

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

NTL No. 97-05

February 24, 1997

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES

**Incorporation by Reference into
the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Regulations of
API Recommended Practice 2A (RP 2A) Nineteenth Edition
August 1, 1991, for Planning, Designing, and
Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms**

This Notice to lessees and Operators (NTL) informs you of a new incorporation by reference in the MMS operating regulations. The 19th edition of API RP 2A, "Recommended Practice for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms" (dated August 1, 1991), is now incorporated by reference in 30 CFR 250. MMS announced this change in the Federal Register on November 26, 1996 (Vol. 61, No. 229, Pages 60019-26) and it was effective on December 26, 1996. You must now use the 19th edition of API RP 2A in designing and constructing new platforms.

This NTL replaces NTL 94-03, dated March 1, 1994.

This notice also conveys prior written approval that you may utilize Section 16 (Minimum Structures) and Supplement 1 to the 20th edition of API RP 2A. MMS has determined that these technical procedures, not contained in the 19 edition, enhance the performance and safety level of the 19th edition. MMS regulations (30 CFR 250.1) allow for the use of a later edition of a specific document incorporated by reference provided the lessee obtains prior written approval. MMS encourages operators to read sections 30 CFR 250.1 and 30 CFR 250.3 of our regulations.

As a cautionary note, you must receive prior approval from this office before using any environmental loading criteria other than the "reference level" criteria recommended in the 19th edition. For example, you must have MMS approval to use alternate loading criteria from other codes or to use site-specific study data. To obtain approval, you must clearly demonstrate that the performance and safety level of the structure will be equal to or greater than that achieved when the 19th edition reference level loading is used.

[signed] Chris Oynes
Regional Director
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
Minerals Management Service

Feb 24 1997
Date