

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

NTL No. 2005-G18

**Effective Date: October 7, 2005
Issue Date: October 7, 2005
Expiration Date: December 8, 2005**

**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**

Amended - Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Operations

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. It supersedes NTL No. 2005-G12 issued September 15, 2005. It provides a description and information regarding the status of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico Regional Office subsequent to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many phone numbers have been changed.

The Regional Office has resumed most operations under its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). MMS is committed to conducting operations in as normal a manner as possible.

This NTL is designed to assist you and provide guidance on the conduct of operations. You may always call the general MMS numbers at the COOP site. These general contact points are:

- Evacuation Statistics (281) 873-1962
- Damage Reports (281) 873-1856
- FAX (281) 873-1880 (Evacuation Statistics and Damage Reports Only)

The Gulf of Mexico office has temporarily been moved to Houston, Texas. The physical and mailing address is:

16855 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060

P.O. Box 60389
Houston, TX 77205

Office of Leasing and Environment

For leasing, adjudication, lease sales, environmental review or bonding questions, you may call (281) 873-1821 or (281) 873-1965. Adjudication is currently accepting designations of operator, updates to bonding or OSFR coverage, and relinquishments, which should be submitted by mail only (**no faxes**) to the address above. These documents will be logged in and computer records will be updated at a later date. Do not submit requests for approval of assignments, name changes and mergers, non-required filings, or any other non-critical submittals at this time. We are hopeful that the Adjudication Office may be open for business at 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. on October 18, 2005.

Office of Production and Development

If you have questions or concerns with any of the following, please contact Mr. Kevin J. Karl at (281) 873-1806. Please note that all required regulatory filings that have not been submitted and due prior to November 1, 2005 (including those listed below), should now be submitted prior to December 1, 2005. Starting November 2005, all required filings should be submitted as specified by regulation to our New Orleans address.

- Well Potential Test Reports (Form MMS-126; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL 98-23)
- Sensitive Reservoir Information Reports (Form MMS-127; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL 98-23)
- Semi-annual Well Test Reports (Form MMS-128; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL 98-23)
- Bottom-hole Pressure Surveys (30 CFR 250.1104)
- Run Tickets and Meter Proving Reports (30 CFR 250.1202(c))
- Gas Volume Statements (NTL 2003-G20)
- Notifications for deep gas royalty relief (30 CFR 203.43 and 46)

RATE CONTROL SECTION

For information regarding the following regulatory requirements, please contact the MMS representative listed below or Mr. Ronald Bowser at (281) 873-1801.

- Approvals to produce within 500 feet of a unit or lease line (30 CFR 250.1101(b)) - Richie Baud at (281) 873-1809
- Flaring, venting, and liquid burning (30 CFR 250.1105) - Richie Baud at (281) 873-1809
- Downhole commingling (30 CFR 250.1106) - Richie Baud at (281) 873-1809
- Requests to produce gas caps of sensitive reservoirs (30 CFR 250.1101(a) and NTL 98-23) - Holly Karrigan at (281) 873-1896
- Conservation Information Documents (NTL 2000-N05) – Holly Karrigan at (281) 873 -1896

DEVELOPMENT AND UNITIZATION SECTION

For information regarding the following regulatory requirements, please contact the MMS representative listed below or Mr. Ron Konecni at (281) 873-1804.

- Notifications for deep gas royalty relief (30 CFR 203.43 and 46) - B.J. Kruse at (281) 873-1868
- Deepwater royalty relief applications for expansion projects and pre-act deepwater leases (30 CFR 203.60 through 62) - B.J. Kruse at (281) 873-1868
- Royalty relief applications for special cases (30 CFR 203.80) - B.J. Kruse at (281) 873-1868
- Lease Suspensions of Operation and Suspensions of Production (30 CFR 250.168 through 177) - B.J. Kruse at (281) 873-1868
- Premature abandonments (NTL 2003-G02) - B.J. Kruse at (281) 873-1868
- Enhanced oil & gas recovery operations (30 CFR 250.1107) – Mike Hrabec at (281) 873-1941
- Unit Suspensions of Operation and Suspensions of Production (30 CFR 250.168 through 177) - Mike Hrabec at (281) 873-1941
- Voluntary Unitization Approvals (30 CFR 250 Subpart M) - Mike Hrabec at (281) 873-1941
- Annual Unit Plans of Operations (30 CFR 250 Subpart M) - Mike Hrabec at (281) 873-1941

SURFACE COMMINGLING AND PRODUCTION MEASUREMENT SECTION

For information regarding the following regulatory requirements, please call Mr. Kelly Johnson at (281) 873-1944, Mr. Troy Guidry at (281) 873-1842, or Mr. Fred Jacobs at (281) 873- 1802.

- Approvals for liquid hydrocarbon and/or gas measurement (30 CFR 250.1202 and 1203)
- Approvals for surface commingling (30 CFR 250.1204)
- Waivers for royalty and allocation meter proving/calibrations (30 CFR 250.1202 and 1203)

Office of Field Operations

Contact numbers for the Regional Supervisor and his staff:

Phone (281) 873-1848

Fax (281) 873-1972

The MMS Electronic Permitting and Reporting System (eWell) is now operational. If you need further assistance or guidance on proper submittal procedures during this resumption of the eWell System go to the MMS Homepage link at

<http://www.mms.gov/eWellStatus.htm> or contact one of the following MMS representatives: Bob Lanza at (504) 736-2450, Steve Dessauer at (504) 736-2508, or Dave Trocquet at (504) 736-2506.

Platform Approvals – Office of Structural and Technical Support

As a reminder, major repairs of damage resulting from Hurricane Katrina and Rita must be reviewed and approved by MMS prior to execution.

