

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

86-09

October 13, 1986

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

**Outer Continental Shelf  
Environmental Report/Information Guidelines for Plans Submitted  
in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL 80-6 and Letters to Lessees dated November 20, 1980 and February 4, 1985 and is provided pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act Amendments of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1801, et seq), and 30 CFR 250.34 regarding Environmental Report/Environmental Information requirements for plans submitted in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

The provisions of this NTL are intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in regulations. This NTL does not impose additional requirements.

Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.34-1(a)(2) and 30 CFR 250.34-2(a)(3), Environmental Reports and/or Environmental Information shall accompany certain Plans of Exploration, Plans of Development/Production, and Development Operations Coordination Documents which propose activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. Environmental Report, Environmental Information, and Consistency Certification requirements for plans submitted in the Gulf of Mexico OCS are outlined in Sections I-IV of this Notice. The description of "areas determined to affect the States" within this Notice and on the accompanying maps included in Section V of the enclosed guidelines is applicable to this NTL and does not necessarily describe the directly affected States under Section 8(g) of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331, et seq), the Coastal Energy Impact Program under Subpart H of 15 CFR Part 930, nor any boundary disputes between States.

**I. Environmental Report/Environmental Information Requirements for Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS**

(That portion of the Gulf of Mexico OCS designated as Area I is depicted on Figure V.A of the enclosed Guidelines.)

**A. Environmental Report Requirements**

An Environmental Report prepared in accordance with Section II.A of the enclosed Guidelines shall

be required in support of a Plan of Exploration, Development Operations Coordination Document, or any change of the aforementioned approved plans requiring the issuance of additional permits except those granted general concurrence by an affected State, in which:

(1) Activities are proposed in that portion of Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS determined by the Director to affect a State with an approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP); and/or

(2) Activities are proposed on the OCS which originate or terminate within or traverse the boundary of the coastal zone of a State bordering Area I that has an approved CZMP.

Of the States bordering Area I, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi have an approved CZMP and; therefore, require Environmental Reports for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) purposes. The State of Texas currently does not have an approved CZM program and therefore, does not require an Environmental Report. However, lessees and operators are responsible for keeping abreast of the status of any future CZMP being developed by Texas. The figures included in Section V of the enclosed Guidelines outline those portions of Area I in which, for the purpose of plan review, activities have been determined by the Director to affect the States of Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi.

The states of Louisiana and Mississippi have granted general concurrence to most of the activities described in Supplemental Plans of Exploration and Development Operations Coordination Documents which affect them and Environmental Reports are not required. The exception to this is Supplemental Development Operations Coordination Documents that propose the installation of one or more additional multi-well platforms which have not been included in a previously approved plan. Environmental Reports are required for these cases. Revised Plans of Exploration and Development Operations Coordination Documents do not require the issuance of additional permits and are not subject to a CZM consistency review; therefore, an Environmental Report is also not required for revised actions in Area I.

Coastal Zone management information and Consistency Certification requirements are discussed in Section III of this Notice.

## **B. Environmental Information Requirements**

Specific Environmental Information shall be required if determined necessary for environmental impact evaluation by the Regional Director in support of a Plan of Exploration, Development Operations Coordination Document, or any change of the aforementioned approved plans which proposes activities in Area I in which:

(1) Exploration, development, and/or production facilities are proposed to be located in areas of high seismic risk or seismicity or in areas of relatively untested deep water or remoteness;

(2) Exploration, development, and/or production facilities are proposed to be located within the boundary of a proposed or established marine sanctuary and/or within or near the boundary of

a proposed or established wildlife refuge, or within areas of high ecological sensitivity;

(3) The locations of bottom-founded structures are in areas of potentially hazardous natural bottom conditions; or

(4) The use of new or unusual technology is proposed.

This Environmental Information may be required in addition to an Environmental Report and Consistency Certification required pursuant to Sections I.A and III of this Notice. Pertinent environmental information is becoming increasingly available in Area I. The preparation of extensive Environmental Reports is, therefore, determined unnecessary for any of the four categories listed above. Environmental Information requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis for plans meeting any of the four categories with the exception of plans submitted which propose activities within the restriction zones of the Flower Garden Banks. It has been determined that certain Environmental Information is necessary to support Plans of Exploration and Development Operations Coordination Documents which propose activities within the restriction zones of the East and West Flower Garden Banks. This required Environmental Information is specified in Section II.B of the enclosed Guidelines. Environmental Information submitted for a Revised Plan need only address those issues specific to the revised action.

## **II. Environmental Report Requirements for Plans Submitted in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico OCS**

(That portion of the Gulf of Mexico designated as Area II is depicted on Figure V.A of the enclosed Guidelines)

An Environmental Report prepared in accordance with Section III of the enclosed Guidelines shall be required in support of a Plan of Exploration, Plan of Development/Production, Development Operations Coordination Document, or any change of the aforementioned approved Plans which proposes activities on the OCS in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico and/or proposes activities on the OCS which originate or terminate within or traverse the boundary of the coastal zone of the State of Florida. Revised plans submitted for activity in Area II should be accompanied by an Environmental Report which addresses only those issues specific to the proposed action.

