

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

NTL 97-06

Effective Date: March 1, 1997

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

Timely Submittal of Drilling Well Records in Accordance with 30 CFR 250.66

This Notice to Lessees and Operators is issued to remind operators of the requirement to timely submit complete drilling well records. In numerous instances, final composites of open-hole log surveys, velocity surveys, directional surveys, formation test data, paleontological reports, core analyses, Well Summary Reports, and/or other required information are being submitted incomplete, are not being timely submitted, or in some instances are not being submitted at all. As provided in 30 CFR 250.66, such data are to be submitted within 30 days after termination of the suspension or temporary prohibition or within 30 days after the completion of each wellbore. The deadlines as presented therein are subjective and highly interpretative and have contributed to delays in the submittal of the necessary data. Therefore, in an effort to clarify this situation, the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region will interpret the statement "30 days after suspension or temporary prohibition or within 30 days after the completion" to mean that date on which permanent abandonment or temporary abandonment have taken place, or completion operations are discontinued for that specific wellbore. (The 30-day time line will start when the original wellbore is abandoned if sidetracking is to follow). This date shall correspond with the date provided on Line 42 of the Well Summary Report, Form MMS 125.

Consequently, all open-hole electrical, radioactive, sonic and other well logs, directional and velocity surveys, as well as Well Summary Reports (Form MMS 125) and a subsequent report on Sundry Notices and Reports on Well (Form MMS 124) shall be forwarded to the appropriate location as outlined herein within 30 days of the date wellbore operations are discontinued. When possible, these data should be transmitted to the appropriate locations in a single comprehensive package, rather than in individual segments as they become available. Furthermore, the date that the applicable data become eligible for release to the public, pursuant to 30 CFR 251.14(d)(1.2) and 250.18, shall be two years from the due date for these data as defined herein.

In addition, this notice amends and clarifies the procedures for submittal of well records as set forth in 30 CFR 250.66, and supersedes the policy outlined in Letters to Lessees and Operators

dated October 1, 1990, and October 30, 1995. The requirements for wellbore data submittal as prescribed therein have been revised as follows:

1. Velocity and Directional Surveys: Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.66(c), the results from *all velocity surveys* performed as well as directional surveys for *both vertical and directional* wells shall be *digitally* recorded and submitted on diskette. A diskette shall be IBM PC/XT/AT compatible on 3.5" or 5.25" diskettes, formatted for either 360 KBytes or 1.2 MBytes coded in ASCII. Specific magnetic tape and diskette formatting for velocity and directional data are to be in accordance with the attached "Exchange Format for Velocity Surveys" and "Exchange Format for Directional Surveys" (Attachment I). These data shall be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation (MS 5120), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. *In lieu of* submitting duplicate hard copies of velocity and directional surveys to the District Supervisor as required by 30 CFR 250.66, only one hard copy of those surveys shall be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation at the above-mentioned address.

2. Electrical, Radioactive, Sonic and Other Well Logs: For all wells spudded on or after December 1, 1995, the lessees shall provide, under 30 CFR 250.66(d) and (f) to QC DATA Inc., at the address listed below, a single copy of each of the final composite log(s) for the following curves, if obtained in the well, in *digital* as well as hard copy format. An additional hard copy of the composite log(s) is required to be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Field Operations (MS 5200), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, *in lieu of* sending duplicate copies to the District Supervisor. Consistent with current practice, the submittal of field prints and/or cased hole logs will be required only in special circumstances as requested.

Digital well log data for all wells spudded on or after December 1, 1995, shall be submitted in the Canadian Log ASCII Standard (LAS) format or LIS format in a measured depth composite layout, including full headers for each for the following log curves that may be obtained from the well (including MWD Log curves):

- Gamma Ray
- Spontaneous Potential
- Caliper
- Rwa
- Resistivity Curves (e.g., spherically focused, induction, phasor, etc.)
- Dipmeter (computed)
- Conductivity
- Sonic/Acoustic
- Density Correction Curve
- Neutron
- Tension
- Density (e.g., bulk density, compensated, litho-density)

These well log data shall be submitted on 3.5" or 5.25" high or low density diskettes, 4mm or 8mm data cartridges, or nine-track tape. The nine track tape may use 600, 1200, or 2400 foot reel tape size. LAS-formatted well log data may be compressed to fit on one diskette using the PKZIP compression program.