The following list provides guidance on platform installations, modifications and repairs that can be executed by operators prior to receiving formal approval. Permit applications should be e-mailed to structures@mms.gov or hard copies sent to the Houston, TX address with a notification and schedule of the planned offshore work. The contact phone numbers for the platform section are:

Phone (281) 873-1811

Fax (281) 873-1880

New Platform Installations that have the following:

- Site Specific Soil Data
- Meet High Consequence Criteria; Level 1 per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition
- All Connections have Fatigue Lives greater than 100 years

Major Modifications and Repairs to existing platforms that have the following:

- Platforms where the deck height meets new design deck height requirements per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition
- Meet High Consequence Criteria; Level 1 per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition
- Site Specific Soil Data
- No corrosion as evidence by a coating system grade of A
- No Hurricane Katrina or Rita damage

Adding a well to an existing platform that meets the following criteria:

- Platforms that were installed within last 5 years
- Platforms where the deck height meets new design deck height requirements per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition
- Additional well is within the original platform design

Converting a platform to a Right of Use and Easement that meet the following criteria:

- Platforms installed within last 5 years
- Platforms where the deck height meets new design deck height requirements per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition
- Platforms where wells on an expired lease have been P&A'd

Platform Removal and Site Clearance that meet the following criteria:

- Sites in less than 300 feet of water
- Complete structural removal to a minimum of 15 feet below the mud line
- Non-explosive removals
- Explosive removals using less than 50 pounds of explosive charges and the NOAA fisheries observers with all standard helicopter flights and observer clearance for all detonations
- Trawling for verification of site clearance in the 1320 feet radius area

Pipeline Approvals

A list of the pending pipeline applications that had been sent into the 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. office prior to August 24, 2005, should be emailed to pipelines@mms.gov with the schedule of the planned offshore work. Questions concerning any pipeline applications or procedures should be addressed to the following telephones: (281) 873-1837, (281) 873-1838, or (281) 873-1937. The following list provides guidance on pipeline application requirements and guidance on work that can be executed prior to receiving approval.

New Pipeline Applications:

- Lease Term and ROW Applications - Permit applications should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX address (30 CFR 250.1000).

Modification Applications:

- Lease Term and ROW Modification Applications - Permit applications should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX address.
- ROW Temporary Cessation of Operations - Permit applications should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX address (30 CFR 250.1000).
- Pipeline change in service - a notification and an updated safety flow schematic should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov (30 CFR 250.1000).
- Converting an existing platform to a ROW pipeline accessory that was installed within the last 5 years, where the deck height meets new design deck height requirements per Section 2 of API RP 2A 21st edition an application should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX address (30 CFR 250.1000).
- Pipeline change in flow direction - a notification and an updated safety flow schematic should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov (30 CFR 250.1000).

Repair Procedures:

- All repair procedures should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov or faxed to (281) 873-1880 for review and acceptance (30 CFR 250.1008).

Completion Reports:

- All completion reports should be sent to the 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. office after January 1, 2006 (30 CFR 250.1008).

Cathodic Protection Reading Reports:

- The 2004 and 2005 Pipeline Cathodic Protection Reading Reports will not be requested until after March 1, 2006 (30 CFR 250.1008).

Notifications:

- 48 hour notifications on pipeline construction commencement and hydrotest commencement will not be required until after January 1, 2006 (30 CFR 250.1008).
- Out-of-Service and Return to Service notifications will not be required for pipelines until after January 1, 2006, and must be received by January 31, 2006 (30 CFR 250.1008).

Decommissioning Applications and ROW Relinquishments:

- Applications should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX address (30 CFR 250.1752 & 30 CFR 250.1019).

Requests to Use Alternative Procedures and Departure Requests:

- Requests should be e-mailed to pipelines@mms.gov or faxed to (281) 873-1880 for review and approval (30 CFR 250.141 & 142).

Plan Approvals

- All new plan applications should be emailed to plans@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX mailing address. When submitting your new plans, the MMS will need one hard copy and the appropriate number of compact disks (CD's) of all Public Information (PI) copies for states reviews. These PI copies should be sent to the Houston, TX mailing address. Inquiries about previously submitted plans should be directed to the plans@mms.gov or call (281) 873-1879 or (281) 873-1905.
- Hazard survey reports should be emailed to plans@mms.gov. A CD of the report with a hard copy of the anomaly map should be sent to the Houston, TX mailing address.
- All new shallow hazards survey waiver requests should be emailed to plans@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, Tx mailing address.
- Revising surface locations within 500 feet of a previously approved surface location will not require prior approval. Notification of these revisions should be emailed to plans@mms.gov or faxed to (281) 873-1880 as soon as possible for documentation purposes.
- All new Rights of Use and Easements requests should be emailed to plans@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, Tx mailing address.
- All new Deepwater Operations Plans (DWOPs) applications should be emailed to plans@mms.gov and one hard copy sent to the Houston, TX mailing address.

Inquiries about previously submitted DWOPs should be directed to plans@mms.gov or (281) 873-1836.

Sustained Casing Pressure Departure Requirements

- Only those casing pressure departure requests involving wells that do not bleed to zero will be reviewed at this time. These approval requests should be emailed to fieldoperations@mms.gov or faxed to 281-873-1880. All other sustained casing pressure departure requests will not be reviewed until January 1, 2006, and should be submitted to the 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. office as soon as possible after January 1, 2006. The contact telephone number for sustained casing pressure departure requests is (281) 873-1836.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement: The collection of information referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 203, 30 CFR 256, and in 30 CFR 250, subparts A, B, E, I, J, K, L, and Q. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements and assigned OMB control numbers 1010-0071, 1010-0006, 1010-0114, 1010-0049, 1010-0067, 1010-0149, 1010-0050, 1010-0041, 1010-0051, and 1010-0142. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Original signed

Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director