

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

NTL No. 2006-G05

Effective Date: March 1, 2006
Expiration Date: March 1, 2007

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. 2004-G22, effective December 1, 2004. It provides a new schedule for the drilling window program.

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 exploratory 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 as follows:

Group "A" - A rectangle in the Pensacola Area with Block 768 as the northwest corner, Block 988 as the southwest corner, Block 996 as the southeast corner, and Block 776 as the northeast corner.

Group "B" - A group that includes blocks in the Pensacola Area to the east of a line that extends north from the southwest corner of Block 997 to the State-Federal boundary offshore Florida and north of a line that extends east from the southwest corner of Block 997 to the State-Federal boundary offshore Florida.

Group "C" - A rectangle in the Destin Dome Area with Block 20 as the northwest corner, Block 460 as the southwest corner, Block 468 as the southeast corner, and Block 28 as the northeast corner.

Group "D" - A rectangle in the Destin Dome and Apalachicola Areas with Destin Dome Block 29 as the northwest corner, Destin Dome Block 469 as the southwest corner, Apalachicola Block 443 as the southeast corner, and Apalachicola Block 3 as the northeast corner.

Group "E" - A group that includes a rectangle in the Destin Dome Area with Block 507 as the northwest corner, Block 771 as the southwest corner, Block 776 as the southeast corner, and Block 512 as the northeast corner; Destin Dome Blocks 969 and 973; and all the leased blocks in the DeSoto Canyon, Florida Middle Ground, Elbow, and Lloyd Ridge Areas.

Enclosed are an up-to-date list and a map of the actual leased blocks in these groups.

Drilling Window Schedule

Under the drilling window scheme established in 1991 and in place since that time, the MMS GOMR opens one group of leases every three months. Since the last established drilling window, the Seventieth Drilling Window, closed on February 28, 2006, the GOMR, in consultation with the Air Force, hereby establishes the following schedule:

Group "A" will open as the Seventy-first Drilling Window effective March 1, 2006.
Group "B" will open as the Seventy-second Drilling Window effective June 1, 2006.
Group "C" will open as the Seventy-third Drilling Window effective September 1, 2006.
Group "D" will open as the Seventy-fourth Drilling Window effective December 1, 2006.

Under this schedule, Group "E" will not open.

If the MMS GOMR receives any Exploration Plan or Development and Production Plan 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.

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, 1010-0049 for subpart B, and 1010-0107 for 30 CFR part 218, subpart B. This NTL does not impose any information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

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[original signed Charles J. Shoennagel]

For Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director

Enclosures

Enclosure

Drilling Window Group Leases

<u>Group A</u>			<u>Group D (continued)</u>			<u>Group E (continued)</u>		
G08308	PE	904	G10431	AP	178	G10460	DC	471
G08309	PE	906	G10432	AP	179	G10461	DC	475
G08310	PE	907	G10433	AP	222	G10462	DC	477
G08317	PE	989	G10434	AP	223	G10463	DC	515
G08318	PE	990	G10435	AP	266	G10464	DC	519
G08319	PE	991				G10465	DC	560
G10413	PE	945				G10466	DC	561
G10414	PE	946				G10471	DC	829
G10417	PE	988				G10472	DC	830
						G10473	DC	831
<u>Group B</u>			<u>Group E</u>			G10477	DC	875
G10404	PE	867	G06464	DC	427	G10484	FM	309
G10405	PE	868	G06469	DC	472	G10485	FM	353
G10408	PE	911	G06470	DC	476	G10493	LL	382
G10409	PE	912	G06474	DC	516	G10494	LL	383
G10410	PE	913	G06475	DC	517	G10495	LL	427
G10415	PE	957	G06476	DC	520	G10496	LL	511
			G06477	DC	521	G10497	LL	737
			G08361	FM	411	G10498	EL	273
			G08362	FM	412	G10499	EL	274
			G08363	FM	455	G10500	EL	317
			G08364	FM	456	G10501	EL	318
			G08365	FM	499	G10502	EL	319
			G08366	FM	500	G10503	EL	361
			G08367	FM	543	G10504	EL	362
			G08368	FM	587	G10505	EL	363
			G10446	DC	297	G10506	EL	364
			G10447	DC	298	G10507	EL	406
			G10448	DC	299	G10508	EL	407
			G10449	DC	343	G10509	EL	408
			G10450	DC	344	G10510	EL	452
			G10451	DC	349	G10511	EL	840
			G10452	DC	387	G10512	EL	841
			G10453	DC	388	G10513	EL	884
			G10454	DC	393	G10514	EL	885
			G10455	DC	426			
			G10456	DC	432			
			G10459	DC	470			

