

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

NTL No. 98-29

Effective Date: December 18, 1998

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

Announcement of Project to Clean Up Historical Well Data

This notice announces that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is beginning a project to clean up its historical data for wells on offshore blocks in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR). We are requesting that you designate contacts for the project. We are providing some details on the initial phases of the clean-up project and also describing our concurrent effort to identify all wells drilled on Federal offshore blocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

You are required to submit well information to the MMS for safety and environmental permits and reviews. We have not conducted a review of our electronic well records (or data) with the operators for approximately fifteen years. During this time many leases and well records have changed ownership, the technology for obtaining these data has changed, and good management and analyses of this information have become vital for decision making. This project will create a reliable, unique well identifier for all wells in the Region, provide quality well data and information for us and for industry, and facilitate improvements in data exchange and management of data and information in the Region. These changes will also expedite our decisions, permits, and approvals, as the improved electronic records for wells become available.

Project Contacts

We will be consulting you to determine the best possible methods for obtaining your concurrence with our records or completing any missing well information. During all phases of this effort we will keep you advised regarding the project and proposed changes to data from your operations. For these purposes we are asking you to provide contact names, mail addresses, e-mail addresses (if available), and phone numbers for the project. This contact information should be sent by January 11, 1999, to the following address:

**Minerals Management Service
Technical Data Management Section (MS 5020)
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394
Phone: (504) 736-2887; Fax: (504) 736-2857
E-mail: tdms@mms.gov**

Historical Well Data Clean-up Project

Since well data are critical for many of our mission responsibilities, the electronic records we derived from the information you submitted are maintained in MMS's Technical Information Management System (TIMS) for access by all of our offices. Also, these data are the primary source of Gulf of Mexico well data and information for many operators and data vendors. The TIMS data contain approximately 37,000 wellbores and the project is expected to capture an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 borehole records that are missing from TIMS because MMS only recently began recording well bypasses and redrills.

The initial phase of the project includes a formulation period and a pilot involving several operators. The formulation period will be an assessment of the available information files in industry and MMS, and an analysis of the best industry practices for cleaning up historical well data. We will use this assessment and analyses to design and conduct a pilot. The pilot project will consist of data and documents for several hundred wells in offshore area blocks in the Region. We will then use the results from the pilot to develop a detailed project plan, the data clean-up methodology, and a statement of work (SOW) for the subsequent phases of the project, which are to clean up the remaining well data.

The primary tasks of the clean-up project are a systematic review, update, and cleanup of the well information and to create records for those wells not previously assigned MMS well names and numbers. The data for the project include basic well reference information, well completions, directional surveys, velocity surveys, well logs, core data, and paleo data. We plan to contract for additional support during the project. The subsequent phases of the data clean-up project and additional industry participation will begin after completion of the pilot.

Well List

Concurrently with the first phase of the project, we will be compiling a list of all wells drilled on Federal offshore blocks in the Gulf of Mexico OCS with basic identifying elements and indicating for each well whether MMS has assigned an API number or a number is needed. As soon as we receive contact information, we will respond to arrange your concurrence on the basic identification of those wells that you currently operate. We will maintain this list and make it readily available to the public. The purpose of the list is to provide a complete, public listing of unique well identifiers for wells in the GOMR. The list will facilitate the exchange of data and integration of the various data sets for the region and also serve as a foundation for the Historical Well Data Clean-up Project.

Scheduled Activities

Estimated Dates	Data Cleanup Phase 1	Compiling Well Listing	Data Cleanup Phase 2
Start Date	December 1, 1998	January 11, 1999	May 1, 1999
End Date	March 1, 1999	March 1, 1999	September 30, 1999

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the collection of information referred to in this notice which is the requirements of 30 CFR 250, Subpart D, and associated MMS forms. The OMB control numbers are: 1010-0053 for 30 CFR 250, Subpart D; 1010-0045 for Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Well; and 1010-0046 for Form MMS-125, Well Summary Report. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Please address any questions on the contents of this notice to Mr. Chris Gaudry at (504) 736-2911 or christopher.gaudry@mms.gov.

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 distinct "Oynes" at the end.

Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director