

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

NTL No. 2009-G38

Effective Date: December 1, 2009
Expiration Date: December 1, 2010

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. 2008-G12 on this subject. It provides a new schedule for the drilling window program and a website address for an updated map that shows the areas covered by the drilling window program. The new schedule does not include the opening of Group "C" since there are no longer any active leases in that area. The updated 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 exploration 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 Web site 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 that includes the number of days remaining in the primary term of these leases.

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 Eighty-fourth Drilling Window, closed on November 30, 2009, the MMS GOMR, in consultation with the Air Force, hereby establishes the following schedule:

Group "E" will open as the Eighty-fifth Drilling Window effective December 1, 2009.
Group "A" will open as the Eighty-sixth Drilling Window effective March 1, 2010.
Group "B" will open as the Eighty-seventh Drilling Window effective June 1, 2010.
Group "D" will open as the Eighty-eighth Drilling Window effective September 1, 2010.

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 1010-0151 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

DRILLING WINDOWS NTL REPORT

<i>GROUP</i>	<i>LEASE</i>	<i>AREA</i>	<i>BLOCK</i>	<i>Days Used</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
<i>A</i>					
	G10413	PE	945	1491	335
	G10414	PE	946	1491	335
	G10417	PE	988	1491	335
<i>B</i>					
	G10404	PE	867	1314	420
	G10405	PE	868	1314	420
	G10408	PE	911	1314	420
	G10409	PE	912	1314	420
	G10410	PE	913	1314	420
	G10415	PE	957	1314	420
<i>D</i>					
	G06401	DD	37	1769	58
	G06402	DD	38	1769	58
	G06408	DD	81	1769	58
	G06409	DD	82	1769	58
	G08333	DD	77	1780	47
	G08334	DD	78	1780	47
	G08346	DD	208	1780	47
	G10426	DD	253	1455	371
	G10427	DD	297	1455	371
	G10430	AP	177	1455	371
	G10431	AP	178	1455	371
	G10432	AP	179	1455	371
	G10433	AP	222	1455	371
	G10434	AP	223	1455	371
	G10435	AP	266	1455	371
<i>E</i>					
	G08361	FM	411	1404	422
	G08362	FM	412	1404	422
	G08363	FM	455	1404	422
	G08364	FM	456	1404	422

<i>GROUP</i>	<i>LEASE</i>	<i>AREA</i>	<i>BLOCK</i>	<i>Days Used</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
G08365	FM		499	1404	422
G08366	FM		500	1404	422
G08367	FM		543	1404	422
G08368	FM		587	1404	422
G10446	DC		297	1432	394
G10447	DC		298	1432	394
G10448	DC		299	1432	394
G10449	DC		343	1432	394
G10450	DC		344	1432	394
G10451	DC		349	1432	394
G10452	DC		387	1432	394
G10453	DC		388	1432	394
G10454	DC		393	1432	394
G10455	DC		426	1432	394
G10456	DC		432	1432	394
G10459	DC		470	1432	394
G10460	DC		471	1432	394
G10461	DC		475	1432	394
G10462	DC		477	1432	394
G10463	DC		515	1432	394
G10464	DC		519	1432	394
G10465	DC		560	1432	394
G10466	DC		561	1432	394
G10471	DC		829	1432	394
G10472	DC		830	1432	394
G10473	DC		831	1432	394
G10477	DC		875	1432	394
G10484	FM		309	1432	394
G10485	FM		353	1432	394
G10493	LL		382	1312	2341
G10494	LL		383	1312	2341
G10495	LL		427	1312	2341
G10496	LL		511	1312	2341
G10497	LL		737	1312	2341
G10498	EL		273	1250	576
G10499	EL		274	1250	576

<i>GROUP</i>	<i>LEASE</i>	<i>AREA</i>	<i>BLOCK</i>	<i>Days Used</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
	G10500	EL	317	1250	2403
	G10501	EL	318	1250	576
	G10502	EL	319	1250	576
	G10503	EL	361	1250	2403
	G10504	EL	362	1250	576
	G10505	EL	363	1250	576
	G10506	EL	364	1250	576
	G10507	EL	406	1250	2403
	G10508	EL	407	1250	576
	G10509	EL	408	1250	576
	G10510	EL	452	1250	576
	G10511	EL	840	1250	2403
	G10512	EL	841	1250	2403
	G10513	EL	884	1250	2403
	G10514	EL	885	1250	2403