

# Idle Iron Initiative - Gulf of Mexico March 23, 2012

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#### Why do we have an Idle Iron Initiative?



- As we saw during past hurricanes, some facilities are toppled.
- Pollution risk
- Increase risk to personnel plugging wells & removing facilities which are toppled.
- Cost to plug & abandon a toppled well is significantly more than the conventional cost.

#### **Current Regulations**



## § 250.1703 What are the general requirements for decommissioning?

When your facilities are <u>no longer useful</u> for operations, you must:

(a) Remove all platforms and other facilities;

## § 250.1711 - When will BSEE order me to permanently plug a well?

BSEE will order you to permanently plug a well if that well:

- (a) Poses a hazard to safety or the environment; or
- (b) <u>Is not useful</u> for lease operations and is not capable of oil, gas, or sulphur production in paying quantities.

#### NTL 2010-G05



Effective Date: October 15, 2010

Expiration Date: October 14, 2013

ZETO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LE AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

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This Notice to Lessees and Operators and Pipeline Right-of-way Holders (NTL) supersedes NTLNo. 2004-Glos. Structure Removal Operations. effective April 5, 2004. In addition to undating Decommissioning Guidance for Wells and Platforms

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No. 2004-006, Structure Removal Operations, effective April 9, 2004. In the guidance on this topic, the NTL provides definitions of capable of pre ontes, anymone zona isotator, no conger asegui for operations, and toppolishes an approach to ensure that idle infrastructure on active leases is dex establishes an approach to ensure that idle infrastructure on active leases is decommissioned innely manner; and provides clarification, description, and interpretation of many other issues arisen eincombilities of 30 CFR 250 Submart On the Commission of 30 CFR 250 Submart On the Commi

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The NTL Defines "No longer useful for operations" D STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT which is used in the regulations for:

- Wells
  - No production 5 years
  - No plans for future operations/
- Platforms
  - Toppled
  - In 2018, MAIS conducted an Ameritative mierital continues wells on active leases in the Gulf of Mexico Outer Con Has not been used in past 5 years for operation associated with exploration, development of production of oil/gas

#### NTL 2010-G05 Requirments



- You must perform one of the following with Idle Wells within 3 years:
  - PA the well in accordance 250.1712 .1717; or
  - TA the well in accordance 250.1721; or
  - Provide the well with downhole isolation. Within 2 years of setting downhole plugs, they must either PA/TA the well
- Idle platforms must be removed as soon as possible, but not longer than 5 years after it became no longer useful.

#### Implementation of NTL 2010-G05



- A total of 156 letters went out to operators
- BSEE received a total of 97 idle iron plans in response to October 2010 idle iron letters (Note: Some operators that did not respond had already address their idle well situation and some operators had sold their properties to another operator who is addressing those wells)
- These 97 plans cover
  - 3092 idle wells (96 %) of 3233 total idle wells
  - 1056 expired wells (85 %) of 1246 total expired wells
  - 600 idle platforms (97 %) of 617 total idle platforms
  - 259 expired platforms (89 %) of 292 total expired platforms

#### These percentages are not 100 because of the following:

- Some of these wells were plugged back and producing from another lease.
- Some were flagged as idle but returned to production.
- Operator dissolved
- Operator Bankrupt

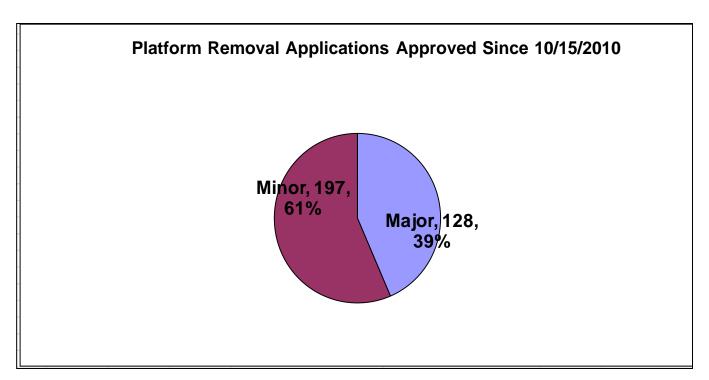
#### Implementation, continued



- 37 of these plans request future use.
  - All future use plans have been sent to our Production and Development section for review
- A total of 65 letters of acceptance have been prepared for operators that responded excluding future use plans.

