

United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Pacific OCS Region
770 Paseo Camarillo
Camarillo, California 93010-6064

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CITATION

SAFETY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE SANTA MARIA DISTRICT

CHEVRON U.S.A. INC., VENTURA PROFIT CENTER PRODUCTION AND DRILLING

This award is presented to Chevron for the professional manner in which it conducted the Pt. Arguello Unit operations on Platforms Harvest, Hermosa and Hidalgo during the period January 1 through December 31, 1997.

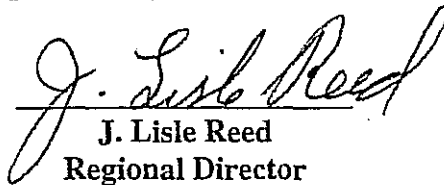
During the rating period, Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel conducted numerous (257) inspections of drilling and production operations, well-completion, -workover and -abandonment operations, and pollution abatement systems at the Pt. Arguello platforms. Results of these inspections indicated that Chevron had an outstanding record in conducting overall operations in accordance with MMS regulations and the criteria for the SAFE program.

At the core of Chevron's operational priorities at Pt. Arguello are dual concerns for human and environmental safety. Chevron's concerns for the safety of its personnel are evident in its voluntary compliance with requests from the Dept. of the Air Force to evacuate and shelter platform personnel for hazardous military and non-military/commercial launch operations at Vandenberg AFB in spite of the costs and inconvenience encountered. Additionally, Chevron completed voluntary modifications to the hydrogen sulfide leak detection systems on two facilities this year, with plans to similarly upgrade the third, to provide an added margin of safety for personnel who work every day in a hazardous and potentially lethal environment. Chevron's concern for environmental safety is reflected in its outstanding record of spill prevention at Pt. Arguello, which has not had a significant environmental accident in the operational life of the field. In the past 12 months, Chevron has continued its excellent safety record at Pt. Arguello by conducting routine production activities and non-routine drilling and workover operations, as well as numerous rig mobilizations and demobilizations, without an environmental accident. Chevron's laudable safety record offshore is directly attributable to continued responsible project management, an exemplary safety training program and the sustained attention to duty of everyone on the Pt. Arguello Asset Team both onshore and offshore.

On January 1, Chevron became the sole operator of the Pt. Arguello platforms and

instituted Chevron's safety first management philosophy at Platform Harvest. As a result, Chevron has safely completed several major engineering projects aimed at increasing the operational life of the project through gas re-injection and oil stabilization modifications to the facility. Despite the added responsibility of operating Platform Harvest, Chevron has maintained a high level of preventative maintenance, safety awareness, environmental protection, and excellent housekeeping practices on all three platforms. Chevron and Texaco personnel are to be commended for their professionalism during the transition which was accomplished smoothly and efficiently without compromising safety. Throughout the year, field and management personnel have consistently demonstrated a keen awareness, knowledge, and application of Federal, State, and County operating regulations. Cooperation with MMS personnel has been excellent. Cooperation with the Air Force has been extraordinary and greatly appreciated by the MMS.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Minerals Management Service commend Chevron for its part in the development of offshore mineral resources while maintaining a constant awareness for the safety of personnel, protection of the environment, and adherence to operating regulations.


J. Lisle Reed
Regional Director
Pacific OCS Region