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until all the terms and conditions of the lease have been met.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 17355, May 16, 1988; 53 FR 31867, Aug. 22, 1988]

Subpart 3105—Cooperative Conservation Provisions

§ 3105.1 Cooperative or unit agreement.

The suggested contents of such an agreement and the procedures for obtaining approval are contained in 43 CFR part 3180.

§ 3105.2 Communitization or drilling agreements.

§ 3105.2-1 Where filed.

(a) Requests to communitize separate tracts shall be filed, in triplicate, with the proper BLM office.

(b) Where a duly executed agreement is submitted for final Departmental approval, a minimum of 3 signed counterparts shall be submitted. If State lands are involved, 1 additional counterpart shall be submitted.

§ 3105.2-2 Purpose.

When a lease or a portion thereof cannot be independently developed and operated in conformity with an established well-spacing or well-development program, the authorized officer may approve communitization or drilling agreements for such lands with other lands, whether or not owned by the United States, upon a determination that it is in the public interest. Operations or production under such an agreement shall be deemed to be operations or production as to each lease committed thereto.

§ 3105.2-3 Requirements.

(a) The communitization or drilling agreement shall describe the separate tracts comprising the drilling or spacing unit, shall show the apportionment of the production or royalties to the several parties and the name of the operator, and shall contain adequate provisions for the protection of the interests of the United States. The agreement shall be signed by or on behalf of all necessary parties and shall be filed prior to the expiration of the Federal

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lease(s) involved in order to confer the benefits of the agreement upon such lease(s).

(b) The agreement shall be effective as to the Federal lease(s) involved only if approved by the authorized officer. Approved communitization agreements are considered effective from the date of the agreement or from the date of the onset of production from the communitized formation, whichever is earlier, except when the spacing unit is subject to a State pooling order after the date of first sale, then the effective date of the agreement may be the effective date of the order.

(c) The public interest requirement for an approved communitization agreement shall be satisfied only if the well dedicated thereto has been completed for production in the communitized formation at the time the agreement is approved or, if not, that the operator thereafter commences and/or diligently continues drilling operations to a depth sufficient to test the communitized formation or establish to the satisfaction of the authorized officer that further drilling of the well would be unwarranted or impracticable. If an application is received for voluntary termination of a communitization agreement during its fixed term or such an agreement automatically expires at the end of its fixed term without the public interest requirement having been satisfied, the approval of that agreement by the authorized officer shall be invalid and no Federal lease shall be eligible for extension under § 3107.4 of this title.

[53 FR 17355, May 16, 1988]

§ 3105.3 Operating, drilling or development contracts.

§ 3105.3-1 Where filed.

A contract submitted for approval under this section shall be filed with the proper BLM office, together with enough copies to permit retention of 5 copies by the Department after approval.

§ 3105.3-2 Purpose.

Approval of operating, drilling or development contracts ordinarily shall be granted only to permit operators or

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pipeline companies to enter into contracts with a number of lessees sufficient to justify operations on a scale large enough to justify the discovery, development, production or transportation of oil or gas and to finance the same.

§ 3105.3-3 Requirements.

The contract shall be accompanied by a statement showing all the interests held by the contractor in the area or field and the proposed or agreed plan for development and operation of the field. All the contracts held by the same contractor in the area or field shall be submitted for approval at the same time and full disclosure of the projects made.

§ 3105.4 Combination for joint operations or for transportation of oil.

§ 3105.4-1 Where filed.

An application under this section together with sufficient copies to permit retention of 5 copies by the Department after approval shall be filed with the proper BLM office.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 2113, Jan. 18, 1984]

§ 3105.4-2 Purpose.

Upon obtaining approval of the authorized officer, lessees may combine their interests in leases for the purpose of constructing and carrying on the business of a refinery or of establishing and constructing as a common carrier a pipeline or lines or railroads to be operated and used by them jointly in the transportation of oil or gas from their wells or from the wells of other lessees.

§ 3105.4-3 Requirements.

The application shall show a reasonable need for the combination and that it will not result in any concentration of control over the production or sale of oil and gas which would be inconsistent with the anti-monopoly provisions of law.

§ 3105.4-4 Rights-of-way.

Rights-of-way for pipelines may be granted as provided in part 2880 of this title.

§ 3105.5 Subsurface storage of oil and gas.

§ 3105.5-1 Where filed.

(a) Applications for subsurface storage shall be filed in the proper BLM office.