For item number 77 of the Well Summary Report (Form MMS 125), the date the survey was recorded, the service company, the log type, the interval recorded, the run number, and the scale(s) shall be provided on the Form MMS 125 or on an attachment to Form MMS 125 as shown on the attached examples (Attachment II). For all wells spudded on or after December 1, 1995, a copy of either the form or the enclosure showing the appropriate information shall be submitted with the logs to QC Data, Inc. at the following address:

QC DATA, Inc.
3838 North Sam Houston Parkway East
Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77032

3. Core Analysis: If cores are taken, only *one* copy of the core analysis shall be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation (Mail Stop 5120). Additionally, all rock units shall be identified by depth to the top of relative chronostratigraphic stages (e.g., Upper Pleistocene, Middle Miocene, Lower Oligocene) on Form MMS-125 as soon as these data become available to the operator. ***It is no longer necessary to send a copy of the core analyses to the respective District Office.***

4. Paleontological Reports: If cores are taken, only *one* copy of the complete, detailed paleontological report(s), striplog(s) and checklist(s), including range, sample analysis identifying fossils by depth; summary of all biostratigraphic zones or tops based on both foraminifera and nannofossils; description of ecozones with water depths (e.g., Middle Shelf/Neritic 20-100 meters, Outer Shelf/Neritic 100-200); and sequence analysis interpretations based on histograms of faunal abundances; shall be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation (Mail Stop 5120) as soon as these data become available to the operator. ***It is no longer necessary to send a copy of this report to the respective District Office.***

Please be advised that, after March 31, 1997, we will begin issuing ***Incidents of Non-compliance*** in instances where the submittal of the required wellbore data is incomplete or not submitted timely to the appropriate location within 30 days after each wellbore is abandoned, suspended or completed, unless otherwise approved.

[signed] Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director

Attachments

ATTACHMENT I

Exchange Format for Velocity Surveys

1. Definition of terms.

- (1) A record consists of 80 bytes, including the carriage-return and line-feed (HEX 'ODOA').
- (2) A file is a group of header records and data records physically separated by an inter-record gap (a blank record) and terminating with a control Z (HEX '1A').

2. Specification of digital reporting.

- (1) Diskette must be suitable for any IBM PC/XT/AT computer or compatible.
- (2) 3.3" or 5.25" diameter diskette standard.
- (3) Diskette may be formatted for either 360 KByte or 1.2 MByte.
- (4) Coded ASCII mode standard.
- (5) A file cannot span multiple diskettes.

The label should identify the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact should problems occur while loading the diskette. The contents of the diskette should also be identified. The diskette(s) should be packaged in containers specifically designed for floppy diskettes.

3. Subdivision of contents.

- (1) A velocity survey will contain header record(s), data record(s), and terminate with an end-of-file marker.

- (2) As many header and data records as necessary may be used within a file. Header records must precede the first data record in the file.
- (3) The diskette may contain numerous surveys. The last record of the diskette must be the end-of-file marker.

4. Form of header.

A header record will be identified by an H as the first character of the record. The first header record is a mandatory, formatted record that consists of:

- a. Header Record ID - The letter H to identify the record as a header record (Format A1) in column 1.
- b. API Number - The 12 digit API Number assigned by the MMS District to the well (Format 3A4) in columns 3-14.
- c. Date Survey Conducted - The year, month, and day the survey was conducted (Format 3I2) in columns 16-21.

For example: H 177671234500 900701

In addition to the mandatory, formatted first header record, it is recommended that other relevant information pertaining to the conditions under which the survey was conducted be included in the header. Other data contained in the header must begin with the H in column 1, but their arrangement is flexible in free format for columns 2-80. Examples of other header records are:

- a. Type of Survey - The method used to conduct the velocity survey- e.g., Borehole seismic analysis, seismic acquisition tool, vertical seismic profile, etc.
- b. Contractor - The name of the company that conducted the survey.
- c. Total Depth of Well - The total measured depth of the well in feet. In addition to the above, it is recommended that other relevant information pertaining to the conditions under which the survey was conducted be included in the header.

5. Form of data.

Each data record is to contain information recorded at a given measurement point. A data record for each measurement point must be provided. Data records must be ordered beginning from surface to the bottom of the well bore.

The content of the data record block is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Columns</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1.	Depth	I5	1-5	The vertical distance, in feet, from sea level to the measurement point. Please include a zero in column 1 when the depth is less than 10,000 feet.
2.	Travel time	I5	6-10	The one-way vertical travel time in milli-seconds, corrected to sea level.
3.	Unused Space		11-80	For future use.

Exchange Format for Directional Surveys

1. Definition of terms.

- (1) A record consists of 80 bytes, including the carriage-return and line-feed (HEX 'ODOA').
- (2) A file is a group of header records and data records physically separated by an inter-record gap (a blank record) and terminating with a control Z (HEX '1A').

