

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

NTL No. 98-30 (Addendum 1)

Effective Date: April 25, 2001

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

Regional Oil Spill Response Plans - Amendments

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) amends Section 10 and Appendix H of the Attachment to NTL No. 98-30, titled "Guidelines for Preparing Regional Oil Spill Response Plans." It makes minor technical amendments, establishes the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area and provides for obtaining real-time onsite meteorological information in the event of a spill there, and establishes two new types of worst case discharge scenarios.

Amendments

See Attachment No. 1 of this NTL for the amendment to Section 10 of the Attachment to NTL No. 98-30. See Attachment No. 2 of this NTL for the amendment to Appendix H of the Attachment to NTL No. 98-30.

Deadlines

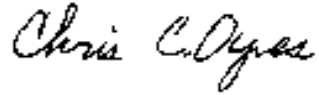
If you have leases or facilities in the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area, amend your current OSRP to include updated information on predicting spill movement (Section 10) and your worst case discharge scenario and discussion (Appendix H) by June 25, 2001. If you have or anticipate mobile rig exploration drilling operations, amend your current OSRP to include your worst case discharge scenario and discussion (Appendix H) at the time of your next scheduled biennial review and update.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection provisions of this NTL are intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 254. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the current information collection requirements for this regulation and assigned OMB Control No. 1010-0091. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Contact Mr. Rusty Wright of this office at (504) 736-2529 if you have any questions concerning this NTL.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris C. Oynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director

Attachments

Attachment No. 1

Section 10 of the Attachment to NTL No. 98-30 is amended to read as follows:

Section 10. Spill Assessment

- a. Locating a Spill - Describe the methods you will use to locate an oil spill.
- b. Determining the Size and Volume of a Spill - Describe the methods you will use to determine the size and volume of an oil spill. Include charts or other aids you use in this process.
- c. Predicting Spill Movement - Discuss how you will use real-time oil spill trajectory simulations to predict the movement of an oil spill. Describe the input variables required (e.g., wind, current, sea state, spill size), the means by which this information will be obtained, and the communications network for the transmission of the information. Include copies of necessary data collection forms.

If you have leases or facilities in the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area (see description in Appendix H), make sure that you have provisions for obtaining real-time onsite meteorological information to use in your trajectory simulations in the event of a spill. You may obtain this meteorological information by using an established and recognized data gathering system (such as that developed by the “Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area Joint Industry Project” or equivalent system) or by installing the necessary equipment at your facility.

- d. Monitoring and Tracking Spill Movement - Discuss the methods and techniques you will use to track and monitor the movement of an oil spill.

Attachment No. 2

Appendix H of the Attachment to NTL No. 98-30 is amended to read as follows:

Appendix H. Worst Case Discharge Scenarios

1. Select worst case discharge scenarios that could result from the leases and facilities covered by your regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) as described in the following:

a. Where applicable, select at least one worst case scenario for your leases and facilities located within ten miles seaward of the coastline.

b. Where applicable, select at least one worst case scenario for your leases and facilities located beyond ten miles seaward of the coastline.

c. Where applicable, select at least one worst case scenario for your leases and facilities located in the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area (see description below).

d. Where applicable, select at least one worst case scenario for your mobile rig exploration drilling operations.

Provide a detailed discussion of the factors (e.g., type of operation; volume of oil; type of oil; proximity to beaches, waterfowl, other marine and shoreline resources, and areas of special economic or environmental importance) that you considered in making these selection(s).

Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area means that area of the Gulf of Mexico OCS consisting of the following blocks:

HI A-324	HI A-348	HI A-367	HI A-385	HI A-402	GB 136	GB 221	GB 271	EB 215
HI A-325	HI A-351	HI A-368	HI A-386	HI A-403	GB 138	GB 222	GB 309	EB 216
HI A-326	HI A-352	HI A-373	HI A-387	HI A-547	GB 139	GB 223	GB 310	EB 217
HI A-327	HI A-353	HI A-374	HI A-388	HI A-572	GB 140	GB 224	GB 311	EB 259
HI A-328	HI A-354	HI A-375	HI A-389	HI A-573	GB 141	GB 225	GB 312	EB 260
HI A-331	HI A-355	HI A-376	HI A-390	HI A-574	GB 177	GB 226	GB 313	EB 261
HI A-332	HI A-356	HI A-377	HI A-394	HI A-595	GB 178	GB 227	GB 314	EB 304
HI A-333	HI A-360	HI A-378	HI A-395	HI A-596	GB 179	GB 228	GB 355	EB 128
HI A-334	HI A-361	HI A-379	HI A-396	GB 95	GB 180	GB 265	GB 356	
HI A-335	HI A-362	HI A-380	HI A-397	GB 96	GB 181	GB 266	GB 357	
HI A-344	HI A-363	HI A-381	HI A-398	GB 97	GB 182	GB 267	GB 359	
HI A-345	HI A-364	HI A-382	HI A-399	GB 133	GB 183	GB 268	EB 128	
HI A-346	HI A-365	HI A-383	HI A-400	GB 134	GB 184	GB 269	EB 172	
HI A-347	HI A-366	HI A-384	HI A-401	GB 135	GB 185	GB 270	EB 173	

