UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS (NTL) OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)

Determination of Pollution Inspection Frequencies for Unmanned Facilities

The provisions of 30 CFR 250.41(a) require that lessees inspect drilling and production facilities daily for the occurrence of pollution. Alternatively, lessees may conduct these required inspections at intervals approved or prescribed by the District Supervisor.

In determining the pollution inspection frequency, the District Supervisor takes into account the facility's performance history, the type and volume of production, operating pressures, processing systems, the potential for hydrogen sulphide gas releases, the effectiveness of the operator's safety management program, and other risk and performance information.

For unmanned facilities, the inspection frequency may be less for those facilities with continuous monitoring capabilities or effective Safety and Environmental Management Programs. Lessees requesting to reduce the number of inspections required at their unmanned facilities should provide information on continuous monitoring capabilities and safeguards that mitigate against the risk of leaks or other equipment failures.

This NTL is also on Minerals Management Service's worldwide website at HTTP://WWW.MMS.GOV.

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