

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

NTL No. 99-G24

Effective Date: December 21, 1999
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NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS
IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

Year 2000 (Y2K) Guidelines and Updated Operations Coordinators Contact List

This Notice to Lessees and Operators and Pipeline Right-of-way Holders (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 99-G23, dated December 6, 1999. It provides an updated and corrected Y2K Operations Coordinators List and makes minor editorial changes.

Introduction

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) is concerned about the effects Y2K may have on Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations. It is possible that certain equipment will malfunction or otherwise fail to operate when Y2K begins. However, the potential effects are not known.

Y2K Guidelines

Because of these potential uncertainties, the MMS GOMR has developed the following guidelines should you experience Y2K problems with your Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations and/or communication systems:

1. If you are required to make notifications or receive oral approvals to conduct operations, try first to contact the appropriate MMS GOMR office by normal means (telephone, telefax, beeper, pager, etc.), as usual. Refer to NTL No. 98-22, dated October 5, 1998, and NTL No. 98-24, dated October 15, 1998, for contact procedures and numbers.
2. If you are required to make routine notifications or receive oral approvals to conduct operations, but you are **unable** to contact the appropriate MMS GOMR office by normal means (telephone, telefax, beeper, pager, etc.) of communication, use the following guidelines:
 - a. You may delay making any required routine notifications (e.g., moving a drilling rig on and off location, repairing pipeline leaks) until normal means of communication have been restored.
 - b. You may take those actions that are routinely approved by the MMS GOMR (e.g., well deepening or sidetracking, changing metering option, flaring beyond 48 hours), including those that deviate from approved plans or permits, and receive approval from the MMS GOMR

later when normal means of communication have been restored. You may take these actions only if the action complies with MMS regulations (unless the MMS GOMR normally grants a departure) **and** only if the action does not present an imminent threat to safety or the environment.

3. If you experience an emergency (e.g., accident, fire, major oil spill), but you are **unable** to contact the appropriate MMS GOMR office by normal means (telephone, telefax, beeper, pager, etc.) of communication, make the required notification by contacting the MMS GOMR through our satellite phones at 011-8816-310-32860 and 011-8816-310-32863 or their respective pagers at 011-8816-310-79120 and 011-8816-310-79123.

Y2K Operations Coordinators Contact List

In NTL No. 99-G18, effective September 3, 1999, the MMS GOMR strongly suggested that each OCS operator and pipeline right-of-way holder in the Gulf of Mexico assign a Y2K operations coordinator and alternate and report the names and contact information to us by September 30, 1999. We have compiled a list of these coordinators (see Attachment) to facilitate communications between companies and with the MMS GOMR should Y2K problems arise. The list also contains contact information for the U.S. Coast Guard. You can read this list using *Adobe Acrobat Reader*. You can download this software from the Internet at www.adobe.com free of charge.

The MMS GOMR appreciates your cooperation in helping us and your industry counterparts to be prepared for potential Y2K problems.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in MMS regulations and related forms. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for these regulations and forms. You can find the various assigned OMB control numbers for collecting this information in 30 CFR Parts 250, 251, 254, and 256. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

If you have any questions or comments regarding this NTL, please contact Mr. Robert Whitaker at (504) 736-2847.



Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director

Attachment