

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

NTL No. 2004-G09

Effective Date: May 17, 2004

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

Policies for Shutting-In Producing Wells During Rig Moves

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103 to provide guidance and clarification on when you must shut in producing wells during rig moves.

Procedures

The regulation at 30 CFR 250.406(b) requires you to shut in all producing wells located in the affected wellbay below the surface and at the wellhead when you (1) move a drilling rig or related equipment on or off a platform, (2) move or skid a drilling unit between wells on a platform, or (3) move a mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) within 500 feet of a platform.

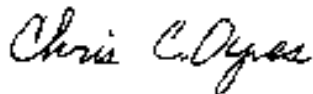
The Appendices to this NTL provide guidance on how you may comply with 30 CFR 250.406(b). They describe the various types of rigs and phases of rig movement, specify when wells must be shut in (wells need not be shut in if the rig is stacked on location), and delineate the documentation you submit to the appropriate MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) District Office if you request approval of a departure under 30 CFR 250.142.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement

The information in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart D. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for Subpart D under OMB control numbers 1010-0141. This NTL does not refer to or impose any information collection subject to the PRA.

Contact

If you have any question regarding this NTL, please contact Mr. Fred Hefren at (504) 736-2924.



Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director

Appendices

Appendix A (Mat-supported Jack-up Rigs)

Appendix B (Independent Leg Jack-up Rigs)

Appendix C (Platform Rig Move On/Off)

Appendix D (Platform/Jack-Up Rig Skid from Well to Well)

APPENDIX A **MAT-SUPPORTED JACK-UP RIGS**

Moving On Location

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Move Rig Within 500 feet/Pin to Seafloor	X		A.1
Jack-up to Airgap		X	
Skid/Cantilever	X		A.2
Install Lines, Hoses, and Ladders		X	
Hammer/Drive Pipe	X		A.3
Move BOP Stack and Riser (Bell Nipple)	X*		A.4

* Only affected wells (i.e., those wells that could be hit by a falling BOP stack)

Moving Off Location

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Move BOP Stack and Riser (Bell Nipple)	X*		A.4
Cantilever Back	X		A.2
Jack Down		X	
Jack Mat Off Bottom and Bring Mat to Tow Position	X		A.1
Move Rig Off Within 500 feet	X		A.1

* Only affected wells (i.e., those wells that could be hit by a falling BOP stack)

DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION FOR MAT-SUPPORTED JACK-UP RIGS

A.1 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) A diagram indicating the horsepower rating of the tow vessels and showing the tow line positioning relative to the rig hull and the well/platform position;

(2) A statement that you will provide tow vessels with horsepower sufficient to exert an immediate pull from location, and that the tow vessels will remain attached with towlines in tension until the jack-up rig is pinned to seafloor;

(3) A diagram that shows all prior spud can/mat locations, bottom obstructions, hull standoff distance to platform at water line, mat position and standoff to platform at seafloor, and location of reflectors/buoys used for rig positioning; and

(4) A statement that all vessels will remain attached and in tension from a time prior to when the mat is pulled off the bottom until the rig is more than 500 feet from the platform.

A.2 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) A diagram or photograph showing the storage position and restraint system for the diverter and blowout preventer (BOP) stack; and
- (2) A statement that this equipment will remain properly secured in this storage position during all skid/cantilever operations.

A.3 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) Documentation of how the equipment will be moved and properly secured in reference to existing producing wells;
- (2) A description of the well bay area including its height and the distance from the rig floor to the platform deck;
- (3) A description of the method you will use to protect the surrounding producing wells;
- (4) The type of material construction of the platform deck (grating vs. solid decking or steel plate);
- (5) The point load calculations; and
- (6) A diagram from an overhead view indicating the potential fall path radius for a single joint of dropped drive pipe.

A.4 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) A diagram indicating the position of the BOP stack, the stack height, and the height of well bay;
- (2) A plat showing the well bay and the path the rig will follow to or from the affected well;
- (3) If there is a deck between the BOP stack and the well bay, a description of the deck protection type and the point load calculations; and
- (4) If the BOP stack is located within the well bay, a statement that affected wells will remain shut in until the BOP stack is secured.

APPENDIX B **INDEPENDENT LEG JACK-UP RIGS**

Moving On Location

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Move Rig Within 500 feet/Pin to Seafloor	X		B.1
Preload	X		B.2
Jack-up to Airgap		X	
Skid/Cantilever	X		B.3
Install Lines, Hoses, and Ladders		X	
Hammer/Drive Pipe	X		B.4
Move BOP Stack and Riser (Bell Nipple)	X*		B.5

* Only affected wells (i.e., those wells that could be hit by a falling BOP stack)

Moving Off Location

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Move BOP Stack and Riser (Bell Nipple)	X*		B.5
Cantilever Back	X		B.3
Jack Down		X	
Jet Legs Free (Legs to MPD)		X	
Jet Legs Free (Legs from MPD to Free from Seafloor and Rig Within 100 feet)	X		B.6
Rig More than 100 feet and Moving Off Within 500 feet	X		B.6

* Only affected wells (i.e., those wells that could be hit by a falling BOP stack)

** Minimum Penetration Depth (MPD) means the rig hull's buoyant draft during jetting operation in feet, plus twenty (20) feet of mudline penetration on all legs. Example: For a rig with a hull draft of 18 feet during jetting operation, MPD is the point where all legs have a minimum of 38 feet of penetration below the mud line.

DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION FOR INDEPENDENT LEG JACK-UP RIGS

B.1 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) A diagram indicating the horsepower rating of the tow vessels and showing the tow line positioning relative to the rig hull and the well/platform position;

(2) A statement that you will provide tow vessels with horsepower sufficient to exert an immediate pull from location, and that the tow vessels will remain attached with towlines in tension until the jack-up rig is pinned to seafloor; and

(3) A diagram that shows all prior spud can/mat locations, bottom obstructions, hull standoff distance to platform at water line, spud can position and standoff to platform at seafloor, and location of reflectors/buoys used for rig positioning.

