

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

NTL No. 98-14

Effective Date: August 10, 1998

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

**Guidelines for Reducing or Eliminating Trash and
Debris in the Gulf of Mexico**

This Notice To Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 86-11 and updates cited regulatory authorities and includes a statement regarding the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Lessees are advised that oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico may be contributing to a chronic problem of marine debris that comes ashore and detracts from the aesthetic quality of recreational shorefronts and increases the cost of park and beach maintenance. Title 30 CFR 250.300(a) and 250.300(b)(6) prohibits the deliberate discharge of containers and other similar materials (i.e., trash and debris) in the marine environment, and 30 CFR 250.300(c) requires durable operator identification markings on equipment, tools, and containers (especially drums) and other material.

Operators should exercise special caution in handling and disposing of small items and packaging materials, particularly those made of nonbiodegradable, environmentally persistent materials such as plastic or glass, which can be lost in the marine environment and washed ashore. Increasing the individual worker's awareness of the problem and his responsibility to help curtail it will do much to reduce the litter problem.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) acknowledges and appreciates the steps being taken by industry. The Offshore Operators Committee has prepared a videotape on beach litter, which it strongly encourages its members to use in training and safety programs. Several companies show the film and present additional information on beach litter at their monthly safety meetings.

The MMS recommends that all operators on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) develop training aids and conduct periodic training and awareness sessions targeted at all offshore workers (contractors and subcontractors, especially boat operators, seismic and geophysical crews, drilling and production crews, derrick barge crews, and pipeline barge crews). Such training will emphasize the proper control and disposal of offshore refuse.

Additionally, MMS recommends (1) that all OCS users adopt trash reduction methods, including compaction and packaging for all materials sent to onshore disposal sites and (2) that industry implement a control system to account for the proper disposal of trash, particularly drums and hazardous items.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The collection of information referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart C. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these Regulations. The applicable OMB Control Number is 1010-0057. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris C. Oynes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director