

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

NTL No. 2007-G23

Effective Date: August 31, 2007
Expiration Date: November 30, 2007

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

CANCELLATION OF NTL NO. 2007-G10

Exploration Plans and the *Blanco v. Burton* Settlement

Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) No. 2007-G10 was effective April 3, 2007, and was issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. It made a temporary change to NTL No. 2006-G14, Information Requirements for Exploration Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents, effective July 12, 2006. NTL No. 2007-G10 is hereby cancelled, effective August 31, 2007.

Background

On October 24, 2006, the parties, the State of Louisiana, Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the American Petroleum Institute, reached a settlement agreement in the case of *Blanco v. Burton*, Civ. No. 06-3813. As part of this agreement, any Exploration Plan (EP) submitted by MMS to the State of Louisiana for a lease issued in Lease Sale 200 that is subject to consistency review by the State of Louisiana had to be accompanied by a draft Environmental Assessment (EA). This requirement was to remain in effect only until MMS prepared a Multisale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and issued a Record of Decision (ROD) covering the next proposed lease sale in the Central or Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas occurring after the effective date of the settlement agreement.

Cancellation

In accordance therewith, the MMS prepared a Multisale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (WPA) Lease Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218; and Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sales 205, 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222 (USDO, MMS, 2007a) (Final Multisale EIS). On April 13, 2007, the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final Multisale EIS was published in the *Federal Register*.

On July 20, 2007, MMS published the NOA of the ROD for OCS WPA Lease Sale 204 in the *Federal Register*, and on August 31, 2007, MMS published the NOA of the ROD for OCS CPA Lease Sale 205 in the *Federal Register*.

MMS has fulfilled the requirements of the settlement agreement pertaining to Lease Sale 200. Therefore, the requirement to submit a draft EA with EP's for Sale 200 leases is cancelled. Concurrently therewith, paragraph (j) of NTL No. 2006-G14, added to implement the aforementioned condition of the *Blanco v. Burton* settlement agreement, is deleted and of no further force and effect.

Paper Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart B, Plans and Information. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in this regulation and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0151. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contacts

Please contact Mr. Dennis Chew by e-mail at dennis.chew@mms.gov or by telephone at (504) 736-2793, or send inquiries to the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Environmental Assessment Section (MS 5410), 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, with any questions regarding this NTL.

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Lars T. Herbst
Acting Regional Director