

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and
Indian Oil and Gas Leases
(NTL-3A)

Reporting of Undesirable Events

This Notice, which supersedes NTL-3 dated January 1, 1975, is issued pursuant to the authority prescribed in Title 30 CFR 221.5, 221.7, and 221.36. Operators of onshore Federal and Indian oil and gas leases shall report all spills, discharges, or other undesirable events in accordance with the requirements of this Notice. All such events occur on State or private land leases within federally supervised unit or communitized areas must likewise be reported in accordance with the requirements of this Notice. However, compliance with this Notice does not relieve an operator from the obligation of complying with the applicable rules and regulations of any State or Federal Agencies regarding notification and reporting of undesirable events. As used in this Notice, the term Deputy State Director (DSD) means that officer of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) having Minerals jurisdiction for the geographic area in which the undesirable event occurs.

I. Major Undesirable Events Requiring Immediate Notification

Major undesirable events are defined as those incidents listed below in subsections A. through F. These incidents, when occurring on a lease supervised by the BLM, must be reported to the appropriate DSD as soon as practical but within a maximum of 24 hours:

- A. Oil, saltwater, and toxic liquid spills, or any combination thereof, that result in the discharge (spilling) of 100 or more barrels of liquid; however, discharges of such magnitude, if entirely contained within the facility firewall, may be reported in writing pursuant to Section III of this Notice;
- B. Equipment failures or other accidents that result in the venting of 500 or more MCF of gas;
- C. Any fire which consumes the volumes as specified in I.A. and I.B. above;
- D. Any spill, venting, or fire, regardless of the volume involved, that occurs in a sensitive area, such as parks, recreation sites, wildlife refuges, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and urban or suburban area;
- E. Each accident that involves a fatal injury; and
- F. Every blowout (loss of control of any well) that occurs.

Approved by: Robert J. Leaverton

II. Written Reports

A written report shall be submitted in duplicate to the DSD no later than 15 days following all major undesirable events identified in Section I. When required by the DSD, interim reports will be submitted until final containment and cleanup operations have been accomplished. The final written report for each such event shall, as appropriate, provide:

- A. The date and time of occurrence, and the date and time reported to BLM;
- B. The location where the incident occurred, including surface ownership and lease number;
- C. The specific nature and cause of the incident;
- D. A description of the resultant damage;
- E. The action taken and the length of time required for control of the incident, for containing the discharged fluids, and for subsequent cleanup;
- F. The estimated volumes discharged and the volumes lost;
- G. The cause of death, if known, when fatal injuries are involved;
- H. Actions that have been or will be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident;
- I. Other Federal or State agencies notified of the incident; and
- J. Other pertinent comments or additional information as requested by the DSD.

III. Other-Than-Major Undesirable Events

Other-than-major undesirable events, as identified below in subsections A. through D. do not have to be reported orally within 24 hours; however, a written report, as required for major undesirable events in Section II of this Notice, must be provided for the following incidents:

- A. Oil, saltwater, and toxic liquid spills, or any combination thereof, that result in the discharge (spilling) of at least 10 but less than 100 barrels of liquid in nonsensitive areas, and all discharges of 100 or more barrels when the spill is entirely contained by the facility firewall;
- B. Equipment failures or other accidents that result in the venting of at least 50 but less than 500 MCF of gas in non-sensitive areas;
- C. Any fire that consumes volumes in the ranges specified in III.A. and III.B., above; and
- D. Each accident involving a major or life threatening injury. Spills or discharges in non-sensitive areas involving less than 10 barrels of liquid or 50 MCF of gas do not require an oral or written report; however, the volumes discharged or vented as a result of all such minor incidents must be reported in accordance with Section V. hereof.

Approved by: Robert J. Leaverton

IV. Contingency Plans

Upon request of the DSD, a copy of any Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan), required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Title 40 CFR 112, or other acceptable contingency plan must be submitted. All plans shall provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers (both business and private) of at least two technically competent company or contract personnel authorized to order equipment or supplies and to expend funds necessary to control emergencies.

V. Monthly Report of Operations/Monthly Report of Sales and Royalty

All volumes of oil spilled, gas vented, and all hydrocarbons consumed by fire or otherwise lost must be reported monthly on the Oil and Gas Operations Report (OGOR, Form MMS-4054, Parts A, B, and C). The volume and value of such losses must also be reported in the month following the loss on Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance (Form MMS-2014).

VI. Liquidated Damages

Failure to provide the necessary notification, reports, or contingency plan (when required) as provided for by this Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL-3A), may result in other measures being taken to secure compliance, such as those provided by Title 30 CFR 221.53 and 221.54.