

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

NTL No. 2000-G11

Effective Date: May 12, 2000

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

**Pollution Inspection Intervals for Unmanned Facilities**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2000-G05, dated February 2, 2000, and makes minor technical amendments.

According to 30 CFR 250.301(a), you must inspect production facilities daily or at intervals approved or prescribed by the District Supervisor to determine if pollution is occurring. Under this authority, the appropriate Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) District Supervisor may use the following matrix and evaluation code to determine the pollution inspection interval for an individual unmanned facility:

**Pollution Inspection Matrix**

<b>VALUE</b>	<b>10 Points</b>	<b>20 Points</b>	<b>30 Points</b>	<b>40 Points</b>	<b>50 Points</b>
Distance of facility to nearby manned platforms	<1 mile	1-2 miles	3-5 miles	6-20 miles	>20 miles
Distance of facility to shoreline or sensitive area	>60 miles	31-60 miles	21-30 miles	10-20 miles	<10 miles
Capacity of hydrocarbon storage tanks on facility	< 20 bbls	20-75 bbls	76-100 bbls	101-125 bbls	>125 bbls
General direction of currents	Away from shoreline	_____	Parallel to shoreline	_____	Towards shoreline
SCADA or other continuous monitoring	All operating conditions; shut-in capability	Pressures, levels, etc.; no shut-in capability	Pressures only	_____	Not monitoring anything
Product	Dry gas or < 10 BCPD or < 10 BOPD	Gas and < 100 BCPD	Gas and > 100 BCPD	Gas and <100 BOPD	>100 BOPD or >20ppm H <sub>2</sub> S
Pollution incidents > 1 bbl in the 2 years before request date	No pollution incidents	One or more pollution incidents is 200 points.			

## Evaluation Code

Points	Inspection Interval
70-100	Bi-weekly
110-150	Weekly
160-200	Every three days
210-250	Every other day
260+	Daily

## Exceptions

1. When all of the wells on an unmanned facility (a) are disconnected from production facilities and blind flanged, (b) are equipped with a tubing plug, or (c) have their master valves locked closed, and you have drained the hydrocarbons from all of the tanks and vessels, the appropriate GOMR District Supervisor may approve a pollution inspection interval of up to one month.
2. If your facility is producing or processing more than 400 barrels of liquid hydrocarbons per day, the appropriate GOMR District Supervisor will not approve a change in the prescribed daily pollution inspection interval.
3. The appropriate District Supervisor may rescind an approval for an increased pollution inspection interval if a pollution incident involving a spill greater than one barrel subsequently occurs at the facility.
4. An approval for a modified pollution inspection interval becomes void if the conditions under which it was granted change substantially.

## Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart C. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements for this regulation and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0057. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**Contacts**

Please direct any questions you may have regarding this NTL to the Production Engineer in the appropriate GOMR District Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris C. Oynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chris C. Oynes  
Regional Director