

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

NTL No. 2008-G12

Effective Date: June 1, 2008
Expiration Date: December 1, 2009

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

Drilling Windows, Eastern Gulf of Mexico

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2007-G06 and is effective June 1, 2008. It provides a new schedule for the drilling window program and a website address for a new map that shows the areas covered by the drilling window program. This new map shows that Group "E" has been reconfigured so that it does not include any of the OCS blocks leased in Sales Nos. 205, 206 and 224. This reconfiguration does not affect the status of any of the existing leases in Group "E."

Drilling Window Program

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR), after consultation with the U.S. Air Force, established a drilling window program in 1991 for exploratory activities on oil and gas leases that were obtained through Lease Sales Nos. 79, 94, and 116 and that contain Lease Stipulation No. 5. In accordance with this lease stipulation, the drilling window program ensures that exploration activities can be conducted predictably, orderly, and safely without interfering with scheduled military activities or jeopardizing the national defense mission.

The drilling window program divides the subject leases into five groups designated as Groups "A" through "E." For a map showing these geographic areas, refer to the MMS GOMR Internet website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/2008NTLs/drillwindow.pdf>. The Enclosure to this NTL provides an up-to-date list of the leased blocks in these groups.

Drilling Window Schedule

Under the drilling window scheme established in 1991 and in place since that time, the MMS GOMR usually opens one group of leases every three months. Since the last established drilling window, the Seventy-ninth Drilling Window, closed on May 31, 2008, the MMS GOMR, in consultation with the Air Force, hereby establishes the following schedule:

Group "E" opens as the Eightieth Drilling Window effective June 1, 2008.

Group "A" will open as the Eighty-first Drilling Window effective December 1, 2008.
Group "B" will open as the Eighty-second Drilling Window effective March 1, 2009.
Group "C" will open as the Eighty-third Drilling Window effective June 1, 2009.
Group "D" will open as the Eighty-fourth Drilling Window effective September 1, 2009.

At the suggestion of the Air Force, Group E will be opened as the Eightieth Drilling Window for six months. Groups A, B, C, and D will open for three months. If the MMS GOMR receives any Exploration Plans or Development and Production Plans proposing operations in any of these groups of leases, we will consult with the Air Force and determine what changes, if any, we will make to this schedule to accommodate all those concerned.

Effect of Drilling Window Approvals

This section is provided according to 30 CFR 250.173(b) concerning suspensions of operations in the interest of national security or defense, 30 CFR 250.169(a) concerning lease term extensions, and 30 CFR 218.154(b) and (c) concerning payment of rentals and lease anniversary date.

A. Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.173(b), the GOMR will direct a suspension of operations (SOO) and it will be in effect for all oil and gas leases that were obtained through Lease Sales Nos. 79, 94, and 116, contain Lease Stipulation No. 5, are east of 87.5 degrees W longitude, and are not located within an open drilling window. Similar suspensions will likewise be directed by separate letters of notification for all such leases not included in a future drilling window and will be effective as of the date of the opening of the drilling window. Any such SOO will terminate when the lease is included in an open drilling window pursuant to 30 CFR 250.170(e).

B. According to 30 CFR 250.169(a), the term of any affected lease will be extended for a period of time equal to the period that the SOO is in effect.

C. According to 30 CFR 218.154(b), no payment of rental or minimum royalty will be required for or during the period of the SOO.

D. According to 30 CFR 218.154(c), if the lease anniversary date occurs within a period that an SOO is in effect for which no rental or minimum royalty payments are required, the prorated rentals or minimum royalties are due and payable as of the date the SOO terminates. The anniversary date of the lease will not change by reason of any period of lease suspension or rental or royalty relief resulting therefrom.

Guidance Document Statement

The MMS issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain MMS regulatory requirements and to outline the information you provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on and an interpretation of a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternative

approach for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate MMS office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR part 250, Subparts A and B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations under OMB control numbers 1010-0114 for Subpart A and 1010-0049 for Subpart B. This NTL does not impose any information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Please address any questions on the content of this NTL to Mr. Michael Tolbert by telephone at (504) 736-2867 or by email at michael.tolbert@mms.gov.

[original signed]

Lars T. Herbst
Regional Director

Enclosure

Enclosure

Drilling Window Group Leases

<u>Group A</u>			G10434	AP	223	G10461	DC	475
G08308	PE	904	G10435	AP	266	G10462	DC	477
G08309	PE	906	<u>Group E</u>			G10463	DC	515
G08310	PE	907	G06464	DC	427	G10464	DC	519
G10413	PE	945	G06469	DC	472	G10465	DC	560
G10414	PE	946	G06470	DC	476	G10466	DC	561
G10417	PE	988	G06474	DC	516	G10471	DC	829
<u>Group B</u>			G06475	DC	517	G10472	DC	830
G10404	PE	867	G06476	DC	520	G10473	DC	831
G10405	PE	868	G06477	DC	521	G10477	DC	875
G10408	PE	911	G08361	FM	411	G10484	FM	309
G10409	PE	912	G08362	FM	412	G10485	FM	353
G10410	PE	913	G08363	FM	455	G10493	LL	382
G10415	PE	957	G08364	FM	456	G10494	LL	383
<u>Group C</u>			G08365	FM	499	G10495	LL	427
G06440	DD	460	G08366	FM	500	G10496	LL	511
<u>Group D</u>			G08367	FM	543	G10497	LL	737
G06401	DD	37	G08368	FM	587	G10498	EL	273
G06402	DD	38	G10446	DC	297	G10499	EL	274
G06408	DD	81	G10447	DC	298	G10500	EL	317
G06409	DD	82	G10448	DC	299	G10501	EL	318
G08333	DD	77	G10449	DC	343	G10502	EL	319
G08334	DD	78	G10450	DC	344	G10503	EL	361
G08346	DD	208	G10451	DC	349	G10504	EL	362
G10426	DD	253	G10452	DC	387	G10505	EL	363
G10427	DD	297	G10453	DC	388	G10506	EL	364
G10430	AP	177	G10454	DC	393	G10507	EL	406
<u>Group D (continued)</u>			G10455	DC	426	G10508	EL	407
G10431	AP	178	G10456	DC	432	G10509	EL	408
G10432	AP	179	G10459	DC	470	G10510	EL	452
G10433	AP	222	<u>Group E (continued)</u>			G10511	EL	840
			G10460	DC	471	G10512	EL	841
						G10513	EL	884
						G10514	EL	885