Coastal Zone Management information and Consistency Certification requirements are discussed in Section III of this Notice.

## **III. Federal Consistency Review Procedures and Requirements**

Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that any Plan which describes in detail activities which affect any land or water use in the coastal zone of a State with an approved CZMP be reviewed by the affected State for consistency with that State's CZMP. The States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi have approved CZM programs. A State which

considers itself to be an affected State may request the submission of an Environmental Report and Consistency Certification in those cases where activities described in a plan are likely to affect any land or water use of the coastal zone of that State.

The CZMA and the OCS Lands Act, as amended, prohibit the Minerals Management Service (MMS) from approving any Federal license or permit for activities described in a plan until:

1. Consistency concurrence is obtained from all affected States,
2. All affected States are conclusively presumed to have concurred in the Consistency Certification, or
3. The Secretary of Commerce makes the findings called for in Section 307

Submission of an Environmental Report does not preclude a State with an approved CZMP from requesting additional or supplementary information from the lessee or operator for determining if the proposed activities described in the OCS plan are consistent with the provisions of the CZMP. In order to expedite the coastal zone consistency review, lessees and operators intending to submit an OCS plan which describes in detail Federal licenses or permit activities affecting the land or water use in the coastal zone of one or more of the States having an approved CZMP are encouraged to consult with the appropriate State agency to ascertain whether such additional or supplemental information will be required. As part of its assistance efforts, the State agency shall make available copies of their CZMP document and provide guidance on satisfying the requirements of the State program as well as the development of Consistency Certification material. Specific guidance concerning the implementation of Federal consistency provisions of the CZMA, including the responsibilities of lessees and operators, the MMS, and the States, are set forth in Subpart E of 15 CFR 930, "Consistency for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Exploration, Development and Production Activities."

If after future consultations with the affected State(s) and the Federal Office of Coastal Zone Management, a determination is made to limit or otherwise change the information to be included in Environmental Reports for coastal zone consistency determinations, the Regional Director will inform the lessees and operators of such changes.

In order to meet the CZMP requirements of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency should accompany a plan which requires and Environmental Report for CZM purposes. Therefore, all plans requiring Environmental Reports for Gulf of Mexico OCS activities except those plans submitted for revised activity in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico should be accompanied by a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency. Consistency Certification should be prepared for the State that would be affected by the proposal as indicated by the figures in Section V of the enclosed Guidelines. Activities indicated by the figures as affecting more than one State shall require the submission of a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency for each of the affected States.

Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency should approximate the format given in Section IV.A of the enclosed Guidelines except those submitted for Plans of Exploration subject to State of Louisiana CZM consistency which should approximate the format given in Section IV.B of the enclosed Guidelines. A brief set of findings should be attached to the Consistency Certification unless included in the Environmental Report. These findings which are derived from the Environmental Report should indicate that each of the proposed activities (e.g., drilling, platform placement) and their associated facilities (e.g., onshore support structures, offshore pipelines), and their effects (e.g., air, water, waste, discharge, erosion, wetlands, beach access impacts) are all consistent with the provisions of the management program.

#### **IV. Environmental Report/Environmental Information Submission Requirements**

The use of tiering and referencing in the preparation of an Environmental Report is encouraged to reduce information reporting requirements. In order to eliminate the repetition of information and data discussed in other related documents, the lessee shall summarize the information, date, and issues in these documents and concentrate on the issues specific to the site of the proposed activity. Referenced documents can include the related plan, a broader presale environmental impact statement, other environmental reports, environmental analyses, or impact statements prepared for the geographic area. These documents should be referenced when the incorporation will cause a reduction in the Environmental Report's bulk without impeding the review of the issues. Referenced material shall be cited and described briefly in the Environmental Report. A statement shall be included which would indicate where the material is reasonably available for inspection. Only that material that is reasonably available for inspection shall be referenced.

The number of copies of Environmental Reports and/or Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency should be the same as the number of copies of Plans of Exploration, Plans of Development/Production and Development Operations Coordination Documents required for OCS leases and units in the Gulf of Mexico as set forth in the most recent letter to lessees regarding this issue from the Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region. Only four copies of any required Environmental Information need be submitted with each affected plan.

Any Plan of Exploration, Plan of Development/Production, or Development Operations Coordination Document which fails to include an Environmental Report and Consistency Certification when required will be determined incomplete. Any Plan of Exploration or Development Operations Coordination Document which fails to include the specified Environmental Information will also be determined incomplete.

The NTL is effective upon issuance and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.

