

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

NTL No. 2009-G07

Effective Date: May 1, 2009
Expiration Date: May 1, 2014

**NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

Location of Choke and Kill Lines on Blowout Preventer Stacks

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 1999-G09, effective May 10, 1999, on this subject. It updates contact information and terminology and includes a guidance document statement.

The purpose of this NTL is to specify the location of the choke and kill lines serving blowout preventer (BOP) stacks. This is necessary because the requirements at 30 CFR 250.515(c)(5) for oil and gas well-completion operations, 30 CFR 250.615(c)(5) and (d)(5) for oil and gas well-workover operations, 30 CFR 250.1610(d)(5) for sulphur drilling operations, and 30 CFR 250.1624(c)(5) for sulphur well-completion and well-workover operations do not specify their exact location. The requirements for locating choke and kill lines while conducting oil and gas drilling operations are specified in 30 CFR 250.443(d).

Operators usually install the choke and kill lines above the bottom ram. However, some lessees and operators have requested to install them below the bottom ram. For choke lines, this is not acceptable for any of the operations listed above. Failure of a choke line installed below the bottom ram could result in a blowout because this configuration does not provide a backup system for proper well control.

Because of the prohibition at 30 CFR 250.443(d)(1) and the policy described above, the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) District Offices will not approve any Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form MMS-123) or Application for Permit to Modify (APM) (Form MMS-124) to drill or conduct well completion or workover operations for oil, gas, or sulphur that indicates a BOP stack with a choke line installed below the bottom ram. However, the GOMR District Offices may approve your requests to install a kill line below the bottom ram. Make sure that you include a schematic drawing of the BOP stack and choke and kill lines with any APD or APM if the tree is to be removed.

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 alternate 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 refers to the collection of information for 30 CFR part 250, subparts D, E, F, and P. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for these subparts and assigned OMB Control Numbers 1010-00141, 1010-0067, 1010-0043, and 1010-0086, respectively. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contacts

Please address any questions you may have regarding this NTL to the appropriate MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region District Drilling Engineer or Workover Engineer.

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Regional Director