UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Inspection Program

This NTL updates NTL 97-3N. The purpose of this notice is to notify newer lessees and operators of Federal oil, gas, and sulphur leases on the OCS that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is committed to conducting an Annual Performance Review of each operator. This annual review will examine the following areas:

- an operator's history of compliance as it relates to the MMS Inspection Program,
- any action that MMS has forwarded for review or has resulted in a civil penalty,
- an operator's safety record as it relates to accidents and incidents, and

• an operator's Safety and Environmental Management Program as it relates to accidents and non-compliance concerns.

This review does not require an operator to submit any information.

Operators will be sent a letter giving them a 45-day period in which to schedule their performance review meeting with the requesting office to discuss the above-mentioned areas. The operators are encouraged to bring their own information which may shed additional light on their performance during the preceding year.

The MMS will use this opportunity to learn and understand how operators plan to maintain and/or improve their compliance, safety, and environmental performance levels. Through this cooperative process, MMS hopes to improve its regulatory process and the overall safety of OCS operations.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

This NTL does not refer to or impose any information collection subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

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