[signed] J. Rogers Percy      Date: August 26, 1986  
Regional Director  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Approved:

[signed] John B. Rigg Date: October 1, 1986

Associate Director for

Offshore Minerals Management

Minerals Management Service

Enclosure

Enclosure

**GUIDELINES**  
**FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS/ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**INFORMATION FOR PLANS SUBMITTED IN THE**  
**GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REGION**

# MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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*Editorial Note: The figures listed in the appendices are no longer available except as reader copies in the Public Information Office of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.*

**GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS/ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION  
FOR PLANS SUBMITTED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO  
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REGION**

## **I. General Information**

An Environmental Report/Environmental Information and a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency shall be submitted when required pursuant to NTL 86-09 and prepared in accordance with the applicable sections of these guidelines. Accordingly, Environmental Reports submitted in support of plans proposed in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) as depicted on Figure V.A should be prepared in accordance with Section II.A of these guidelines. Environmental Reports submitted in support of plans proposed in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico as depicted on Figure V.A should be prepared in accordance with Section III. Environmental Information submitted in support of plans which proposed activities within the restriction zones of the Flower Garden Banks should be prepared in accordance with Section II.B of these guidelines. In order to meet the Coastal Zone Management Plan requirements for the affected States having an approved Coastal Zone Management Program, a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency should also be submitted, when required, in the appropriate format. Section IV of these guidelines provides acceptable formats to be used for Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification. Figures delineating those areas of the GOM determined by the Director to affect the GOM Coastal States are included in Section V of these guidelines.

The lessee is not to duplicate in the Environmental Report/Environmental Information other reports or surveys or portions of the plan. Any factor adequately described in an existing report, survey, or nonproprietary plan already in possession of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) GOM Region Office need only be referenced by this document name and page number. Examples of documents that may be referenced in this manner include, but are not limited to, previously prepared site-specific surveys, environmental reports, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, other environmental documents, and the OCS plan itself.

### **A. Objectives**

1. To provide guidelines that facilitate lessee compliance with the requirements of 30 CFR 250.34-3, 30 CFR 250.34-1(a) (2), and 30 CFR 250.34-2 (a) (3).
2. To establish a uniform method of portraying data and planned activities that can be efficiently utilized by the MMS to prepare National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and to determine the potential environmental impacts of proposed oil and gas operations on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
3. To provide information to affected State(s) and the public concerning the nearshore and onshore impacts of the activities described in proposed OCS plans.
4. To provide the necessary data and information to the affected State(s) to enable them

to make Coastal Zone Management consistency decisions.

***B. Authority***

1. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments (43 U.S.C. 1801 et seq), and implementing regulations (30 CFR 250.34).

2. Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq) and implementing regulations (15 CFR 930).

3. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq).

## **II. Environmental Report/Environmental Information Guidelines for Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS**

### ***A. Guidelines for Preparation of an Environmental Report for Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination for Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS***

The following data must be included in the Environmental Report in order for a Federal consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930 (Subpart E) to be made by the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi for Federal license and permit activities described in detail in OCS Plans of Exploration and Development Operations Coordination Documents submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS:

1. TITLE PAGE
  - a. Project name
  - b. Area name (general OCS area)
  - c. Block number and field
  - d. Lessee and/or operator
  - e. Platform/Unit name (if applicable)
  - f. Date of preparation of Environmental Report
  - g. Name, address, and telephone number of a contact person
  
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section shall briefly summarize the nature and scope of the proposed activities described in the Plan of Exploration or Development Operations Coordination Document. The following information shall be included:

- a. Description of proposed travel modes and routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel to and from the offshore activity site and the onshore bases. Examples — Number of trips/day and anticipated routes for crew boats, helicopters, supply boats, etc.
  
- b. Identification of support bases and number and types of new workers associated with the proposed activity. Reference should also be made to the most current update of the Socioeconomic data base report, if available.
  
- c. Identification of the number, location, and size of any support facilities that will need to be provided for the proposed activity. Examples — New bases, refineries, storage facilities, pumping stations, helicopter pads, boat docks, fueling facilities, etc.
  
- d. Description of any new techniques or unusual technology that may affect coastal waters.
  
- e. Maps showing location of the proposed activity in relation to each of the affected States' coastal zones.

f. For Development Operations Coordination Documents, the means proposed to transport oil and gas to shore from the lease site, the routes to be followed, and the estimated quantities of oil and gas to be moved along such routes. This should include probable onshore location of terminals. Examples — Pipeline routes (those going onshore or to coastal waters, not those of lease gathering lines), barge or tanker routes, etc.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

This section shall include a discussion of how the proposed activity will affect areas adjacent to the activity site and the affected States' coastal zone including coastal waters and onshore areas. Preliminary consideration should be given to the impacts of the proposed activity on environmentally sensitive areas. The following parameters shall be addressed:

- a. Physical and Environmental
  - (1) Commercial fishing
  - (2) Shipping (transit lanes, anchorage areas, fairways, etc.)
  - (3) Small craft pleasure boating, sport fishing, and recreation
  - (4) Cultural resources — Known prehistoric and historic areas
  - (5) Ecologically sensitive features — Wildlife refuges and preserves, marine and estuarine sanctuaries, areas of particular concern identified by each affected State, breeding and spawning grounds, migration routes, wetlands, and oyster reefs
  - (6) Existing pipelines and cables
  - (7) Other mineral uses
  - (8) Ocean dumping activities
  - (9) Endangered or threatened species

