

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

NTL No. 2007-G07

Effective Date: April 2, 2007

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

**High Pressure and High Temperature Completions and Workovers**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. It provides guidance on information to include in your Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form MMS-123), Application for Permit to Modify (APM) (Form MMS-124), or Deepwater Operations Plan (DWOP) when you request approval to conduct a high pressure and/or high temperature (HPHT) completion or workover project in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

**Definition**

For the purpose of this NTL, an HPHT completion or workover project is one where the well will

- (1) require completion equipment or well control equipment with either a pressure rating greater than 15,000 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) or a temperature rating greater than 350° F,
  - (2) have a maximum anticipated surface pressure (MASP) greater than 15,000 psig on the seafloor or at the surface,
  - (3) have a shut-in tubing pressure (SITP) greater than 15,000 psig on the seafloor or at the surface,
- or
- (4) have a flowing temperature greater than 350° F at the seafloor or at the surface.

**Background**

The completion of HPHT wells in the GOM OCS will push the limits of existing technology and current engineering standards. In the interest of well control, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) needs to verify that all well control equipment, completion equipment, and tubulars are fit for HPHT service by being built according to existing engineering standards acknowledged by the MMS GOMR, by design verification testing, by qualification testing, or by a combination thereof.

In some cases, you may use new technologies to complete HPHT wells in the GOM. The MMS GOMR needs to ensure that these technologies will have a demonstrated capacity by design verification testing and or by qualification testing for the maximum well conditions to which the equipment may be exposed.

## Information

In accordance with 30 CFR 250.513(a), you may not complete a well until you have received approval of an APD or APM from the appropriate MMS GOMR District Manager. In accordance with 30 CFR 250.613(a), you may not conduct workover operations on a well until you have received MMS approval of an APM. If you are requesting approval to conduct an HPHT completion project, provide the following information in the additional information section of your APD (see 30 CFR 250.418(h)) or the description section of your APM (see 30 CFR 250.513(b)(1)). If you are requesting approval to conduct an HPHT workover project, provide the following information in the description section of your APM (see 30 CFR 250.613(b)(1)). If the HPHT project is included in a DWOP, provide the following information in the description section of the DWOP (see 30 CFR 250.292(a)) in lieu of the APD or the APM:

(1) A discussion of your well control equipment (i.e., blowout preventers (BOP's)) and procedures with particular emphasis on the equipment pressure and temperature rating (see 30 CFR 250.515 and 30 CFR 250.615); and

(2) A discussion of how you have determined that the completion or workover equipment is qualified fit for service. This equipment includes wellheads, tubing heads, tubulars, packers, surface-controlled subsurface safety valves, threaded connections, seals, seal assemblies, production trees, chokes, and any other equipment that will be exposed to the reservoir pressure and/or temperature (see 30 CFR 250.517, 30 CFR 250.617, and 30 CFR 250.801).

The appropriate MMS GOMR District Manager or Technical Assessment and Operations Support Section Chief may request that you make an oral presentation to appropriate MMS personnel when you submit your APD, APM, or DWOP for an HPHT completion or workover project.

## Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subparts B, D, E, F, and H. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations under OMB control numbers 1010-0151, 1010-0141, 1010-0067, and 1010-0043, and 1010-0059, respectively. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

## Contacts

If you have any questions regarding this NTL, contact Mr. Russell Hoshman by e-mail at [russell.hoshman@mms.gov](mailto:russell.hoshman@mms.gov) or by telephone at (504) 736-2627, or send inquiries to the Minerals Management Service, Technical Assessment and Operations Support Section (MS 5220), 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

[original signed – Michael Prendergast]

For Lars T. Herbst  
Acting Regional Director