Pursuant to 29 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the EEOC solicits public comment to enable it to:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the EEOC's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the EEOC's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected: and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Commission certifies pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), enacted by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Pub. L. No. 96–354, that this proposed change will not result in significant impact on small employers or other entities because the change involves elimination of reporting requirements, and that a regulatory flexibility analysis therefore is not required. The Commission hereby publishes this proposed rule for public information and comment. The rule appears below.

List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 1602

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: November 30, 1995.

For the Commission.

Gilbert F. Casellas,

Chairman.

Accordingly, it is proposed to amend 29 CFR Part 1602 as follows:

1. The authority citation for part 1602 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2000e-8, 2000e-12; 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 12117.

### § 1602.41 [Amended]

- 2. Section 1602.41 is amended as follows:
- (a) In the introductory text, in the first sentence, delete the phrase "and individual schools within such systems or district".
- (b) In the concluding text, in the first sentence, delete the phrase, ", or the individual school which is the subject of the report, where more convenient,"

3. Section 1602.43 is revised to read as follows:

# § 1602.43 Commission's remedy for school systems' or districts' failure to file report.

Any school system or district failing or refusing to file report EEO-5 when required to do so may be compelled to file by order of a U.S. district court, upon application of the Commission or the Attorney General.

4. Section 1602.44 is revised to read as follows:

## § 1602.44 School systems' or districts' exemption from reporting requirements.

If it is claimed that the preparation or filing of the report would create undue hardship, the school system or district may apply to the Commission for an exemption from the requirements set forth in this part by submitting to the Commission or its delegate a specific proposal for an alternative reporting system prior to the date on which the report is due.

[FR Doc. 95–29552 Filed 12–7–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 250, 251, and 256

### RIN 1010-AB92

### Revision of Requirements Governing Surety Bonds for Outer Continental Shelf Leases

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule would establish a deadline of 2 years for all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas and sulphur lessees to bring their bond coverage into compliance with the new levels of coverage established in 1993; clarify MMS's position that assignees, assignors, and co-lessees are jointly and severally liable for compliance with OCS oil and gas and sulphur leases; establish a regulatory framework for lease-specific abandonment accounts and acceptance of a third-party guarantee; and update the bond coverage required of right-ofway holders and Geological and Geophysical (G&G) exploration permittees. These changes are needed to reduce the risk of default by an underfunded company operating a lease or holding a right-of-way.

DATES: Comments must be received or postmarked no later than March 7, 1996 to be considered in this rulemaking. ADDRESSES: Written comments must be mailed or hand-carried to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Mail Stop 4700; Herndon, Virginia 22070–4817; Attention: Chief, Engineering and Standards Branch. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerald D. Rhodes, Engineering and Technology Division, telephone (703)

787-1609.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS regulations at 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart G, Abandonment of Wells, Subpart I, Platforms and Structures, and Subpart J, Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way, specify that OCS lessees, right-of-way holders, and G&G exploration permittees are liable for all end-of-lease financial obligations including unpaid royalties; costs of well plugging and abandonment; removal of pipe, equipment, platform(s), and facilities; and clearance of obstructions to other uses of the sea. The levels of bond coverage required by the regulations do not limit the obligations of OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees, holders of an OCS pipeline right-of-way, or exploration permittees conducting deep stratigraphic tests.

The transfer of OCS leases from large producing companies to smaller producers, some of which are marginally financed, has increased the risk that the responsible party will not be able to satisfy end-of-lease obligations.

The MMS continues to investigate ways to provide more flexibility to lessees in meeting bonding requirements. For example, MMS has allowed third-party guarantees and escrow accounts as alternatives to traditional bonds. These methods would be specifically addressed in regulations to facilitate their use. The MMS encourages lessees to suggest other alternatives to traditional bonds. The regulations provide flexibility to the Regional Director to consider alternate forms of surety.

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Lease Bond Coverage Requirements: To reduce the number of cases of underfunded liabilities, MMS published revised rules on August 27, 1993 (58 FR 45255), increasing the bond coverage required for OCS oil and gas or sulphur leases.

The MMS is phasing in the increases in the minimum levels of bond coverage as part of the process of reviewing requests for approval of lease assignments, Exploration Plans (EP), Development and Production Plans