This discussion shall include direct and indirect impacts associated with the activity site itself, as well as the impacts associated with ancillary activities; such as, pipelines and support facilities. Where a discussion of these impacts has been included in the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the lease sale, this discussion may be referenced by title, volume, and page number of the appropriate Environmental Impact Statement. Care should be taken to ensure that these cited discussions cover the full extent of the impact of this particular activity. For example, the commercial fishing impact discussion may be adequate for offshore shrimping but may not address the impacts of a newly proposed pipeline on oyster fishing near shore. Note: If the above mentioned items are not impacted, then the Environmental Report should clearly state that fact.

#### b. Socioeconomic

Rather than require that socioeconomic data beyond the identification of new employees required by Item 2.b. above be included in each plan, the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi will allow each OCS operator to submit a socioeconomic data base report covering all OCS activities every six months. The first such report is to be submitted after requirements for such a report are finalized by the MMS and the States. The report will be based on the existing requirements for socioeconomic data submission outlined in the nationwide environmental report guidelines entitled "The Guidelines for Preparing Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Reports."

#### 4. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

This section shall contain a summary of those impacts which are unavoidable as a result of the proposed action. The applicant should briefly state why these impacts are justified. If there are no impacts, the report shall so state. The individual States will be weighing these impacts against the need for the project and may, in some cases, be suggesting technically feasible and reasonable alternatives which have a lesser impact.

#### 5. REFERENCES

Reference should be made, in accordance with the Regulations in 30 CFR Part 250, OCS Orders, and Notice to Lessees and Operators, to all applicable Federal and State environmental documents, as well as any other information source the applicant may have used in the preparation of this document.

In addition to the preceding data, the applicant will provide the following statement:

The proposed activity will be carried out and completed with the guarantee of the following items.

- a. The best available and safest technologies will be utilized throughout the project. This includes meeting all applicable requirements for equipment types, general project layout, safety systems, and equipment and monitoring systems.
- b. All operations will be covered by an MMS-approved oil spill contingency plan.
- c. All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding air emission and water quality and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with.

#### ***B. Environmental Information Required for Plans Proposing Activities Within the Protective Zones of the Flower Garden Banks***

1. A brief description of the major safety and monitoring systems to be used on the rig/platform specified for use in the operational plan.
2. A discussion of all operational lease stipulations and applicable OCS Orders including the steps that have been or will be taken to satisfy the conditions of such requirements.
3. A discussion of your approved oil spill contingency plan including identification of the primary base and calculation of travel and deployment times.
4. A brief description of proposed travel modes, routes, and frequency for both personnel and supplies.
5. A description of any new construction or expansion of onshore facilities, including dredging and filling activities.

6. Identification of any additional onshore and/or offshore personnel to be employed.
7. A discussion of any new or unusual technology to be used.
8. A discussion of the solid and liquid wastes likely to be generated by the proposed activities which is to include:
  - (a) Solid Waste
    - (1) The total quantity discharged, the rates of discharge, the method of discharge or disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all drill cuttings.
    - (2) The estimated quantity, composition, and methods of disposal of other solid wastes.
  - (b) Liquid Wastes
    - (1) The composition (with emphasis on diesel or mineral oil), the total quantity discharged (in dry weight if possible), the average and maximum daily discharge rates including a discussion of the variance of the daily rates, the method of discharge or disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all drilling fluids. Also include a discussion of any special requirements imposed by your NPDES permit.
    - (2) The composition, quantity, rates of discharge, methods of treatment and disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all domestic and sanitary wastes.
    - (3) A brief description of the types of other liquid wastes (such as ballast water, freshwater maker blowdown, and blowout preventer fluid) to be discharged.
9. For Development Operations Coordination Documents, a brief description of the mode and tentative route for the transportation of hydrocarbons to shore.

If any of the above topics are adequately addressed in the plan, a reference to the appropriate section of the plan will be sufficient.

### ***III. Guidelines for Preparation of an Environmental Report for Plans Submitted in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico OCS***

#### ***A. Introduction***

These guidelines set forth the basic format to be used in preparing an Environmental Report in support of a plan submitted for Area II of the GOM OCS as depicted on Figure V.A of these guidelines and are based upon the format and content outlined in "Guidelines for Preparing Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Reports" which was prepared as a nationwide guideline for Environmental Reports submitted for the OCS. Dependent upon the nature of the proposed action, the environmental factors discussed in this section should be addressed in the report when relevant. The report will be submitted with the lessee's plan describing proposed activities, as specified in 30 CFR 250.34. It will contain information available at the time the related plan is submitted to the extent that such information is accurate, current, and applicable to the geographic area of the activities proposed in the plan. The lessee will refer to information and data contained in the related plan, survey reports, previous environmental reports, and other environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared for the geographic area by identifying the information and indicating the source for obtaining copies of cited materials.

