

Session 7—3 p.m. to 4 p.m. MT

Public Comment Period (Second)

Session 8—4 p.m. to 5 p.m. MT

Advisory Board Discussion and Finalize  
Recommendations (Board vote)

Adjourn

Agenda may be subject to change.

**Public Participation:** Due to limited space, those wishing to attend the educational tour to the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area on December 12 must register via email to [dboothe@blm.gov](mailto:dboothe@blm.gov) no later than 5 p.m. MT on November 29, 2023. Attendees must provide their own high clearance transportation and any necessary food, health and safety items needed for a full day in the field.

The Board, the BLM, and the USFS welcome comments from all interested parties. The public will have an opportunity to make a verbal statement to the Advisory Board in person and virtually via Zoom (audio only) on Wednesday, December 13, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. MT and on Thursday, December 14, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. MT. To provide comments via Zoom, interested parties must register by December 8, 2023 at the following website: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/advisory-board>. To provide comments in-person, interested parties may register on-site up to one hour before the comment period commences.

Individuals who have not registered in advance may be permitted to offer comment if time allows. Participants using desktops, laptops, smartphones, and other personal digital devices will be able to participate with audio only via a link provided by the BLM. Those with phone-only access will be able to participate via a phone number and meeting ID provided by the BLM at the time of registration. The Board may limit the length of comments, depending on the number of participants who register in advance. The public may also submit written comments to the Board in addition to, or in lieu of, providing verbal comment. Written comments should be submitted to the Advisory Board at [BLM\\_WO\\_Advisory\\_Board\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_WO_Advisory_Board_Comments@blm.gov). Comments emailed three days prior to the meeting no later than 5 p.m. MT will be provided to the Advisory Board for consideration during the meeting. The BLM will record the entire meeting, including the allotted public comment sessions. Comments should be specific and explain the reason for the recommendation(s). Comments supported by quantitative information, studies, or those that include citations and analysis of applicable laws and

regulations are most useful, and more likely to assist the decision-making process for the management and protection of wild horses and burros.

Beyond live captioning, any person(s) with special needs, such as for an auxiliary aid, interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify Ms. Boothe 2 weeks before the scheduled meeting date. It is important to adhere to the 2-week notice to allow enough time to arrange for the auxiliary aid or special service. Live captioning will be available throughout the event on the BLM livestream page at [www.blm.gov/live](http://www.blm.gov/live).

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4–2)

**Sharif D. Branham,**

*Assistant Director, Resources and Planning.*

[FR Doc. 2023–24769 Filed 11–8–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4331–27–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Indian Gaming Commission

#### Fee Rate and Fingerprint Fees

**AGENCY:** National Indian Gaming Commission, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the National Indian Gaming Commission has adopted its annual fee rates of 0.00% for tier 1 and 0.08% (.0008) for tier 2, which maintain the current fee rates. These rates shall apply to all assessable gross revenues from each gaming operation under the jurisdiction of the Commission. If a tribe has a certificate of self-regulation, the fee rate on Class II revenues shall be 0.04% (.0004) which is one-half of the annual fee rate. The annual fee rates are effective November 1, 2023, and will remain in effect until new rates are adopted. The National Indian Gaming Commission has also adopted its fingerprint processing fee of \$53 per card which represents an increase of \$8 per card. The fingerprint processing fee is effective November 1, 2023, and will remain in effect until the Commission adopts a new rate.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Yvonne Lee, National Indian Gaming Commission, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop #1621, Washington, DC 20240; telephone (202) 632–7003; fax (202) 632–7066.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) established the National Indian Gaming Commission, which is charged with regulating gaming on Indian lands.

Commission regulations (25 CFR 514) provide for a system of fee assessment and payment that is self-administered by gaming operations.

Pursuant to those regulations, the Commission is required to adopt and communicate assessment rates and the gaming operations are required to apply those rates to their revenues, compute the fees to be paid, report the revenues, and remit the fees to the Commission. All gaming operations within the jurisdiction of the Commission are required to self-administer the provisions of these regulations, and report and pay any fees that are due to the Commission. It is necessary for the Commission to maintain the fee rate to ensure that the agency has sufficient funding to fully meet its statutory and regulatory responsibilities as the gaming industry continues to emerge from the pandemic. In addition, it is critical for the Commission to maintain constantly an adequate transition carryover balance to cover any cash flow variations.

Pursuant to 25 CFR 514, the Commission must also review annually the costs involved in processing fingerprint cards and set a fee based on fees charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and costs incurred by the Commission. Commission costs include Commission personnel, supplies, equipment & infrastructure costs, and postage to submit the results to the requesting tribe. The number of fingerprint cards submitted to the NIGC for processing has significantly decreased since the pandemic. The fingerprint processing fee increase is a result of spreading the fixed costs allocated to fingerprint processing over a smaller number of cards processed. In addition, the FY24 fingerprint processing fee includes the cost allocation from the one-time capital investments associated with the Washington, DC headquarters office relocation and the Agency's hardware refresh of core networking and server computing devices required to support the Agency's infrastructure operations. Maintaining valid support agreements and replacing aging hardware when needed is vital to ensure maximum uptime for IT operations while

minimizing disruptions to business processes, including the Tribal fingerprint services. In FY24 the Commission will also continue its commitment to take necessary measures to comply with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services (FBI CJIS) requirements which ensure the NIGC and participating tribes can continue to use FBI criminal history report information (CHRI) to assist in determining a key employee or primary management official's eligibility for a gaming license.

