

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2009-G29

Effective Date: October 13, 2009
Expiration Date: October 12, 2014

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

**Implementation Plan for Transition
from North American Datum 27 to North American Datum 83**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2002-G12, Revised North American Datum 83 Implementation Plan for the Gulf of Mexico, effective November 4, 2002. It clarifies that all pipeline location information is to be reported and submitted in North American Datum (NAD) 27, clarifies reporting for wells and platforms, updates contact information, and includes a guidance document statement.

Background

On May 1, 1991, Minerals Management Service (MMS) published in the Federal Register (56 FR 20020) an implementation plan for converting the offshore cadastre from NAD 27 to NAD 83. In the MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR), Phase I of this plan specifies that all location data pertaining to drilling activities, wells, platforms, pipelines, or any other activities or facilities must specifically reference either NAD 27 or NAD 83. As announced in a February 12, 1992, Federal Register Notice (57 FR 5168), any NAD 83 to NAD 27-converted equivalents are to be derived using NADCON software, version 2.0 or better.

Reporting Guidance

To ensure that surface location data and final location plats pertaining to drilling activities, wells, platforms, pipelines, or any other activities or facilities is sufficiently accurate, the MMS GOMR has implemented Phase I of its NAD 83 plan as follows:

1. Report all "as-drilled" well surface location data in NAD 83.
2. Submit all "as-drilled" and "as-built" location plats in NAD 27. However, on the plats for wells and platforms, list latitude and longitude coordinates in both NAD 83 and NAD 27, and X-Y coordinates and block-line departure measures in NAD 27.
3. Submit and report all "as-built" pipeline location coordinates in X-Y coordinates in NAD 27 as outlined in NTL No. 2009-G15, Digital Pipeline Location Data.
4. Report all "proposed" surface location data in NAD 27.
5. Submit all "proposed" surface location plats in NAD 27.

Do not make any changes in your submittals until the MMS GOMR issues subsequent NTL's to provide you with specific guidance and effective dates concerning the use of revised forms, location plats, and/or data file formats.

Implementation Plan

Please note that the MMS GOMR will remain in Phase I of NAD 83 implementation for the foreseeable future. The offshore cadastre used by the MMS GOMR will continue to be defined on NAD 27, and the MMS GOMR will convert your submitted NAD 83 "as-drilled" and "as-built" surface location data to NAD 27 equivalents using the NADCON software. When appropriate, the MMS GOMR will make NAD 83 equivalents available.

As before, the MMS GOMR has no plans to move to Phases II or III of the NAD 83 Implementation Plan at this time, nor has the MMS GOMR established a schedule to accomplish this task.

Guidance Document Statement

The MMS issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain MMS regulatory requirements and to outline the information you provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on and an interpretation of a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternative approach for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate MMS office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

This NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements in MMS regulations and related forms on drilling and well activities. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements referred to in this NTL. The assigned OMB control numbers are on the forms or are specified in the regulations. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Please address any questions on this notice to Mr. Chris Schoennagel by telephone at (504) 736-2801 or by e-mail at tdms@mms.gov.

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Regional Director