

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

NTL No. 98-07

Effective Date: August 10, 1998

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

Procedures Regarding Activities Conducted Under An Approved Plan

This notice supersedes Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) 97-10, dated April 8, 1997, and updates the cited regulatory authorities and includes a statement regarding the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

By guideline letter dated November 5, 1993, the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR), among other things, established procedures requiring that a supplemental Exploration Plan, Development Operations Coordination Document, or Development and Production Plan be submitted in all cases where an applicant seeks the approval of the drilling of a well or the installation of a platform, and where more than three years since the planned starting date of that activity stated in the approved plan have elapsed. The GOMR established these procedures, in part, to provide a mechanism to ensure that sufficient lease bond coverage was in place, particularly in those cases where lease operatorship had changed. Although the GOMR has granted exceptions to these procedures, they have remained in effect since that time.

Because sufficient mechanisms are now in place to ensure adequate lease bond coverage, the GOMR has decided to change these procedures regarding supplemental plans. Therefore, effective immediately, the GOMR may approve drilling permits and platform applications for activities proposed in any approved plan without the submittal of a supplemental plan as long as the permit or application conforms to the activities described in detail in the approved plan. The GOMR still retains the authority to require supplemental plans on a case-by-case basis pursuant to 30 CFR 250.203(n) and 30 CFR 250.204(q) as conditions warrant.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The information collection provisions of this notice are intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for these regulations and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0049. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.



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