

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3400.0-3

suspension and any requirements the unit operator must meet for the suspension to remain in effect.

§ 3287.2 When may BLM grant a suspension of unit obligations?

(a) BLM may grant a suspension of unit obligations when, despite the exercise of due care and diligence, the unit operator is prevented from complying with such obligations, in whole or in part, by:

- (1) Acts of God;
- (2) Federal, state, or municipal laws;
- (3) Labor strikes;
- (4) Unavoidable accidents;
- (5) Uncontrollable delays in transportation;
- (6) The inability to obtain necessary materials or equipment in the open market; or
- (7) Other circumstances that BLM determines are beyond the reasonable control of the unit operator, such as agency timeframes required to complete environmental documents.

(b) BLM may deny the request for suspension of unit obligations when the suspension would involve a lengthy or indefinite period. For example, BLM might not approve a suspension of initial drilling obligations due to a unit operator's inability to obtain an electrical sales contract, or when poor economics affect the electrical generation market, limiting the opportunity to obtain a viable sales contract. BLM may grant a suspension of subsequent drilling obligations when it is in the public interest.

§ 3287.3 How does a suspension of unit obligations affect the terms of the unit agreement?

(a) BLM may suspend any terms of the unit agreement during the period a suspension is effective. During the period of the suspension, the involved unit terms are tolled. The suspension may not relieve the unit operator of its responsibility to meet other requirements of the unit agreement. For example, the unit operator may continue to be required to diligently develop or produce the resource during a suspension of drilling obligations.

(b) The unit operator must ensure all interests in the agreement are notified

of any suspension granted and the terms of the suspension.

§ 3287.4 May a decision made by BLM under this part be appealed?

A unit operator or any other adversely affected person may appeal a BLM decision regarding unit administration or operations in accordance with § 3200.5 of this chapter.

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 189, 359, 1211, 1251, 1266, and 1273; and 43 U.S.C. 1461, 1733, and 1740.

SOURCE: 44 FR 42609, July 19, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 3400—Introduction: General

§ 3400.0-3 Authority.

(a) These regulations are issued under the authority of and to implement provisions of:

(1) The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

(2) The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359 *et seq.*).

(3) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*).

(4) The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, August 3, 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*).

(5) The Multiple Mineral Development Act of August 13, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 521-531 *et seq.*).