

APR. -30' 99 (FRI) 13:40

TEL: 504 680 6858

P. 002



3

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc

P O Box 60252
New Orleans LA 70160
504 680 1000



April 30, 1999

VIA FAX AND MAIL

Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Mail Stop 4024
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Attention: Rules Processing Team

Re: Call for Comments on Amendment of Regulations
Specific Payment Methods at OCS Lease Sales
64 FR 15320 (March 31, 1999)

Dear Sir and Madam:

In response to the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) request for comments (64 FR 15320) regarding the proposed amendment to the regulations allowing the MMS the option to require a specific payment method for submitting the 1/5th bonus deposit due with each bid submitted at Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (Texaco) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change.

Since the MMS began offering participants the option to pay by EFT the 1/5th bonus deposits on high bids submitted at OCS lease sales, Texaco has utilized this option. We believe paying by EFT is extremely efficient and an enhancement in the current program. We support the proposed rule change and encourage MMS to continue its efforts in streamlining the sale process.

Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate contacting the undersigned at (504) 680-1321.

Yours very truly,

J. Keith Couvillion
Land Manager - OCS

JKC
MMS99z.doc