

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

NTL No. 2009-G21

Effective Date: August 7, 2009  
Expiration Date: August 6, 2014

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

**Standard Conditions of Approval for Well Activities**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2002-G10, effective September 4, 2002, on this subject. It makes minor technical corrections; updates regulatory citations; adds standard conditions for well operations associated with drilling, workovers, completions, recompletions, temporary abandonment, and permanent plugging; and includes a guidance document statement.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this NTL is to list the standard conditions of approval that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) District Offices will place on the approval of all applications to drill or sidetrack wells and all applications to work over, complete, recomplete, temporarily abandon, or permanently plug wells. These applications are required by 30 CFR 250, Subparts D, E, F, and Q.

**Standard Conditions of Approval for Well Drilling and Sidetracking**

1. From the time you spud the well until you complete the well, suspend operations on the well, or temporarily abandon or permanently plug the well, submit (on a weekly basis) an activity report to the appropriate MMS GOMR District Office. Use Form MMS-133, Well Activity Report (WAR), to make this progress report. If you obtain any evidence of shallow-water flow or indications of abnormal pressure, note such evidence on your Well Activity Report in both the "Significant Well Events" and the "Narrative Information" sections. On the final Well Activity Report, indicate the status of the well (e.g., completed, temporarily abandoned, drilling suspended) and the date you finished such operations.

2. When you file a request on Form MMS-124, Application for Permit to Modify (APM), to suspend, temporarily abandon, permanently plug, or complete the well, include schematics showing both the existing and proposed downhole wellbores. On the schematics, include, as warranted, the location of all casings, cemented intervals (including top of cement), perforated zones, completion equipment, isolation packers, landing nipples, subsurface safety devices, alternate completions, and the size and location of any cement plugs you used in suspending, temporarily abandoning, permanently plugging, or completing the well.

3. To comply with 30 CFR 250.414, 30 CFR 250.513, and other pertinent regulations, note all occurrences of oil, gas, sulphur, and other minerals of potential geological interest on Form MMS-125, End of Operations Report (EOR), to include all important zones of porosity and contents thereof, cored intervals, and *complete* details on all drill-stem and formation tests.

### **Standard Conditions of Approval for Well Workovers, Completions, Recompletions, Temporary Abandonment, and Permanent Plugging**

1. Notify the appropriate MMS GOMR District Office(s) *at least 24 hours before* you move a MODU, platform rig, snubbing unit, hydraulic workover rig, coiled tubing unit, etc. on or off the location/well. Use Form MMS-144, Rig Movement Notification Report, to make this notification.

2. From the time you begin workover, completion, recompletion, temporary abandonment, and/or permanent plugging operations until you complete the well, suspend operations on the well, or permanently plug or temporarily abandon the well, submit (on a weekly basis) an activity report to the appropriate MMS GOMR District Office. Use Form MMS-133, Well Activity Report (WAR), to make this progress report. On the final Well Activity Report, indicate the status of the well (e.g., completed, temporarily abandoned, drilling suspended) and the date you finished such operations.

3. Submit the following to the appropriate MMS GOMR District Office *no later than 30 days* after you finish the work:

a. Form MMS-125, End of Operations Report (EOR), whenever you workover, complete, recomplete, temporary abandon, and/or permanent plug the well.

b. A current downhole wellbore schematic showing the status and condition of the well at the time you finished operations, including the location of all casings, cemented intervals (including top of cement), perforated zones, completion equipment, isolation packers, alternate completions, tubing, landing nipples, and subsurface safety devices.

### **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 alternate 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 collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subparts D, E, F, and Q. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements for these regulations and assigned OMB Control Numbers 1010-0141, 1010-0067, 1010-0043, and 1010-0142, respectively. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

### **Contacts**

Please direct any questions you may have regarding this NTL to the Drilling Engineer or the Workover/Completion Engineer in the appropriate MMS GOMR District Office.

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Lars T. Herbst  
Regional Director