

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

NTL No. 2015-N01

Effective Date: January 14, 2015

NATIONAL NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL
OIL AND GAS LEASES AND HOLDERS OF RIGHTS-OF-USE AND
EASEMENTS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)

**Information Requirements for Exploration Plans, Development and Production Plans,
and Development Operations Coordination Documents on the OCS for Worst Case
Discharge and Blowout Scenarios**

Purpose

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 2010-N06 (effective date June 18, 2010). You must submit the information required by the regulations listed below and outlined in this NTL for your Exploration Plans (EP) and also for your Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCD) or Development and Production Plans (DPP) (collectively referred to herein as “plans”) if it includes a drilling activity. Pursuant to 30 CFR 550.213(g), an EP must be accompanied by a blowout scenario description. 30 CFR 550.243(h) imposes the same requirement for a DPP and a DOCD. Pursuant to 30 CFR 550.219 and 550.250, all plans must also be accompanied by information regarding potential oil spills, including calculations of your worst case discharge scenario.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will add information submitted pursuant to this NTL to its cumulative data library to comprehensively assess what changes may be needed to BOEM program-wide requirements and to inform its review of future activities under an EP, DPP or a DOCD.

Authority

Pursuant to 30 CFR 550.103, this NTL provides guidance and a summary of the information you should submit in order to be in compliance with the regulations cited below:

- 30 CFR 550.186(a), which provides that you must submit information and reports as BOEM requires.
- 30 CFR 550.201(b), which provides that BOEM may require you to submit additional information to assist BOEM in evaluating a proposed plan or document (i.e., an EP, DPP, or DOCD).
- 30 CFR 550.202, which requires that your EP, DPP, or DOCD demonstrate that you have planned, and are prepared to conduct, your proposed activities in a manner that conforms with applicable laws and regulations, is safe, conforms with conservation practices, does

not unreasonably interfere with other uses of the OCS, and does not cause undue or serious harm to the environment.

- 30 CFR 550.212 and 550.242, which describe the information that must accompany an EP, DPP, or DOCD and where to find specific information requirements within the regulations.
- 30 CFR 550.213 and 550.243, which describe the general information that must accompany an EP, DPP, or DOCD.
- 30 CFR 550.213(g) and 550.243(h), which describe the blowout scenario information that must accompany an EP, DPP, or DOCD.
- 30 CFR 550.219 and 550.250, which describe the information regarding potential spills of oil that must accompany an EP, DPP, or DOCD.
- 30 CFR 550.219(a)(2)(iv) and 550.250(a)(2)(iv), which describe the calculated worst case discharge spill volume information that must accompany an EP, DPP, or DOCD.
- 30 CFR 550.284, which provides that BOEM may require you to submit additional information and to revise your EP, DPP, or DOCD.

Information Requirements

Pursuant to this NTL, to be in compliance with the regulations, you should submit the following information with your new EP (see 30 CFR 550.213 and 550.219), DPP, or DOCD (see 30 CFR 550.243 and 550.250), or as a supplement to your previously submitted plan:

- A blowout scenario as required by 30 CFR 550.213(g) and 550.243(h). Provide a scenario for the potential blowout of the proposed well in your plan or document that you expect will have the highest volume of liquid hydrocarbons. Include the estimated flow rate, total volume, and maximum duration of the potential blowout. Discuss the potential for the well to bridge over, the likelihood for surface intervention to stop the blowout, the availability of a rig to drill a relief well, and rig package constraints. Specify as accurately as possible the time it would take to contract for a rig, move it onsite, and drill a relief well, including the possibility of drilling a relief well from a neighboring platform or an onshore location.
- Describe the assumptions and calculations that you used to determine the volume (daily discharge rate) of your worst case discharge scenario required by 30 CFR 550.219(a)(2)(iv) (for EPs) or 30 CFR 550.250(a)(2)(iv) (for DPPs and DOCDs).
- Provide all assumptions you made concerning the well design, reservoir characteristics, fluid characteristics, and pressure volume temperature (PVT) characteristics; any analog reservoirs you considered in making those assumptions; an explanation of your reasons for using those analog reservoirs; and the supporting calculations and models you used to determine the daily discharge rate possible from the uncontrolled blowout portion of your worst case discharge scenario for both your proposed or approved EP, DPP, or DOCD

worst-case discharge scenario and your proposed or approved regional Oil Spill Response Plan worst-case discharge scenario used in your comparison.

- Describe the measures you propose that would enhance your ability to prevent a blowout, to reduce the likelihood of a blowout, and conduct effective and early intervention in the event of a blowout, including your arrangements for drilling relief wells, and any other measures you propose.

Submittal of Additional Information

Submit the additional information described in this NTL by mailing it to the appropriate Regional Supervisor as listed below:

Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Plans, Plans Section (GM 235D)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Plans
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Alaska OCS Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Alaska Wilderness League v. Jewell, No. 13-35866 archived July 29, 2015

Regional Supervisor, Office of Strategic Resources, Lease Management Section
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Pacific OCS Region
760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102
Camarillo, California 93010

For any additional information submitted for any approved plans or documents, provide the Plan Control Number of the referenced plan or document and include the Well Name for which you provided blowout and worst-case discharge scenario information.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement: The information collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements in BOEM regulations at 30 CFR 550, Subparts A and B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in those regulations and assigned OMB Control Numbers 1010-0114 and 1010-0151, respectively. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the PRA.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this NTL, please contact the:

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region by email at michelle.uli@boem.gov

Alaska OCS Region by email at david.johnston@boem.gov

Pacific OCS Region by email at allan.shareghi@boem.gov



Abigail Ross Hopper
Director

1-14-15

Date

cited in Alaska Wilderness League v. Jewell, No. 13-35866 archived July 29, 2015