

40 CFR Parts 704 and 799

[OPPTS-42051B; FRL 4047-6]

Glycidol and Its Derivatives Category; Proposed Test Rule; Extension of Public Comment Period**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is extending the comment period for the proposed test rule for the "Glycidol and its Derivatives" category published in the Federal Register of November 7, 1991. The extension responds to a request by the Society of the Plastic Industry, Incorporated (SPI) and others for an additional 60 days to permit more time to evaluate the administrative record for this complex proposal and prepare written comments.

DATES: Submit written comments on or before April 6, 1992. If persons request an opportunity to submit oral comments by April 6, 1992, EPA will hold a public meeting on this rule in Washington, DC.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments, identified by the document control number (OPPTS-42051B), in triplicate to: TSCA Public Docket Office (TS-793), rm. NE-G004, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. A public version of the administrative record supporting this action (with any confidential business information deleted) is available for inspection at the above address from 8 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Kling, Acting Director, Environmental Assistance Division (TS-799), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, rm. E-543B, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1404, TDD (202) 554-0551.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA issued a proposed test rule published in the Federal Register of November 17, 1991 (56 FR 57144) with reporting and recordkeeping requirements on the testing of the "Glycidol and its Derivatives" category for mutagenicity, oncogenicity, developmental toxicity, subchronic toxicity, acute and subchronic neurotoxicity and reproductive toxicity. EPA received requests from SPI and others for a 60-day extension of the comment period on this rule because of the complexity of certain aspects of the rule. EPA believes the request to be reasonable and agrees to this extension for public comment.

EPA also extends the period of time to request a public meeting to April 6, 1992, on this proposed test rule.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2603.

Dated: January 26, 1992.

Joseph A. Carra,
Acting Director, Office of Pollution
Prevention and Toxics.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****43 CFR Part 3180**

RIN 1004-AB73

[WO-610-4111-02-2411-24 1A]

Onshore Oil and Gas Unit Agreements: Unproven Areas**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In keeping with its legal and fiduciary obligations for prudent management of the public lands and resources, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to make permanent its interim policy of conditioning its approval of all new onshore oil and gas unit agreements on the inclusion of a compensation provision for lost production royalty from unleased Federal lands located within the boundaries of unit participating areas. Changes in the regulations under subpart 3181, and the model onshore oil and gas unit agreement for unproven areas at § 3186.1 are proposed in order to provide for such compensation.

Also proposed is a change in the onshore oil and gas unit regulations at § 3183.4, which would define the effective date of approval of an onshore oil and gas unit agreement as the date of signature and approval by the BLM authorized officer.

A further change is proposed at § 3185.1 that would clarify the procedures for administrative appeal that are available to parties adversely affected by actions or decisions taken by the authorized officer under this part of the regulations.

DATES: Comments will be accepted until April 6, 1992. Comments received or postmarked after this date may not be considered in the decisionmaking process on the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Director (140), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the

Interior, room 5555 Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Comments will be available for public review in room 5555 of the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sie Ling Chiang, (202) 653-2133, or Wayne Stevens, (202) 653-2164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 30 U.S.C. 226(m), any unit agreement proposal embracing Federal lands requires the approval of the BLM. Such approval may be given only upon determination that the agreement is necessary or advisable to further the public interest. The Federal Government sustains a loss of royalty income when unleased Federal lands are drained by producing wells located on nearby non-Federal tracts or Federal tracts producing under a lower royalty rate. To avoid this revenue loss, the BLM attempts to lease these lands and have them committed to the unit agreement, but occasionally it is unable to do so for various reasons beyond its control.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of the Interior, in an audit report released on December 2, 1986, expressed concerns about oil and gas drainage from Federal lands. In a more recent study, the OIG examined the status of unleased Federal lands located within producing areas of onshore oil and gas units. In the latter study, the OIG recognized that attempts to lease these lands are not always successful and concluded that the Federal Government continues to lose production royalty revenue from unleased Federal lands located within producing units. The OIG recommended that the BLM take steps to ensure that, in the future, the Federal royalty interest in unleased unit lands is adequately protected.

It has been determined that the public interest requires the United States to be assured of compensation for lost production revenues occasioned by unleased Federal lands being located within a unit participating area. The field offices of BLM were instructed on January 29, 1990, to scrutinize carefully all proposed unit agreements that could have resulted in uncompensated drainage from unleased Federal tracts. It is now proposed to incorporate this policy determination into the permanent regulations of the Department of the Interior. A new § 3181.5 is proposed to accomplish this. In order for the authorized officer to approve a unit agreement, the agreement is required to contain a compensatory royalty