Each environmental report will include the following sections:<sup>1</sup>

1. Title Page
2. Description of Proposed Action
3. Alternatives to Proposed Action
4. Description of Affected Environment
5. Environmental Consequences
6. Bibliography
7. Appendices

#### ***B. Outline***

The following outline provides a detailed listing of the types of information required for each section of the Environmental Report. The outline includes the combined requirements of Environmental Reports for both exploration and development/production activity. As a result, some of the listed items may not apply to a particular proposal, and *only those items that are relevant should be discussed in the environmental report*. Where data are not available or where the data requirements are not applicable to a proposed action, a statement will be made to that fact.

#### **1. TITLE PAGE**

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\*Note: A discussion of alternatives (Section III.B.3) is not required in Environmental Reports for Plans of Exploration. <sup>1</sup>

The title page will contain the following information:

- a. Project name
- b. Area name (general OCS area)
- c. Block number and field
- d. Lessee and/or operator
- e. Platform/unit name (if applicable)
- f. Date of preparation of environmental report
- g. Name, address, and telephone number of a representative of the lessee to whom inquiries by the MMS and the affected State(s) may be made.
- h. Previous related environmental report(s), environmental assessment(s), and/or environmental impact statement(s).

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

This section will briefly summarize the nature and scope of the proposed activities described in the exploration plan or development/production plan. If the plan clearly and adequately addresses all of the information requirements of this section, a reference to the plan is all that is needed here. For plans that do not address all of the information requirements of this section, a combination of references to the plan and supplemental information and discussion supplied here should be used to describe the proposed activities. The following information will be included (where appropriate):

- a. General
  - (1) Lessee and/or operator
  - (2) Lease number and location
  - (3) Objectives of the proposed activities
  - (4) Description and location of existing and/or proposed platforms or vessels.
  - (5) The means proposed to transport oil and gas to shore, the routes to be followed, and the estimated quantities of oil and gas to be moved along such routes. This should include probable onshore location of terminals (development/production plans).
- b. Equipment and Support Systems
 

A brief description of:

  - (1) Equipment to be used and general layout
  - (2) Safety systems
  - (3) Monitoring systems
  - (4) Onshore support systems, including any requirements for new or modified onshore facilities and the location of onshore facilities to be used.
- c. Schedule of activities

Approximate timeframes for conducting individual activities, to the maximum extent practicable. This should include possible recompletions, workovers, and abandonment activities for which permits may be required.

- (1) Expected sequence of events
- (2) Estimate of time required to complete specific activities.
- (3) Month and year specific activities are expected to occur onshore and offshore
- (4) Month and year other associated activities are likely to be accomplished.

d. Transportation Routes

Description of proposed travel modes and routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel to and from the offshore activity site.

e. Personnel Requirements

Personnel required to conduct activities (total numbers and types) both offshore and onshore.

f. Technology

Detailed, comprehensive discussion of new or unusual technology that the applicant proposes to use in the implementation of his proposed plan of operation or that may be used in onshore support facilities owned and/or operated by other (when applicable).

g. Contingency Plans

Discussion of the use of the contingency plans described in the plan. This discussion will include contingency plans for preventing, reporting, and cleaning up spills of oil or waste materials.

- (1) Description of pollution prevention procedures
- (2) Personnel involved in implementation of contingency plans
- (3) Description of cleanup activities, response time, capacity, and location of equipment.

h. Discharges and Emissions

Discussion of the quantity, rates of discharge, and composition of solid, liquid, and gaseous wastes and pollutants likely to be generated by onshore and offshore activities and transport operations (including, but not limited to, drilling muds and cuttings, sewage, and chemicals), the basis for determining the composition, quantities, and rates of discharge of pollutants and plans for treating, storing, transporting, and disposing of such wastes and pollutants. This must include a discussion of airborne pollutants generated, including (1) sources (e.g., rig power units, incineration equipment, supply and transport vessels), (2) composition (e.g., hydrocarbons, particulates, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>), and (3) emission rates and total quantities of pollutants generated.

i. State Certification

Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency for each affected State having an approved Coastal Zone Management Program, as provided in 15 CFR 930.

j. Measures for Compliance

- (1) A description of measures proposed to comply with OCS orders and other pertinent regulations.
- (2) A discussion of any planned environmental protection measures not previously described in this section.

k. Nearby Pending Actions

Nearby pending actions (leasing actions, actual or planned operations for the development of overlying or underlying minerals other than oil and gas, or other present uses or proposals under consideration as far as the applicant is aware).

l. Monitoring Systems

Discussion and delineation of existing or planned monitoring systems that could be, or will be, used to measure changes in environmental conditions and provide information and data on the impacts and activities in the geographic area of the proposed activities. This may include monitoring systems maintained on nearby platforms by industry, State and Federal Government Agencies, and colleges and universities.