### Platform Removal Applications

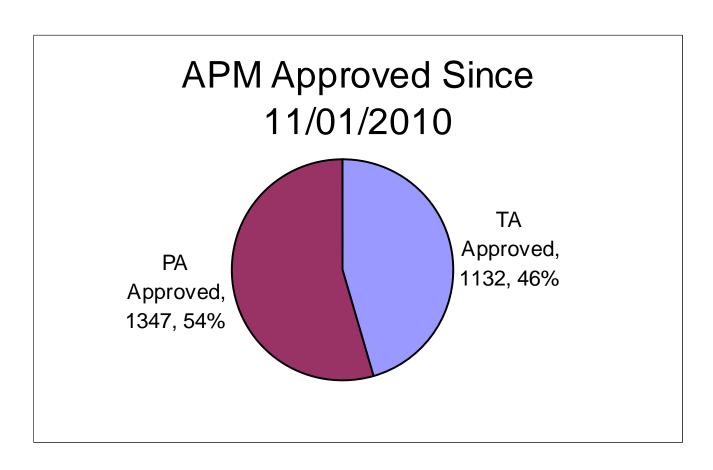




<sup>\* 325</sup> total platform removal applications approved since the NTL

#### Well Abandonment Permits



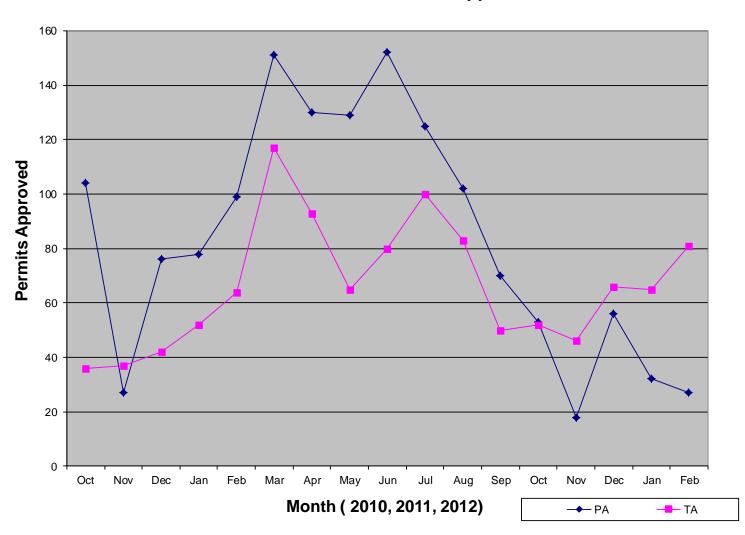


<sup>\* 2479</sup> total TA/PA permits approved since the NTL

#### Well Abandonment Permits



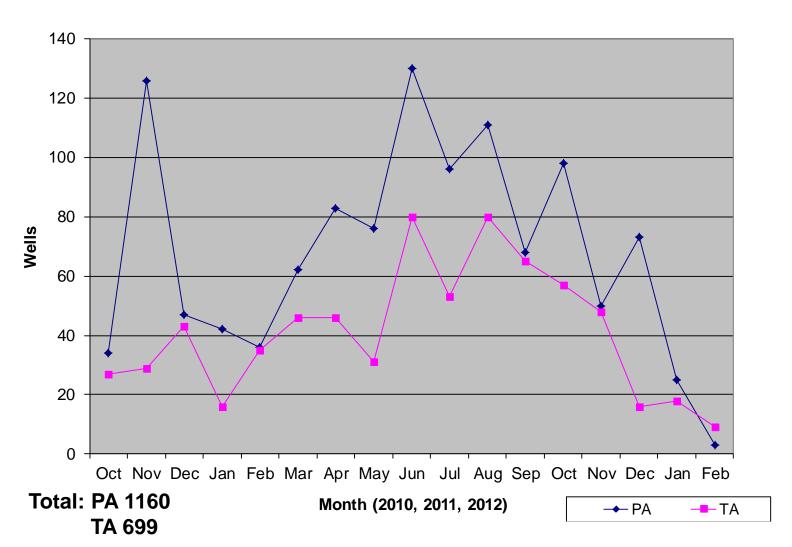
#### **Abandonment APMs Approved**



### Well Abandonments Completed



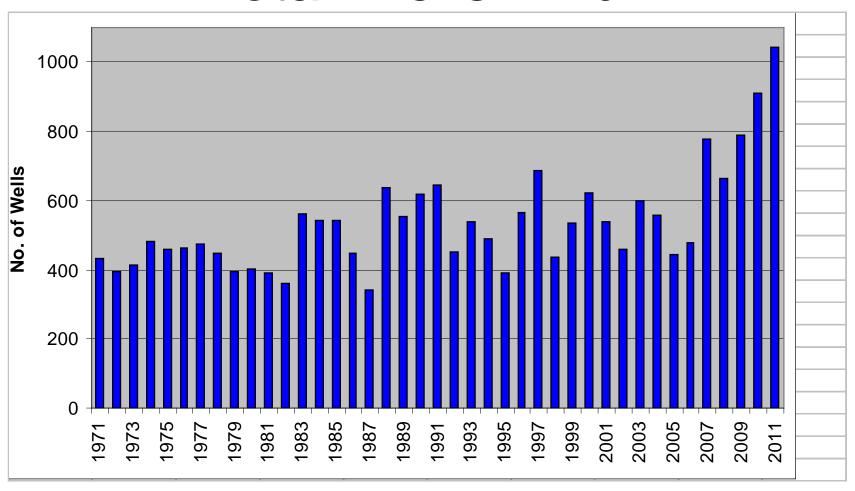
#### **Number of Wells Abandoned**



### Permanently Abandoned Wells



## Total Wells PA'd



#### Path Forward



- Currently there are 544 idle facilities and 2,312 idle wells that are still in the completed status
- Idle Iron plans have been entered into Access tracking database
- Weekly reviews will be conducted to ensure compliance with activity schedule in abandonment plan
- Updates to plans will be submitted annually or on an as needed basis



Thank you for your attention.