

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

NTL No. 2008-G12

Effective Date: June 1, 2008
Expiration Date: December 1, 2009

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES
IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

Drilling Windows, Eastern Gulf of Mexico

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2007-G06 and is effective June 1, 2008. It provides a new schedule for the drilling window program and a website address for a new map that shows the areas covered by the drilling window program. This new map shows that Group "E" has been reconfigured so that it does not include any of the OCS blocks leased in Sales Nos. 205, 206 and 224. This reconfiguration does not affect the status of any of the existing leases in Group "E."

Drilling Window Program

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR), after consultation with the U.S. Air Force, established a drilling window program in 1991 for exploratory activities on oil and gas leases that were obtained through Lease Sales Nos. 79, 94, and 116 and that contain Lease Stipulation No. 5. In accordance with this lease stipulation, the drilling window program ensures that exploration activities can be conducted predictably, orderly, and safely without interfering with scheduled military activities or jeopardizing the national defense mission.

The drilling window program divides the subject leases into five groups designated as Groups "A" through "E." For a map showing these geographic areas, refer to the MMS GOMR Internet website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/2008NTLs/drillwindow.pdf>. The Enclosure to this NTL provides an up-to-date list of the leased blocks in these groups.

Drilling Window Schedule

Under the drilling window scheme established in 1991 and in place since that time, the MMS GOMR usually opens one group of leases every three months. Since the last established drilling window, the Seventy-ninth Drilling Window, closed on May 31, 2008, the MMS GOMR, in consultation with the Air Force, hereby establishes the following schedule:

Group "E" opens as the Eightieth Drilling Window effective June 1, 2008.

Group "A" will open as the Eighty-first Drilling Window effective December 1, 2008.
Group "B" will open as the Eighty-second Drilling Window effective March 1, 2009.
Group "C" will open as the Eighty-third Drilling Window effective June 1, 2009.
Group "D" will open as the Eighty-fourth Drilling Window effective September 1, 2009.

At the suggestion of the Air Force, Group E will be opened as the Eightieth Drilling Window for six months. Groups A, B, C, and D will open for three months. If the MMS GOMR receives any Exploration Plans or Development and Production Plans proposing operations in any of these groups of leases, we will consult with the Air Force and determine what changes, if any, we will make to this schedule to accommodate all those concerned.

Effect of Drilling Window Approvals

This section is provided according to 30 CFR 250.173(b) concerning suspensions of operations in the interest of national security or defense, 30 CFR 250.169(a) concerning lease term extensions, and 30 CFR 218.154(b) and (c) concerning payment of rentals and lease anniversary date.

A. Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.173(b), the GOMR will direct a suspension of operations (SOO) and it will be in effect for all oil and gas leases that were obtained through Lease Sales Nos. 79, 94, and 116, contain Lease Stipulation No. 5, are east of 87.5 degrees W longitude, and are not located within an open drilling window. Similar suspensions will likewise be directed by separate letters of notification for all such leases not included in a future drilling window and will be effective as of the date of the opening of the drilling window. Any such SOO will terminate when the lease is included in an open drilling window pursuant to 30 CFR 250.170(e).

B. According to 30 CFR 250.169(a), the term of any affected lease will be extended for a period of time equal to the period that the SOO is in effect.

C. According to 30 CFR 218.154(b), no payment of rental or minimum royalty will be required for or during the period of the SOO.

D. According to 30 CFR 218.154(c), if the lease anniversary date occurs within a period that an SOO is in effect for which no rental or minimum royalty payments are required, the prorated rentals or minimum royalties are due and payable as of the date the SOO terminates. The anniversary date of the lease will not change by reason of any period of lease suspension or rental or royalty relief resulting therefrom.

Guidance Document Statement

The MMS issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain MMS regulatory requirements and to outline the information you provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on and an interpretation of a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternative

approach for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate MMS office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR part 250, Subparts A and B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations under OMB control numbers 1010-0114 for Subpart A and 1010-0049 for Subpart B. This NTL does not impose any information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Please address any questions on the content of this NTL to Mr. Michael Tolbert by telephone at (504) 736-2867 or by email at michael.tolbert@mms.gov.

[original signed]

Lars T. Herbst
Regional Director

Enclosure

Enclosure

Drilling Window Group Leases

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|-----------------------------------|----|-----|--------|----|-----|
| <u>Group A</u> | | | G10434 | AP | 223 | G10461 | DC | 475 |
| G08308 | PE | 904 | G10435 | AP | 266 | G10462 | DC | 477 |
| G08309 | PE | 906 | <u>Group E</u> | | | G10463 | DC | 515 |
| G08310 | PE | 907 | G06464 | DC | 427 | G10464 | DC | 519 |
| G10413 | PE | 945 | G06469 | DC | 472 | G10465 | DC | 560 |
| G10414 | PE | 946 | G06470 | DC | 476 | G10466 | DC | 561 |
| G10417 | PE | 988 | G06474 | DC | 516 | G10471 | DC | 829 |
| <u>Group B</u> | | | G06475 | DC | 517 | G10472 | DC | 830 |
| G10404 | PE | 867 | G06476 | DC | 520 | G10473 | DC | 831 |
| G10405 | PE | 868 | G06477 | DC | 521 | G10477 | DC | 875 |
| G10408 | PE | 911 | G08361 | FM | 411 | G10484 | FM | 309 |
| G10409 | PE | 912 | G08362 | FM | 412 | G10485 | FM | 353 |
| G10410 | PE | 913 | G08363 | FM | 455 | G10493 | LL | 382 |
| G10415 | PE | 957 | G08364 | FM | 456 | G10494 | LL | 383 |
| <u>Group C</u> | | | G08365 | FM | 499 | G10495 | LL | 427 |
| G06440 | DD | 460 | G08366 | FM | 500 | G10496 | LL | 511 |
| <u>Group D</u> | | | G08367 | FM | 543 | G10497 | LL | 737 |
| G06401 | DD | 37 | G08368 | FM | 587 | G10498 | EL | 273 |
| G06402 | DD | 38 | G10446 | DC | 297 | G10499 | EL | 274 |
| G06408 | DD | 81 | G10447 | DC | 298 | G10500 | EL | 317 |
| G06409 | DD | 82 | G10448 | DC | 299 | G10501 | EL | 318 |
| G08333 | DD | 77 | G10449 | DC | 343 | G10502 | EL | 319 |
| G08334 | DD | 78 | G10450 | DC | 344 | G10503 | EL | 361 |
| G08346 | DD | 208 | G10451 | DC | 349 | G10504 | EL | 362 |
| G10426 | DD | 253 | G10452 | DC | 387 | G10505 | EL | 363 |
| G10427 | DD | 297 | G10453 | DC | 388 | G10506 | EL | 364 |
| G10430 | AP | 177 | G10454 | DC | 393 | G10507 | EL | 406 |
| <u>Group D (continued)</u> | | | G10455 | DC | 426 | G10508 | EL | 407 |
| G10431 | AP | 178 | G10456 | DC | 432 | G10509 | EL | 408 |
| G10432 | AP | 179 | G10459 | DC | 470 | G10510 | EL | 452 |
| G10433 | AP | 222 | <u>Group E (continued)</u> | | | G10511 | EL | 840 |
| | | | G10460 | DC | 471 | G10512 | EL | 841 |
| | | | | | | G10513 | EL | 884 |
| | | | | | | G10514 | EL | 885 |