m. Suitable Maps and Diagrams Showing Details of the Proposed Project Layout

3. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSED ACTION

This section will discuss relevant alternatives to the proposed activities or major segments of the proposed activities that would result in less risk of adverse environmental impacts. The alternatives considered must be technically feasible and reasonable. At a minimum, it will include a discussion of practicable alternatives for mitigating against the impacts described in "Environmental Consequences." If the lessee feels that practical alternatives for accomplishing the stated objectives or reducing environmental impacts do not exist, he will so state. A discussion of alternatives is not required in Environmental Reports for Plans of Exploration.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section will contain a description of the existing environment at or near the site of the proposed activities. Emphasis will be placed on those environmental values that may affect, or be affected by, these activities. The parameters outlined below should be used as a basic checklist for preparing this part of the Environmental Report. Any parameter that may affect, or may be affected by, the proposed activities must be addressed. The extent to which consideration of any listed parameter is appropriate will depend upon the nature of the activities proposed. If a parameter listed here will not affect, or be affected by, the proposed activities, a statement to that effect should be included.

a. Physical Environment

(1) Environmental Geology and Hazards

A summary of the site-specific geology, including:

(a) General Description of Geology

General description of geology and bathymetric map or other suitable presentation of seafloor relief.

(b) Potential Geologic Hazards

Submarine geologic hazards, such as unstable bottom sediments (e.g., erosion, sand waves), mass wasting phenomena (e.g., landslide, mud flow, slumping, creep), shallow gas accumulations, toxic gas, geopressured zones (e.g., geopressured aquifers), karst topography, shallow faults, fill facies, and subsidence. This may include a map depicting hazard areas in relation to the proposed activity site (e.g., platform location).

(c) Petroleum Geology

Nature and extent of known mineral deposits (leased and unleased) on, or adjacent to, the lease.

(2) Meteorological Conditions

(a) Temperature

Averages, extremes, and variations in temperature.

(b) Cloudiness and visibility

Seasonal variations in cloudiness and visibility

(c) Wind speed and Direction

Patterns and seasonal variations of wind speed and direction.

(d) Precipitation

Nature and amount, averages and extremes.

(e) Severe Weather

Frequency and magnitude of severe weather occurrences

(3) Physical Oceanography

(a) Sea Temperature and Salinity

Variation with depth and depth of thermo-or halocline

(b) Currents

General direction and speed, variation with depth

(c) Tides and Sea State

Variations during storms, averages, and extremes

(4) Water Quality

A description of the existing water quality including aquifers having potential as freshwater supplies for onshore use that would be penetrated.

(5) Air Quality

(a) Present onshore air quality

(b) Present offshore air quality

b. Biological Environment

The biotic environment of the area of the proposed activities

(1) Coastal Habitats

Plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(2) Offshore Habitats

(a) Pelagic Environment

Plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the

proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(b) Benthic Environment

Plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(c) Sensitive Underwater Features

Presence of sensitive underwater features (e.g., live-bottom areas, fishing banks) in the area of the proposed activities

(3) Endangered or Threatened Species

Endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat that may exist in the area. If none exist, so state.

(4) Breeding Habitats and Migration Routes

Breeding habitats (e.g., rookeries, spawning grounds) nursery grounds, wintering grounds, and migration routes that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(5) Protected Areas of Biological Concern

Refuges, preserves, marine and estuarine sanctuaries, and areas of particular concern.

c. Socioeconomic Conditions and Concerns

(1) Economic and Demographic Conditions

The discussion in this part should be limited in scope to those socioeconomic impacts that can be practically identified. For example, if impacts can be identified on a State or local level, they should be discussed in that context.

(a) Related employment and area unemployment

(b) Location and size of related population and industry centers

(2) Land Use

(a) Existing community services

(b) Existing transportation systems and facilities

(c) Supply and/or existence of coastal resources

(3) Onshore Support Facilities

Description of onshore support facilities

(4) Public Opinion

Public opinion as it relates to any of the proposed activities or supporting facilities and activities.

(5) Navigation

Transit lanes, anchorage areas, fairways, etc.

(6) Military Warning/Use Areas

Military use including potential hazards from undetonated explosives.

(7) Commercial Fishing

- Types and seasons
- (8) Recreation  
Small craft pleasure boating, sport fishing, and recreation
  - (9) Cultural Resources  
Potential or known cultural resources in the area. A summary of conclusions for the cultural resource survey for the area of operation (when required). A copy of the survey conclusions should be attached to the Environmental Report and so referenced. If no anomalies exist or a survey was not required for the area, so state.
  - (10) Other Commercial Uses
  - (11) Other Minerals Uses  
Activities for mining sand, gravel, sulfur, salt, seafloor nodules, etc.
  - (12) Pipelines and Cables  
Location, use, size, date of placement, and burial information of existing pipelines and cables.
  - (13) Ocean Dumping  
Dump site locations, materials dumped, date, etc.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section will contain a description of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the onshore and offshore environments expected to occur as a result of the implementation of the plan. Effects will be quantified wherever possible and expressed in terms of magnitude and duration. Note that this discussion need only include those adverse impacts that are not effectively minimized by proposed mitigating measures.