B.2 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) If this is the first independent leg rig at this location, onsite information regarding the expected leg penetration that includes (as available) offset location leg penetration records, soil boring records, pile installation records, drive pipe records, and shallow hazards data.

(2) If this is not the first independent leg rig at this location, information on the proposed can hole positioning relative to existing can hole/mat locations, the intended method to align the can holes, the intended method to establish new can holes (if necessary), seabed soil conditions and resulting impact to can hole relocation, previous preload weight and resulting leg penetration, and proposed preload weight for this operation. Provide data on the number of preload cycles and load weights.

B.3 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) A diagram or photograph showing the storage position and restraint system for the diverter and blowout preventer (BOP) stack; and

(2) A statement that this equipment will remain properly secured in this storage position during all skid/cantilever operations.

B.4 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) Documentation of how the equipment will be moved and properly secured in reference to existing producing wells;

(2) A description of the well bay area including its height, and the distance from the rig floor to the platform deck;

(3) A description of the method you will use to protect the surrounding producing wells;

(4) The type of material construction of the platform deck (grating vs. solid decking or steel plate);

(5) The point load calculations; and

(6) A diagram from an overhead view indicating the potential fall path radius for a single joint of dropped drive pipe.

B.5 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) A diagram indicating the position of the BOP stack, the stack height, and the height of well bay;

(2) A plat showing the well bay and the path the rig will follow to or from the affected well;

(3) If there is a deck between the BOP stack and the well bay, a description of the deck protection type and the point load calculations; and

(4) If the BOP stack is located within the well bay, a statement that affected wells will remain shut in until the BOP stack is secured.

B.6 Provide the following in your departure request:

(1) A diagram indicating the horsepower rating of the tow vessels and showing the tow line positioning relative to the rig hull and the well/platform position;

(2) A statement that all vessels will remain attached and in tension from a time prior to when the spud cans are pulled above the MPD until the rig is more than 500 feet from the platform; and

(3) A statement that you will provide tow vessels with horsepower sufficient to exert an immediate pull from location, and that the tow vessels will remain attached with towlines in tension until the jack-up rig is more than 500 feet from platform.

APPENDIX C

PLATFORM RIG MOVE ON/OFF

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Move Boat/Barge Within 500 feet of Platform	X		C.1 and C.3
Perform Lift (Rigging Up)	X		C.2
Move BOP Stack/BOP Riser	X*		C.3
Install Lines, Hoses, and Ladders		X	
Hammer/Drive Pipe	X		C.4
Perform Lift (Rigging Down)	X		C.3
Move Boat/Barge Off Within 500 feet of Platform	X		C.1 and C.3

* Only affected wells (i.e., those wells that could be hit by a falling BOP stack)

DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION FOR PLATFORM RIG MOVE

C.1 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) A diagram indicating the horsepower rating of the tow/transport vessels and the means of positioning relative to platform;
- (2) A statement that you will provide tow vessels with horsepower sufficient to exert an immediate pull from location, and that the tow vessels will remain attached with towlines in tension until the barge is properly secured while adjacent to facility; and
- (3) If you will use dynamically positioned vessels, the downstream position of the vessel between major lifts.

C.2 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) Information that shows that the crane load capacity is sufficient for the lift (boom angle, dynamic vs. static);
- (2) Platform structural data and point load calculations showing that the facility, including production process systems, can withstand a dropped object;
- (3) A lift sequence plan describing the order of lifts and lift positioning on platform deck relative to well bay area and production process equipment; and
- (4) A statement that you will resume production of the affected wells only after the rig substructure is in place and the well bay is protected from impacts.

C.3 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) A diagram indicating the position of the BOP stack, the stack height, the height of well bay, and the path the rig/barge will use to make the move;
- (2) If there is a deck between the BOP stack and the well bay, a description of the deck protection type and the point load calculations (thickness of deck and beam spacing); and
- (3) If the BOP stack is located within the well bay, a statement that affected wells will remain shut in until the BOP stack is secured.

C.4 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) Documentation of how the equipment will be moved and properly secured in reference to existing producing wells;
- (2) A description of the well bay area including its height and the distance from the rig floor to the platform deck;
- (3) A description of the method you will use to protect the surrounding producing wells;
- (4) The type of material construction of the platform deck (grating vs. solid decking or steel plate);
- (5) The point load calculations; and
- (6) A diagram from an overhead view indicating the potential fall path radius for a single joint of dropped drive pipe.

APPENDIX D
PLATFORM/JACK-UP RIG SKID FROM WELL TO WELL

ACTIVITY	SHUT IN?		INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A DEPARTURE REQUEST
	YES	NO	
Skidding to Next Well	X		D.1
BOP Stack/Riser Move to Next Well	X		D.2

DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION FOR A RIG SKID

D.1 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) A diagram or photograph showing the storage position and restraint system for the diverter and blowout preventer (BOP) stack; and
- (2) A statement that this equipment will remain properly secured in this storage position during all skid/cantilever operations.

D.2 Provide the following in your departure request:

- (1) Information that shows that the crane load capacity is sufficient for the lift (boom angle, dynamic vs. static);
- (2) Platform structural data and point load calculations showing that the facility, including production process systems, can withstand a dropped object;
- (3) A lift sequence plan describing the order of lifts and lift positioning on platform deck relative to well bay area and production process equipment; and
- (4) A statement that you will resume production of the affected wells only after the rig substructure is in place and the well bay is protected from impacts.