2. Specification of digital reporting.

- (1) Diskette must be suitable for any IBM PC/XT/AT computer or compatible.
- (2) 3.5" or 5.25" diameter diskette standard.
- (3) Diskette may be formatted for either 360 KByte or 1.2 MByte.
- (4) Coded ASCII mode standard.
- (5) A file cannot span multiple diskettes.

The label should identify the name, address and telephone number of the person to contact should problems occur while loading the diskette. The contents of the diskette should also be identified. The diskette(s) should be packaged in containers specifically designed for floppy diskettes.

3. Subdivision of contents.

- (1) A directional survey will contain header record(s), data record(s), and terminate with an end-of-file marker.
- (2) As many header and data records as necessary may be used within a file. Header records must precede the first data record in the file.

- (3) A diskette may contain numerous surveys. The last record of the diskette must be the end-of-file marker.

4. Form of header.

A header record will be identified by an H as the first character of the record. The first header record is a mandatory, formatted record that consists of:

- a. Header Record ID - The letter H to identify the record as a header record (Format A1) in column 1.
- b. API Number - The 12 digit API Number assigned by the MMS District to the well (Format 3A4) in columns 3-14.
- c. Date Survey Conducted - The year, month, and day the survey was conducted (Format 3I2) in columns 16-21.

For example: H 177671234500 900701

In addition to the mandatory, formatted first header record, it is recommended that other relevant information pertaining to the conditions under which the survey was conducted be included in the header. Other data contained in the header must begin with the H in column 1, but their arrangement is flexible in free format for columns 2-80. Examples of other header records are:

- a. Type of Instrument Used to Take the Measurements - For example: magnetic single shot, magnetic multi-shot, gyroscopic, etc.
- b. Contractor - The name of the company that conducted the survey.
- c. Survey Interval - The depths, in feet, of the beginning and ending measurement points.

5. Form of data.

Each data record is to contain information recorded at a given measurement point. A data record for each measurement point must be provided. Data records must be ordered beginning from surface to the bottom of the well bore.

The content of the data record block is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Format Columns</u>		<u>Comments</u>
1.	Measured Depth	I5	1-5	The distance in feet from the RKB to the measurement point. Please include a zero in column 1 when the depth is less than 10,000 feet.
2.	Inclination Angle			The angle, in degrees, minutes, and seconds, the well bore deviates from vertical at the measurement point.
	Degrees	I2	6-7	
	Minutes	I2	8-9	
	Seconds	I2	10-11	
3.	Azimuth Degrees	F6.2	12-17	The azimuth, in degrees, of the well bore at the measurement point. The azimuth should range from 0-360 - north. (90 is east; 270° is west.)
4.	Unused space		18-80	For future use.

ATTACHMENT II

Example of Well Summary Report Form MMS-125 - Item 77

77. LIST OF ELECTRIC AND OTHER LOGS RUN

Date	Service Company	Log Type	Interval(MD)	Run No.	Scale
January 2	A	DISFL	1200-3800	1	1", 5"
January 16	A	Sonic	1200-3800	1	5"
		DISFL	3600-9600	2	1", 5'
		Sonic	3600-9500	2	5"
		Density	3600-9500	1	5"

**THE FOLLOWING OPEN HOLE WELL LOGS (INCLUDING MWD LOG CURVES)
RECORDED ARE TO BE LISTED AND SENT TO QC DATA INC.**

(Gamma Ray, Spontaneous Potential, Caliper, Rwa, Resistivity [e.g., spherically focused, induction, phasor, etc.], Conductivity, Sonic/Acoustic, Density [e.g., bulk density, compensated, litho-density, etc.], Density Correction, Neutron, Tension, Dipmeter)

Example Attachment to Well Summary Report Form MMS-125 - Item 77

AREA NAME_____ **BLOCK NUMBER**_____

API WELL NUMBER_____

LEASE NUMBER_____

WELL NUMBER_____

77. LIST OF ELECTRIC AND OTHER LOGS RUN ...

Date	Service Company	Log Type	Interval(MD)	Run No.	Scale
January 2	A	DISFL	1200-3800	1	1", 5"
		Sonic	1200-3800	1	5"
January 16	A	DISFL	3600-9600	2	1",5"
		Sonic	3600-9500	2	5"
		Density	3600-9500	1	5"

THE FOLLOWING OPEN-HOLE WELL LOGS (INCLUDING MWD LOG CURVES) RECORDED ARE TO BE LISTED AND SENT TO QC DATA INC.

(Gamma Ray, Spontaneous Potential, Caliper, Rwa, Resistivity [e.g., spherically focused, induction, phasor, etc.], Conductivity, Sonic/Acoustic, Density [e.g., bulk density, compensated, litho-density, etc.], Density Correction, Neutron, Tension, Dipmeter)

CONTACT NAME_____ **TELEPHONE NUMBER**_____