### a. Accidental Hydrocarbon Discharges

Accidents with impacts on human and natural environments are not anticipated. However, when matching human and material resources with a hostile environment, such as the OCS, the potential for accidents does exist. This section should address this potential and any impacts on the environment resulting from an accident.

#### (1) Major Accident

Discussion of potential impacts of a major accident. This section covers the impact of a major platform failure and/or large-scale hydrocarbon discharge (as apart from probable impacts of normal operations).

#### (2) Accident During Normal Operations

Discussion of impacts from hydrocarbon discharge resulting from normal operations.

### b. Impacts Concerning the Physical Environment

#### (1) Impacts Concerning Geology

The effects of geologic hazards on the proposed activities, as well as the effects of the proposed activities on geologic hazards, such as unstable bottom sediments (e.g., erosion, sand waves), mass wasting phenomena (e.g., landslide, mud flow, slumping, creep) shallow gas accumulations, toxic gas, geopressured zones (e.g, geopressured aquifers), karst

topography, shallow faults, fill facies, and subsidence.

(2) Impacts Concerning Meteorology

The effect of the general weather patterns (temperature, sky cover and visibility, windspeed, severe weather conditions, etc.) on the proposed activities. Those aspects of meteorology that may affect, or be affected by, the proposed activities must be discussed.

(3) Impacts Concerning Physical Oceanography

The effect of sea temperature, currents, tides, sea state, water depth, etc., on the proposed activities.

(4) Impacts of Water Quality

Effects of operations on water quality (mud and drill cuttings discharge, sewage, chemicals, and other potential pollution from OCS operations).

(5) Impacts on Air Quality

Potential impacts of proposed OCS activities on the current nearby onshore and offshore air quality. This must include a discussion of the probably extent and duration of air quality degradation and the basis for the assessment of impacts.

c. Impacts on the Biological Environment

Potential effects of the proposed activities on the pelagic and benthic environments, including endangered species or critical habitat, other sensitive biological resources, and coastal habitats.

d. Impacts on Socioeconomic Conditions and Concerns

(1) Impacts to Economic and Demographic Conditions

(a) Impacts on Local Employment

Effects upon local employment, including a discussion of estimated numbers of employees required for offshore, onshore, and transport activities and the approximate number of local residents to be employed by major skill and craft.

(b) Impacts on Local Population and Industry Centers

Effects upon local population centers and industry, including estimates of the numbers of new employees or families likely to move into an affected coastal area.

(2) Impacts on Land Use

(a) Impacts of Increased Demands on Community Services

Effects of increased demands on community services.

(b) Impacts of Increased Boat and Air Traffic

Effects of increased boat and air traffic upon existing transportation systems and facilities. Proposed travel routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel should be discussed.

(c) Impacts of Competition for Scarce Coastal Resources and Demands for Goods and Services

Effects from competition for scarce coastal resources, such as dock

space. Demand for goods and services expected to be generated in the coastal zone that may be purchased in an affected State. This discussion must include the types of vendors or contractors expected to be needed that may place a demand on local goods and services.

- (i) Supplies and equipment
  - (ii) Water
  - (iii) Aggregate energy — Electricity, oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel.
  - (iv) Other resources.
- (3) Impacts of Construction of Onshore Support Facilities  
Impacts of construction of onshore support facilities. This discussion will include a description of facilities (location, size, and number) proposed, an assessment of acreage requirements, rights-of-way, easements, and a timetable for land acquisition and construction.
- (4) Impacts of Public Opinion  
Public opinion concerning the proposed activities.
- (5) Impacts on Navigation

Effects on the use of anchorage areas, fairways, transit lanes, etc.

- (6) Impacts Concerning Military Use
- (7) Impacts on Commercial Fishing
- (8) Impacts on Recreation/Tourism
- (9) Impacts on Cultural Resources
- (10) Impacts on Other Commercial Uses
- (11) Impacts on Other Mineral Uses  
Mineral resource development other than oil and gas
- (12) Impacts Concerning Pipelines and Cables
- (13) Impacts on Ocean Dumping
- (14) Any impacts of the proposed activities on the onshore environment that have not been addressed elsewhere in this report.

e. Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects

This section will contain a summary of adverse impacts that could occur if the plan was implemented. This should include separate summaries for the activities as proposed in the plan and the alternatives describe (if any). If the operator feels that no avoidable adverse impacts will result from plan implementation, he will so state.

## 6. REFERENCES

This section will include appropriate references used in preparing the environmental report. Materials cited in the environmental report text are to be listed and will contain: The author, title of article, title of publication, volume, number, series, pages, date, and publisher.

## 7. APPENDICES

The following items, as appropriate, should be appended to the environmental report.

Appendix 1. Any available information concerning biological and endangered and threatened species surveys.

Appendix 2. Cultural resource surveys.

Appendix 3. Contingency plans to the extent they are not included in the plan or described elsewhere in the environmental report.

