

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

NTL No. 2007-G25

Effective Date: September 24, 2007

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

2008 Gulfwide OCS Emissions Inventory (Western Gulf of Mexico)

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. It instructs lessees, lease operators, and pipeline right-of-way holders to collect production activities information (facility, equipment, fuel usage, etc.) for use in the 2008 Gulfwide Emissions Inventory. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) derives its authority for requiring emissions monitoring and reporting at 30 CFR 250.303(k), 30 CFR 250.304(a) and (g), and 30 CFR 250.282.

Background

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has promulgated more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and regional haze and has recently proposed to strengthen the ground-level ozone standards. The changes to these standards/regulations require State agencies to perform air quality photochemical modeling for ozone and regional haze for use in their State Implementation Plans (SIPs). In order to conduct this modeling, emission inventories must be generated as inputs to the models.

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) specifies that States are to prepare emission inventories every three years, starting in 1996. The collection of information and the compilation of an air emissions inventory are tasks that MMS performs to assure coordination of air pollution control regulations between Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore sources and State sources onshore (as per Section 328(b) of the 1990 CAAA). The MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) is responsible for providing the Gulf of Mexico OCS emissions data from both stationary platform sources, as well as other non-platform sources, such as exploration, construction, transportation, lightering, and supply vessels.

Currently, the gulf coast State air quality agencies and central/southeast State regional planning organizations use the MMS GOMR calendar year 2000 emission inventory for the OCS portion in air quality modeling and SIP development. However, the year 2000 did not correspond to one of the onshore triennial periodic emissions inventory years (e.g., year 2002). To correct this

discrepancy and to update the 2000 emission inventory, the 2005 emissions inventory study was conducted. Because of the widespread damage and disruption in the Gulf of Mexico caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita during the summer of 2005, the Year 2005 Gulfwide OCS Emission Inventory is not complete and is certainly atypical.

For these reasons, the MMS GOMR is establishing a 2008 Gulfwide OCS emissions inventory to correspond with the next EPA onshore periodic emissions inventory. Due to the more stringent NAAQS, it is likely that many of the regions adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico will face even greater challenges in attaining air quality standards in their respective States in 2008. This inventory will be used to assist States and regional planning organizations with modeling for additional SIP demonstrations to meet these challenges. Thus, the collection and compilation of an emissions inventory for OCS sources in 2008 is imperative, in that it provides the MMS GOMR with the essential tools to comply with the Congressional mandate, i.e., coordinating air pollution control regulations between OCS offshore and State onshore sources. The MMS GOMR will also use the inventory to assist in its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by providing an updated inventory to compute emission trends and perform necessary air quality impacts assessments.

The inventory will provide calendar year 2008 activity information and calculated emissions data for NAAQS criteria pollutants carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter-10 (PM₁₀), particulate matter-2.5 (PM_{2.5}), all volatile organic compounds (VOC), including exempted compounds (40 CFR 51.100), as well as greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

Collecting and Reporting Information

The MMS GOMR and the States need information for the year 2008 on OCS activities in the western Gulf of Mexico (that portion of the OCS west of 87° 30' West longitude), that will coincide with their 2008 State emission inventories, for input into their ozone and regional haze models. Therefore, under the authority of 30 CFR 250.303(k), 30 CFR 250.304(a) and (g), and 30 CFR 250.282, the MMS GOMR hereby directs lessees and operators of each affected OCS lease and the holders of each pipeline right-of-way (ROW) that includes an accessory structure in the western Gulf of Mexico to collect and report facility, equipment, fuel usage, and other activity information during the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008.

Collect and submit this OCS activity data to the MMS GOMR by using the 2008 Gulfwide Offshore Activities Data System (GOADS-2008) software. The GOADS-2008 works on IBM-compatible personal computers (PCs) equipped with the Microsoft Windows 2000, NT, XP, or VISTA operating systems.

On October 16, 2007, the MMS GOMR will place the following on the Internet MMS GOMR homepage at www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/requirements.html:

- (1) this NTL;
- (2) GOADS-2008 Software, which will be used to collect and report your OCS activity

- data;
- (3) GOADS-2008 User's Guide;
 - (4) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs);
 - (5) How to Submit Emissions Reports; and
 - (6) Technical Support/Updates.

In addition, the MMS GOMR will hold a workshop on October 24, 2007, to discuss and explain these information collection and reporting procedures. Lessees and operators, pipeline ROW holders, and contractors are invited to attend this workshop, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the MMS GOMR located at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana.

To attend, bring a picture ID and check in at the front desk. Since the workshop will have a hands-on session for questions and answers pertaining to the GOADS-2008 software, please download and practice using the software before the workshop, and bring your laptop to the workshop with the GOADS-2008 software loaded. The workshop agenda will include (1) the information you will collect and report, (2) the time periods for submittal of this information, (3) the information reporting software, GOADS-2008, and (4) a hands-on session to become familiar with the software and to have your questions answered.

The MMS GOMR may hold a second workshop in 2008 to address any new questions that may arise once you start collecting data.

Submit all activity data to the MMS GOMR by April 17, 2009.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection provisions of this notice are intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subparts B and C. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the current information collection requirements for these regulations and assigned OMB Control Numbers 1010-0151 and 1010-0057, respectively. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Contact Ms. Holli Ensz of the MMS GOMR Environmental Sciences Section by telephone at (504) 736-2536 or by e-mail at holli.ensz@mms.gov if you have any questions concerning this NTL.

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Acting Regional Director