Dated: November 1, 2023.

**Edward Simermeyer,**  
*Chairman.*

Dated: November 1, 2023.

**Jean Hovland,**  
*Vice Chair.*

[FR Doc. 2023-24780 Filed 11-8-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7565-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM-2023-0013]

#### Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 261

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice regarding Lease Sale 261.

**SUMMARY:** With this notice, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing that it is postponing Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 261 pending further action by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. To comply with an injunction sought and obtained by the State of Louisiana and other plaintiffs from the district court, as well as a subsequent order from the Fifth Circuit, BOEM had previously provided notice of its intent to hold Lease Sale 261 on November 8, 2023. On October 26, 2023, however, the Fifth Circuit stayed the relevant injunction and order pending the merits panel's decision on appeal. To avoid preempting the Fifth Circuit's decision, and avoid duplication of effort, BOEM is now deferring Lease Sale 261 pending disposition of the appeal that is before the Fifth Circuit.

Therefore, BOEM will not open and announce bids for the sale on November 8, 2023. BOEM will make future announcements regarding when and under what terms Lease Sale 261 will be held after the Court issues its ruling or provides additional direction to BOEM. Additional information and announcements will be made available

on BOEM's website prior to the sale date. See <http://www.boem.gov/sale-261>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The New Orleans Office Lease Sale Coordinator, Greg Purvis, at [BOEMGOMRLeaseSales@boem.gov](mailto:BOEMGOMRLeaseSales@boem.gov) or 504-736-1729.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 25, 2023, BOEM published in the **Federal Register** the Final Notice of Sale (NOS) for Lease Sale 261. See 88 FR 58300. In that Final NOS, BOEM announced that the sale would be held on September 27, 2023. The State of Louisiana and other plaintiffs then challenged the Final NOS in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, seeking preliminary injunctions to force BOEM to (1) include lease blocks previously excluded to protect the Rice's whale and (2) remove provisions in Stipulation No. 4 ("Protected Species") that BOEM had added to protect the Rice's whale from certain oil and gas activities while BOEM engaged in a reinitiated consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

On September 21, 2023, six days before the planned sale, the district court issued a preliminary injunction order requiring BOEM to include the previously excluded blocks and modify the stipulation by removing the new Rice's whale protections. The court also ordered BOEM to hold the sale on or before September 30, 2023. On September 22, 2023, the government appealed and filed an emergency motion in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, requesting that the court stay or modify the injunction to avoid an inequitable sale and to allow for the administrative and legal processes necessary to hold the modified sale and provide the statutorily required notice to the public of the revised lease sale terms. (Case No. 23-30666). Intervenor-Defendants also appealed and filed an emergency motion in the Fifth Circuit, requesting that the Court stay the injunction in its entirety. On September 25, 2023, the Fifth Circuit issued an order directing BOEM to hold Lease Sale 261 as required by the district court, but permitting BOEM until November 8, 2023, to hold the sale. On October 6, 2023, BOEM published a revised Final NOS in accordance with the September 25, 2023, order, announcing the modified terms of the sale and notifying bidders that it would open bids on November 8, 2023. See 88 FR 69660. On October 26, 2023, the Fifth Circuit stayed the injunction in its entirety pending further action by that court and

scheduled oral argument for November 13, 2023.

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, BOEM has inherent discretion to postpone lease sales on reasonable grounds, including, as described in the October 6, 2023, notice, to comply with court orders. Because BOEM anticipates that the Fifth Circuit will further clarify the scope of BOEM's discretion and obligations concerning Lease Sale 261, BOEM has concluded that holding Lease Sale 261 before the Fifth Circuit resolves the appeal could result in duplication of effort and bidder confusion in the event that the November 8, 2023, sale is inconsistent with the Fifth Circuit's subsequent guidance. BOEM will therefore not hold Lease Sale 261 on November 8, 2023. Bidders wishing to participate in Lease Sale 261 should not submit bids until receiving further instructions from BOEM. Bids that were already received will be held by BOEM, and BOEM will notify bidders of how those bids will be handled once it receives further direction from the Fifth Circuit. In reaching this conclusion, BOEM is cognizant that the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 directs BOEM to hold Lease Sale 261 by September 30, 2023, a deadline that BOEM was prepared to meet prior to plaintiffs' lawsuits.

As set forth above, BOEM is postponing the sale beyond its originally scheduled date in response to plaintiffs' lawsuits and the resulting judicial orders.

*Authority:* 43 U.S.C. 1337; 30 CFR part 556.

**Elizabeth Klein,**  
*Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

[FR Doc. 2023-24834 Filed 11-8-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4340-98-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the