

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**

NTL No. 2011-N10

Effective Date: November 15, 2011  
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**NATIONAL NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS (NTL) OF FEDERAL  
OIL AND GAS LEASES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)**

**Suspensions of Production**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators is being issued to distribute a recent decision by the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals that provides the agency interpretation of certain regulations governing the granting/denial of requests for Suspensions of Production (SOP).

This binding agency interpretation applies to SOP requests submitted after the date of the decision (May 31, 2011) and can be found at:

<http://www.oha.doi.gov:8080/index.html>

and search for DIR-2010-0027.

In part, this decision focuses on the requirement of a “commitment to production” (30 CFR 250.171(d)) and the fact that the granting of SOPs is discretionary. It also includes a discussion of the “national interest” standard and the distinction between production and transportation facilities.

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement**

The collection of information referred to in this notice provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart A. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the collection of information required by this regulation and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0114. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**Contact**

If you need additional guidance or clarification on the effect of this binding agency interpretation, please contact Mr. Richie Baud at (504)736-2480 (GOMR), Mr. Drew Mayerson at (805)389-7707 (Pacific Region), and Mr. Jeff Walker at (907)334-5300 (Alaska Region).



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Director  
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