(b) Enough copies of the final agreement signed by all the parties in interest shall be submitted to permit the retention of 5 copies by the Department after approval.

§ 3105.5-2 Purpose.

In order to avoid waste and to promote conservation of natural resources, the Secretary, upon application by the interested parties, may authorize the subsurface storage of oil and gas, whether or not produced from lands owned by the United States. Such authorization shall provide for the payment of such storage fee or rental on the stored oil or gas as may be determined adequate in each case, or, in lieu thereof, for a royalty other than that prescribed in the lease when such stored oil or gas is produced in conjunction with oil or gas not previously produced.

§ 3105.5-3 Requirements.

The agreement shall disclose the ownership of the lands involved, the parties in interest, the storage fee, rental or royalty offered to be paid for such storage and all essential information showing the necessity for such project.

§ 3105.5-4 Extension of lease term.

Any lease used for the storage of oil or gas shall be extended for the period of storage under an approved agreement. The obligation to pay annual lease rent continues during the extended period.

§ 3105.6 Consolidation of leases.

BLM may approve consolidation of leases if we determine that there is sufficient justification and it is in the public interest. Each application for a consolidation of leases must include payment of the processing fee found in the fee schedule in §3000.12 of this chapter. Each application for consolidation of leases shall be considered on

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its own merits. Leases to different lessees for different terms, rental and royalty rates, and those containing provisions required by law that cannot be reconciled, shall not be consolidated. The effective date of a consolidated lease shall be that of the oldest lease involved in the consolidation.

[53 FR 17355, May 16, 1988, as amended at 70 FR 58874, Oct. 7, 2005]

Subpart 3106—Transfers by Assignment, Sublease or Otherwise

SOURCE: 53 FR 17355, May 16, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3106.1 Transfers, general.

(a) Leases may be transferred by assignment or sublease as to all or part of the acreage in the lease or as to either a divided or undivided interest therein. An assignment of a separate zone or deposit, or of part of a legal subdivision, shall be disapproved.

(b) An assignment of less than 640 acres outside Alaska or of less than 2,560 acres within Alaska shall be disapproved unless the assignment constitutes the entire lease or is demonstrated to further the development of oil and gas to the satisfaction of the authorized officer. Execution and submission of a request for approval of such an assignment shall certify that the assignment would further the development of oil and gas, subject to the provisions of § 3102.5-3 of this title. The rights of the transferee to a lease or an interest therein shall not be recognized by the Department until the transfer has been approved by the authorized officer. A transfer may be withdrawn in writing, signed by the transferor and the transferee, if the transfer has not been approved by the authorized officer. A request for approval of a transfer of a lease or interest in a lease shall be filed within 90 days from the date of its execution. The 90-day filing period shall begin on the date the transferor signs and dates the transfer. If the transfer is filed after the 90th day, the authorized officer may require verification that the transfer is still in force and effect. A transfer of production payments or overriding royalty or

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other similar payments, arrangements, or interests shall be filed in the proper BLM office but shall not require approval.

(c) No transfer of an offer to lease or interest in a lease shall be approved prior to the issuance of the lease.

[53 FR 22839, June 17, 1988]

§ 3106.2 Qualifications of transferees.

Transferees shall comply with the provisions of subpart 3102 of this title and post any bond that may be required.

§ 3106.3 Fees.

Each transfer of record title or of operating rights (sublease) for each lease must include payment of the processing fee for assignments and transfers found in the fee schedule in § 3000.12 of this chapter. Each request for a transfer to an heir or devisee, request for a change of name, or notification of a corporate merger under § 3106.8, must include payment of the processing fee for name changes, corporate mergers or transfers to heir/devisee found in the fee schedule in § 3000.12 of this chapter. Each transfer of overriding royalty or payment out of production must include payment of the processing fee for overriding royalty transfers or payments out of productions found in the fee schedule in § 3000.12 of this chapter for each lease to which it applies.

[70 FR 58874, Oct. 7, 2005]

§ 3106.4 Forms.

§ 3106.4-1 Transfers of record title and of operating rights (subleases).

Each transfer of record title or of an operating right (sublease) shall be filed with the proper BLM office on a current form approved by the Director or exact reproductions of the front and back of such form. A transfer filed on a form not currently in use shall be acceptable, unless such form has been declared obsolete by the Director prior to the filing of the transfer. A separate form for each transfer, in triplicate, originally executed shall be filed for each lease out of which a transfer is made. Only 1 originally executed copy of a transferee's request for approval