

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

NTL No. 99-G017

Effective Date: July 8, 1999

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

**North American Datum 83 Implementation Plan for the Gulf of Mexico**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes the Letter to Lessees and Operators dated April 15, 1993, on this subject. It includes a statement on the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

As published in the Federal Register on May 1, 1991 (56 FR 20020), the Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prescribed an implementation plan for the conversion of the North American Datum (NAD) 27 to NAD 83. This NTL summarizes the phases for this conversion in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) is currently in Phase I of NAD 83 implementation. In Phase I, all locational data pertaining to drilling activities, wells, platforms, pipelines, or any other activities or facilities that you submit to the GOMR must specifically reference either NAD 27 or NAD 83. Furthermore, according to the Federal Register Notice published on February 12, 1992 (57 FR 5168), you must indicate that any NAD-converted equivalents were derived using NADCON software, version 2.0 or better. The offshore cadastre used by the GOMR continues to be defined on NAD 27, and the GOMR converts NAD 83 data to NAD 27 equivalents using this software.

Phase II of NAD 83 implementation will require that all locational data you submit to the GOMR reference NAD 83. The GOMR will not accept data based on NAD 27 except on a case-by-case basis. In Phase II, the offshore cadastre used by the GOMR will continue to be defined on NAD 27. When appropriate, the GOMR will make NAD 83 equivalents available.

Phase III of NAD 83 implementation will establish full compliance with NAD 83 usage.

The GOMR plans to remain under Phase I indefinitely, with the possible exception of unleased areas in the eastern portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. This is due to the undesirability of redefining the X-Y coordinate points for the existing map grid for the Gulf of Mexico. Such conversion would cause many of the OCS blocks to become trapezoidal in shape.

Furthermore, implementation of Phase II would necessitate multiple and duplicative translations of data.

To implement Phase III, it would be most desirable to regrid completely the entire Gulf of Mexico in one action. However, this regridding would eliminate all current Leasing Map Areas and Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) and replace them with new OPDs oriented to NAD 83. The GOMR will delay implementation of Phase III until problems associated with the redescription of existing leases are resolved. At present, the GOMR has not established a schedule to accomplish this task.

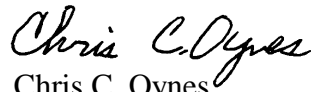
With respect to the eastern portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, where few or no active leases exist, the GOMR may begin regridding this area before regridding the rest of the Gulf of Mexico. However, the GOMR has no specific plans for this to take place in the near future.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement**

The information collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in MMS regulations and related forms. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for these regulations and forms. You can find the various assigned OMB control numbers for collecting this information in 30 CFR Parts 250, 251, 254, 256, 280, 281, and 282. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions on this NTL, you may contact the GOMR, Office of Leasing and Environment, at (504) 736-2759.

  
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