HI = High Island; GB = Garden Banks; EB = East Breaks

2. Provide a discussion for each of your worst case discharge scenario(s) to include all of the following elements:

a. Facility Information - The type of operation, the facility name and identification number or the pipeline segment/identification number, the area and block number where the spill originates, and the distance in miles from shore. If the type of operation is an exploration well from a mobile drilling unit, provide the area and block number where the spill originates, the API gravity, and the distance from shore in miles.

b. Volume - The volume of oil of your worst case discharge scenario determined using the criteria in 30 CFR 254.47. Provide any assumptions you make and the supporting calculations you use to determine this volume.

c. Land Segment Identification - The onshore areas, by land segment, that your worst case discharge potentially could contact by using the MMS Oil Spill Risk Analysis Model (OSRAM) trajectory results specific to the area in which the lease or facility is located. You can find the OSRAM trajectory results and instructions on the Internet MMS GOMR homepage at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/osra/OSRA.htm>. You can obtain hard copies of the results and instructions by contacting the GOMR Public Information Office at (504)736-2519 or 1-800-200-GULF. If you are discussing a worst case discharge scenario for a lease or facility located in the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area (see Item No. 1.c. above), identify the Flower Garden Banks as the potentially contacted area instead of a land segment.

d. Resource Identification - A list or map of the resources of special economic or environmental importance that could be impacted for the highest probability land segment. At a minimum, include on the list or map those resources of special economic and environmental importance, if any, specified in the appropriate ACP(s). If you are discussing a worst case discharge scenario for a lease or facility located in the Flower Garden Banks Oil Spill Planning Area (see Item No. 1.c. above), identify the resources of the Flower Garden Banks (including seasonal variations) on the list or map instead of the resources of a land segment. Include the strategies you would use to protect the identified resources.

e. Response - Your response to your worst case discharge scenario in adverse weather conditions. You may formulate your response to a volume of oil less than the volume of oil in your worst case discharge scenario(s) on the basis of such factors as persistence of the oil in the environment. If you use a lesser volume, provide your assumptions and calculations. Include the following in the discussion of your responses to your worst case discharge scenario(s):

(i) A description of the response equipment that you will use to contain and recover the discharge to the maximum extent practicable. Include in this discussion the types, quantity, and capabilities of the equipment and the name and location of the person(s) or organization(s) that would provide the equipment. Include also the effective daily recovery capacities, where applicable. Calculate the effective daily recovery capacities using the methods described in 30 CFR 254.44. For operations at a drilling or production facility, show in your scenario how you will cope with the initial spill volume upon arriving at the scene and then support operations for a blowout lasting 30 days. If appropriate, you may use alternative response techniques, such as dispersant use and *in situ* burning, to remove the discharge, in addition to or partially in lieu of containment and/or mechanical recovery.

(ii) A description of the personnel, materials, and support vessels that would be necessary to ensure that the identified response equipment is deployed and operated promptly and effectively. Include in this description the name and location of the person(s) or organization(s) that would provide these resources as well as the quantities and types (if applicable).

(iii) A description of your oil storage, transfer, and disposal equipment. Include in this description the types, quantity, and capacities of the equipment and the name and location of the person(s) or organization(s) that would provide the equipment.

(iv) An estimation of the individual times needed for (1) procurement of the identified containment, recovery, and storage equipment; (2) procurement of equipment transportation vessels; (3) procurement of personnel to load and operate the equipment; (4) equipment load out (transfer of equipment to transportation vessel(s)); (5) travel to the deployment site (including any time required for travel from an equipment storage area); and (6) equipment deployment.