



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers, GLO enter agreement on oil field development permits

The Permit Assistance Group, an interagency team created by the Coastal Coordination Council, reached a streamlining milestone for coastal environmental permits on Oct. 28 when the Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas General Land Office entered into a Cooperative Agreement to facilitate the permit evaluation process for Oil Field Development Regional General Permits (OFD GP). The Cooperative Agreement improves the permitting process by providing the public a single agency to apply to, reducing duplication between the two permitting programs.

The Cooperative Agreement is a re-issuance of a previous agreement that authorized the GLO to administer OFD GPs for projects located offshore in Texas. The purpose of the new Cooperative Agreement is to include the Corps' most recent OFD GP for projects located in the bays and estuaries along the Texas coast. Permit applicants whose oil field development projects are located on state submerged lands along the Texas coast may apply to the GLO for both their state easement and their Corps' authorization.

The Corps has regulatory jurisdiction over activities in waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The GLO has authority to execute and perform all acts and other things relating to public real property of the state or rights of individuals in public real property which is required by law, and requires lease agreements for structures on State-owned lands.

For more information, contact the Galveston District Corps of Engineers at (409) 766-3925 or the GLO at (512) 305-9106. For more information on the Corps OFD GPs, go to <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/permitgp/general.asp>