assessments or penalties for non-compliance with such requirements are applicable to all wells and facilities on State or privately-owned mineral lands committed to a unit or communitization agreement which affects Federal or Indian interests, notwithstanding any provision of a unit or communitization agreement to the contrary.

[52 FR 5391, Feb. 20, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 17362, May 16, 1988]

**§3161.2 Responsibility of the authorized officer.**

The authorized officer is authorized and directed to approve unitization, communitization, gas storage and other contractual agreements for Federal lands; to assess compensatory royalty; to approve suspensions of operations or production, or both; to issue NTL's; to approve and monitor other operator proposals for drilling, development or production of oil and gas; to perform administrative reviews; to impose monetary assessments or penalties; to provide technical information and advice relative to oil and gas development and operations on Federal and Indian lands; to enter into cooperative agreements with States, Federal agencies and Indian tribes relative to oil and gas development and operations; to approve, inspect and regulate the operations that are subject to the