



NEWS RELEASE

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MMS Publishes Final Rule on OCS Data Release and Definitions

WASHINGTON - The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today published a final rule in the [Federal Register](#) that denotes changes to oil & gas operation in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Among the changes are: revising certain existing definitions; clarifying the basis upon which the Regional Director invokes the requirement for an archaeological survey on a lease area; adding notification requirements on production status of wells; and updating both public information and Information Collection sections. "[Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf \(OCS\), 30 CFR 250 Subpart A, General—Data Release and Definitions](#)," will become effective May 24, 2006.

MMS recently redesigned and renamed some of its forms to streamline data submission. MMS also discovered inconsistent practices in first production reporting, which is a prime parameter in determining inspection and testing schedules for safety system devices. This final rulemaking will update the regulations to correspond to recently revised forms, provide clarity and explanation of definitions and forms, and clarify the requirements for first production notices.

MMS issued a [proposed rule](#) on March 23, 2005 ([70 FR 14607](#)). MMS received only one set of comments from the oil and gas industry prepared by the American Petroleum Institute and the Offshore Operators' Committee.

MMS Internet website address: <http://www.mms.gov>