

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

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

BOEM NTL No. 2011-G01

Effective Date: December 1, 2011

Expiration Date: November 30, 2012

**Drilling Windows, Eastern Gulf of Mexico**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2010-G07 on this subject. It provides a new schedule for the drilling window program, and a website address for a map that shows the areas covered by the drilling window program.

**Drilling Window Program**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) formerly the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and prior to that the Minerals Management Service (MMS), after consultation with the U.S. Air Force, established a drilling window program in 1991 for exploration 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 four groups designated as Groups "A," "B," "D," and "E." For a map showing these geographic areas, refer to the BOEM GOMR Internet Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/2011/Eastern-Gulf-of-Mexico-Drilling-Windows.aspx>. The Attachment to this NTL provides an up-to-date list of the leased blocks in these groups that includes the number of days remaining in the primary term of these leases.

**Drilling Window Schedule**

Under the drilling window scheme established in 1991 and in place since that time, the BOEM GOMR usually opens one group of leases every three months. Since the last established drilling window, the Ninety-second Drilling Window, closed on November 30, 2011, the BOEM GOMR, in consultation with the Air Force, hereby establishes the following schedule:

Group "E" will open as the Ninety-third Drilling Window, effective December 1, 2011.  
Group "A" will open as the Ninety-fourth Drilling Window, effective March 1, 2012.  
Group "B" will open as the Ninety-fifth Drilling Window, effective June 1, 2012.  
Group "D" will open as the Ninety-sixth Drilling Window, effective September 1, 2012.

If the BOEM 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 1218.154(b) and (c), concerning payment of rentals and lease anniversary date.

A. Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.173(b), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (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 1218.154(b), no payment of rental or minimum royalty will be required for or during the period of the SOO.

D. According to 30 CFR 1218.154(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 BOEM issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 550.103 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

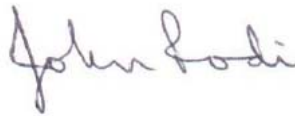
alternative approach for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate BOEM office under 30 CFR 550.141.

### **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 Subpart A, 30 CFR 550 Subparts A, B, and J and 30 CFR part 1218. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations under OMB control numbers 1010-0114 for 30 CFR part 250, Subpart A; 1010-0114 for 30 CFR part 550, Subpart A; 1010-0151 for 30 CFR part 550, Subpart B, 1010-0006 for 30 CFR part 550, Subpart J and 1010-0107 for 30 CFR part 1218. This NTL does not impose any other information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

### **Contact**

Please address any questions on the content of this NTL to Mr. James Webb by telephone at (504) 736-2924 or by email at [james.webb@boem.gov](mailto:james.webb@boem.gov)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Rodi".

John Rodi  
Regional Director

Attachment

# DRILLING WINDOWS NTL REPORT

Group	Lease	Area	Block	Days Used	Days Remaining
A	G10413	PE	945	1672	154
A	G10414	PE	946	1672	154
A	G10417	PE	988	1672	154
B	G10404	PE	867	1587	239
B	G10405	PE	868	1587	239
B	G10408	PE	911	1587	239
B	G10409	PE	912	1587	239
B	G10410	PE	913	1587	239
B	G10415	PE	957	1587	239
D	G10426	DD	253	1634	192
D	G10427	DD	297	1634	192
D	G10430	AP	177	1634	192
D	G10431	AP	178	1634	192
D	G10432	AP	179	1634	192
D	G10433	AP	222	1634	192
D	G10434	AP	223	1634	192
D	G10435	AP	266	1634	192
E	G08361	FM	411	1581	245
E	G08362	FM	412	1581	245
E	G08363	FM	455	1581	245
E	G08364	FM	456	1581	245
E	G08365	FM	499	1581	245
E	G08366	FM	500	1581	245
E	G08367	FM	543	1581	245
E	G08368	FM	587	1581	245
E	G10446	DC	297	1609	217
E	G10447	DC	298	1609	217
E	G10448	DC	299	1609	217
E	G10449	DC	343	1609	217
E	G10450	DC	344	1609	217
E	G10451	DC	349	1609	217
E	G10452	DC	387	1609	217
E	G10453	DC	388	1609	217
E	G10454	DC	393	1609	217
E	G10455	DC	426	1609	217
E	G10456	DC	432	1609	307
E	G10459	DC	470	1609	217
E	G10460	DC	471	1609	217
E	G10461	DC	475	1609	307
E	G10462	DC	477	1609	307
E	G10463	DC	515	1609	217
E	G10464	DC	519	1609	217
E	G10465	DC	560	1609	217
E	G10466	DC	561	1609	217
E	G10471	DC	829	1609	217

Group	Lease	Area	Block	Days Used	Days Remaining
E	G10472	DC	830	1609	217
E	G10473	DC	831	1609	217
E	G10477	DC	875	1609	217
E	G10484	FM	309	1609	217
E	G10485	FM	353	1609	217
E	G10493	LL	382	1489	2164
E	G10494	LL	383	1489	2164
E	G10495	LL	427	1489	2164
E	G10496	LL	511	1489	2164
E	G10497	LL	737	1489	2164
E	G10498	EL	273	1427	399
E	G10499	EL	274	1427	399
E	G10500	EL	317	1427	2226
E	G10501	EL	318	1427	399
E	G10502	EL	319	1427	399
E	G10503	EL	361	1427	2226
E	G10504	EL	362	1427	399
E	G10505	EL	363	1427	399
E	G10506	EL	364	1427	399
E	G10507	EL	406	1427	2226
E	G10508	EL	407	1427	399
E	G10509	EL	408	1427	399
E	G10510	EL	452	1427	399
E	G10511	EL	840	1427	2226
E	G10512	EL	841	1427	2226
E	G10513	EL	884	1427	2226
E	G10514	EL	885	1427	2226