Appendix 4. Maps, diagrams, and photographs not included in the Environmental Report text or the plan that would facilitate the presentation of data or aid in the understanding of potential environmental impacts. All maps will contain title, scale, legend, north arrow, OCS block, date, and source.

**IV. Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification**

*A. Format For Use with Louisiana Development Operations Coordination Documents and all Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Plans Requiring Consistency Certification.*

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT  
CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Plan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area and Block

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with [Name of State(s)] approved Coastal Management Program(s) and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessee or Operator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***B. Format For Use with Louisiana Plans of Exploration Requiring Consistency Certification.***

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**

**CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION**

---

Type of Plan

---

Area and Block

---

Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with [Name of State(s)] approved Coastal Management Program(s) and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program(s).

Arrangements have been made with the *State-Times*<sup>2</sup> in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to publish a public notice of the proposed activities no later than [Date].

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Lessee or Operator

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Certifying Official

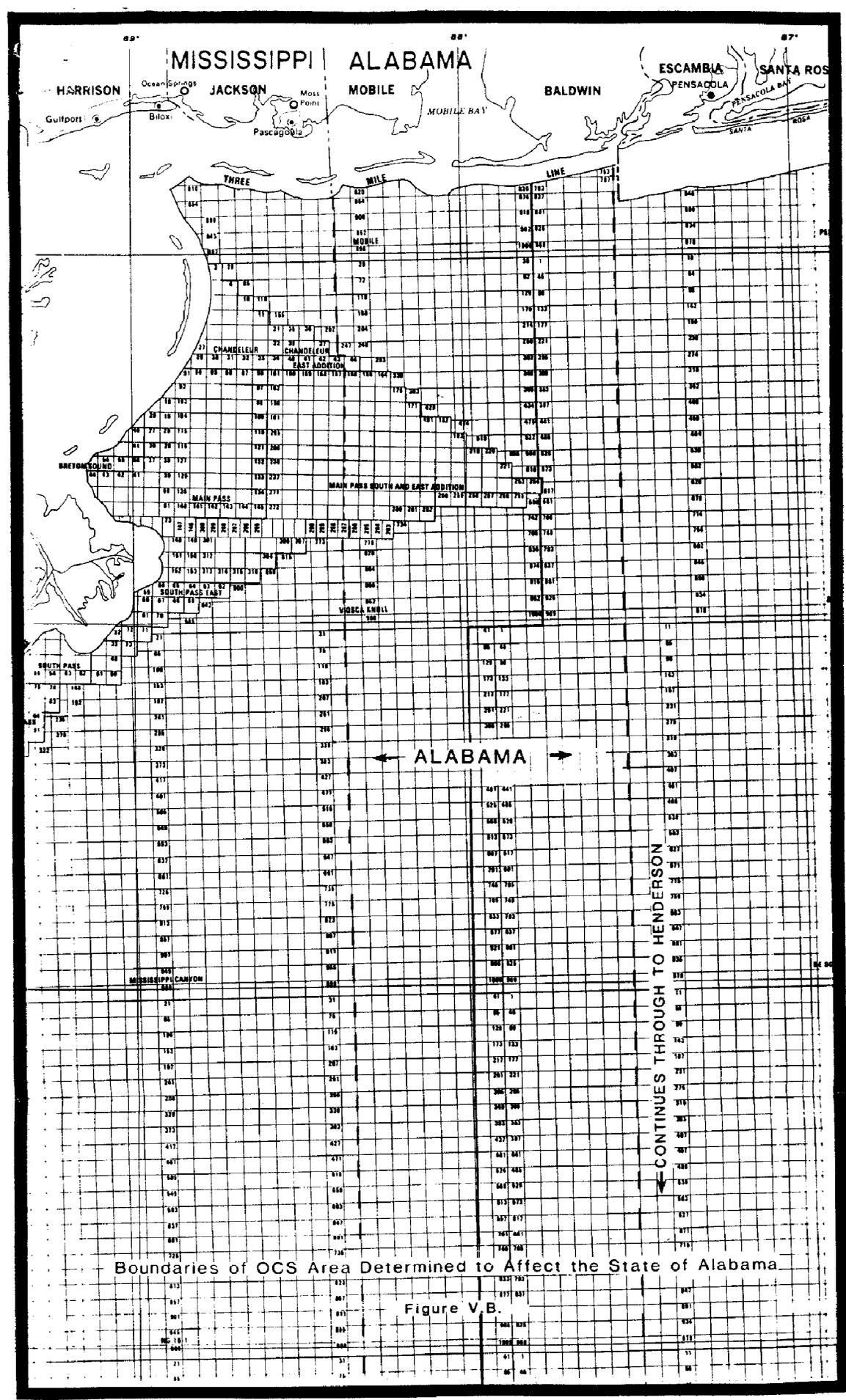
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Date

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<sup>2</sup> Because the *State-Times* has ceased publication, public notice should be published in the *Advocate* instead—Editorial Note.





Boundaries of OCS Area Determined to Affect the State of Alabama

Figure V.B.

