

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION
AND ENFORCEMENT
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2010-G06

Effective Date: September 15, 2010

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NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS,
AND SULPHUR LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS,
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

2011 Gulfwide OCS Emissions Inventory (Western Gulf of Mexico)

This Notice to Lessees and Operators and Pipeline Right-of-way Holders (NTL) instructs lessees, lease operators, and pipeline right-of-way (ROW) holders to collect production activities information (facility, equipment, fuel usage, etc.) for use in the 2011 Gulfwide Emissions Inventory. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEM) 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 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has issued a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the 8-hour ozone of 75 parts per billion, effective May 27, 2008. Because the ozone standard is now more stringent, plus the continuing needs of addressing ongoing criteria pollutant standards and regional haze/visibility regulations, State agencies will need to perform air quality photochemical modeling for ozone and regional haze for use in their State Implementation Plans (SIP's). 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 and compilation of an air emissions inventory is one of the tasks that BOEM conducts to assure coordination of air pollution control regulations between the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore sources and State sources onshore (as per Section 328(b) of the 1990 CAAA). Therefore, BOEM is responsible for providing OCS emissions data from both stationary platform sources, as well as other non-platform sources, such as exploration, construction, transportation, and lightering facilities and supply vessels.

Also, the USEPA has issued parts of the Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule due to the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (October 30, 2009). Under that rule, OCS facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more per year of greenhouse gases in a carbon dioxide

(CO₂) equivalent must submit annual reports to USEPA for CO₂, methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Other industries must submit reports for other greenhouse gases to USEPA; however, those greenhouse gases are not emitted by OCS activities. The purpose of the rule is to collect accurate emissions data to inform future policy decisions.

The proposed 2011 Gulfwide emissions inventory will correspond with the next USEPA onshore periodic emissions inventory and assist States and regional planning organizations with modeling for SIP demonstrations. The collection and compilation of an emissions inventory for OCS sources in 2011 is imperative, in that it provides BOEM with the essential tools to comply with coordinating air pollution control regulations between OCS offshore and State onshore sources. The year 2011 emissions inventory will also be made available to assist OCS lessees, lease operators, and pipeline ROW holders with their mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases to USEPA. Lastly, the inventory will be used to augment the BOEM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by providing a more accurate inventory to compute emission trends and to perform necessary air quality impacts assessments.

The inventory will provide calendar year 2011 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 CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O.

Collecting and Reporting Information

The BOEM GOMR and the States need information for the year 2011 on OCS activities in the western Gulf of Mexico (that portion of the OCS west of 87° 30' West longitude), that will coincide with 2011 State emission inventories, for input into 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 BOEM GOMR hereby directs lessees and lease operators of each affected OCS lease and the holders of each pipeline 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, 2011, to December 31, 2011.

Collect and submit this OCS activity data to the BOEM GOMR by using the 2011 Gulfwide Offshore Activities Data System (GOADS-2011) software. The GOADS-2011 works on IBM-compatible personal computers (PC's) equipped with the Microsoft Windows 2000, NT, XP, VISTA, or 7 operating systems.

On October 8, 2010, the BOEM GOMR will place the following on the Internet BOEM GOMR homepage at

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/airquality/goads.html> :

- (1) this NTL;
- (2) GOADS-2011 Software, which will be used to collect and report your OCS activity data;
- (3) GOADS-2011 User's Guide;
- (4) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's);

- (5) How to Submit Emissions Reports (along with copy of certification letter); and
- (6) Technical Support/Updates.

When submitting your OCS activity data, make sure that you (the lessee, lease operator, or pipeline ROW holder) are listed as the contact in the GOADS software, that you submit the data files to BOEM, and that you sign a certification letter stating “under penalty of law, I certify that this inventory is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.” A copy of the certification letter will be posted on the above-stated GOADS website.

In addition, BOEM GOMR will hold a workshop on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, to discuss and explain these information collection and reporting procedures. Lessees and lease operators, pipeline ROW holders, and contractors are invited to attend this workshop, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 300 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Since the workshop will have a hands-on session for questions and answers pertaining to the GOADS-2011 software, please download and practice using the software before the workshop, and bring your laptop to the workshop with the GOADS-2011 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-2011, and (4) a hands-on session to become familiar with the software and to have your questions answered.

Submit all activity data to the BOEM GOMR by April 18, 2012.

Guidance Document Statement

The BOEM issues NTL’s as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain BOEM 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 BOEM office under 30 CFR 250.141.

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 additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

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

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Regional Director