

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) REGION**

NTL No. 2014 G-06

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**NOTICE TO LESSEES (NTL) AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND
SULPHUR LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS ON THE OCS,
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

Lessee and Operator Refueling Requirements for BSEE-contracted Helicopters

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) provides guidance on BSEE's interpretation of 30 CFR 250.132(a)(2), which requires lessees and operators to provide helicopter landing sites and refueling facilities to helicopters BSEE uses to regulate offshore operations.

Background

BSEE contracts with a helicopter operator to fly BSEE personnel offshore in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) (hereinafter, BSEE's helicopter operator). BSEE's helicopter operator has a wide range of fuel stations throughout the GOM, in addition to having fuel service agreements with multiple helicopter vendors. BSEE's helicopter operator prefers to use its own fuel stations or those of its service agreement partners; however, there are still times when it is in the best interest of the government for BSEE's helicopter operator to use other fuel stations. BSEE needs to ensure that its helicopter operator has access to fuel wherever it flies to minimize the risk to BSEE employees and helicopter personnel from additional take-offs and landings, to increase inspection efficiency, and to decrease flight costs. As of the effective date of this NTL, BSEE's helicopter operator is Era Helicopters LLC.

Guidance

Consistent with the regulatory history of 30 CFR 250.132, BSEE interprets this regulation to require that BSEE's helicopter operator be provided access to helicopter landing sites and refueling facilities on your facility regardless of whether the inspection being conducted by BSEE is at your facility. Therefore, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.132, you must provide fuel to the BSEE's helicopter operator if requested. The BSEE's helicopter operator will pay for the cost of the fuel.

If fuel is denied for a BSEE-contracted helicopter, BSEE inspectors will issue an incident of noncompliance (INC) for a violation of 250.132(a)(2) (PINC Number G-113). If the operator fails to correct the violation, then a civil penalty may be warranted under 30 CFR 250.1404(a).

Contact Information

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Jane Powers at (504) 736-2558 or jane.powers@bsee.gov.



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