

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

NTL No. 98-21

Effective Date: September 15, 1998

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

Environmental Information Guidelines for OCS Plans

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL 86-09, dated October 13, 1986, and NTL 97-03, dated January 31, 1997, and makes minor technical amendments, updates cited regulatory authorities, and includes a statement regarding the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) has begun a process that will result in substantial changes to the requirements of this NTL as hereby issued and plans to issue one or more replacement NTL's in the future to reflect those changes. Please contact the Plans Section at (504) 736-2419 if you have any questions regarding this NTL.

Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.203(b) and 30 CFR 250.204(b), you must include certain environmental information with the supporting information that accompanies Exploration Plans (EP's), Development and Production Plans (DPP's), and Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCD's). In GOMR, this environmental information complements the other information requirements for OCS plans currently outlined in our guidance letter dated October 12, 1988.

The purpose of this NTL is to guide you on how to provide the required environmental information for OCS plans that propose activities in the Gulf of Mexico OCS. These Environmental Report, Special Environmental Information, and Consistency Certification guidelines are outlined in Sections I-IV of this NTL.

The term "areas determined to affect the States" used in this NTL and on the accompanying maps in Section V applies only to this NTL and does not necessarily describe the directly affected States under Section 8(g) of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331, et seq.), the Coastal Energy Impact Program under Subpart H of 15 CFR Part 930, or any boundary disputes between States.

I. Environmental Report/Special Environmental Information Requirements for OCS Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico

(Figure V.A. of the attached Guidelines depicts that portion of the Gulf of Mexico OCS designated as Area I.)

A. Environmental Report Requirements

You must prepare an Environmental Report in accordance with Section II.A. of the attached Guidelines to support an EP, DOCD, or any change of the aforementioned approved plans requiring the issuance of additional permits except those granted general concurrence by an affected State, in which:

1. Activities are proposed in that portion of Area I of the Gulf of Mexico OCS determined by the Director to affect a State with an approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP); and/or
2. Activities are proposed on the OCS that originate or terminate within or traverse the boundary of the coastal zone of a State bordering Area I that has an approved CZMP.

Of the States bordering Area I, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have approved CZMP's and, therefore, need Environmental Reports for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency determination purposes. The figures included in Section V of the attached Guidelines delineate those portions of Area I, in which, for the purpose of plan review, the Director has determined that activities affect the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama.

The States of Texas (conditionally), Louisiana, and Mississippi and have granted general CZM concurrence to most of the activities described in Supplemental EP's and DOCD's that affect them. Therefore, the GOMR does not require Environmental Reports to support these plans. The exception to this is Supplemental DOCD's that propose the installation of one or more additional multi-well platforms that have not been included in a previously approved plan. The GOMR does require Environmental Reports to support these Supplemental DOCD's. Revised EP's and DOCD's do not require the issuance of additional permits and are not subject to a CZM consistency review; therefore, the GOMR does not require an Environmental Report for Revised Plans in Area I.

B. Special Environmental Information Requirements

The GOMR will require you to submit specific Special Environmental Information to support an EP, DOCD, or any change to these approved plans that proposes activities in Area I where:

1. You propose to locate exploration, development, and/or production facilities in areas of high seismic risk or seismicity or in areas of relatively untested deepwater or remoteness;
2. You propose to locate exploration, development, and/or production facilities within the boundary of a proposed or established marine sanctuary and/or within or near the boundary of a proposed or established wildlife refuge, or within areas of high ecological sensitivity;
3. You propose to locate bottom-founded structures in areas of potentially hazardous natural bottom conditions; or

4. You propose to use new or unusual technology.

The GOMR may require this Special Environmental Information in addition to an Environmental Report and Consistency Certification required under Sections I.A. and III of this NTL. Pertinent environmental information is becoming increasingly available in Area I. We have, therefore, determined that the preparation of extensive Environmental Reports to be unnecessary for any of the four categories listed above. We will determine Special Environmental Information requirements on a case-by-case basis for OCS plans that fall under any of the four categories, with the exception of plans that propose activities within the restriction zones of the Flower Garden Banks. It has been determined that certain Special Environmental Information is necessary to support EP's and DOCD's that propose activities within the restriction zones of the East and West Flower Garden Banks. Section II.B. of the attached Guidelines specifies this required Special Environmental Information. Special Environmental Information submitted for a Revised Plan need only address those issues specific to the revised action.

II. Environmental Report Requirements for OCS Plans Submitted in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico

(Figure V.A. of the attached Guidelines depicts that portion of the Gulf of Mexico OCS designated as Area II.)

The GOMR requires an Environmental Report prepared in accordance with Section III of the attached Guidelines to support an EP, DPP, DOCD, or any change of the aforementioned approved plans that proposes activities on the OCS in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico and/or proposes activities on the OCS that originate or terminate within or traverse the boundary of the coastal zone of the State of Florida. An Environmental Report that addresses only those issues specific to the proposed action must accompany Revised plans submitted for activities in Area II.

III. Federal Consistency Review Procedures and Requirements

Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that any Plan that describes in detail activities that affect any land or water use in the coastal zone of a State with an approved CZMP be reviewed by the affected State for consistency with that State's CZMP. The States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida have approved CZMP's. A State that considers itself to be an affected State may request the submission of an Environmental Report and Consistency Certification in those cases where activities described in a plan are likely to affect any land or water use of the coastal zone of that State.

The CZMA and the OCS Lands Act, as amended, prohibit the Minerals Management Service (MMS) from approving any Federal license or permit for activities described in a plan until:

1. All affected States with an approved CZMP concur with your Consistency Certification, or

2. The GOMR conclusively presumes that all affected States with an approved CZMP concur with your Consistency Certification, or

3. The Secretary of Commerce makes the findings called for in Section 307 of the CZMA.

Even though you have submitted an Environmental Report, a State with an approved CZMP may request additional or supplementary information from you to determine if the proposed activities described in detail in an OCS plan are consistent with the provisions of their CZMP. Therefore, if you intend to submit an OCS plan which describes in detail Federal license or permit activities affecting the land or water use in the coastal zone of one or more of the States having an approved CZMP, the GOMR encourages you to consult with the appropriate State agency to ascertain whether it will require such additional or supplemental information to expedite the coastal zone consistency determination. As part of its assistance efforts, the State agency must make copies of their CZMP document available to you and provide you with guidance on satisfying the requirements of the State program and the development of Consistency Certification material. Subpart E of 15 CFR 930, "Consistency for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Exploration, Development and Production Activities," sets forth specific guidance concerning the implementation of Federal consistency provisions of the CZMA, including the responsibilities of lessees and operators, the MMS, and the States.

If, after future consultations with the affected State(s) and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the GOMR determines that the information to be included in Environmental Reports for coastal zone consistency determinations can be limited or otherwise changed, we will inform you of such changes.

To meet the CZMP requirements of the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency must accompany a plan that requires an Environmental Report for CZM purposes. Therefore, all plans requiring Environmental Reports for Gulf of Mexico OCS activities, except those plans submitted for revised activity in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico, must be accompanied by a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency. You must prepare a Consistency Certification for the State that would be affected by the proposal, as indicated by the figures in Section V of the attached Guidelines. Activities indicated by the figures as affecting more than one State will require the submission of a Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency for each affected State.

Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency must approximate the format given in Section IV.A. of the attached Guidelines, except those submitted for EP's subject to State of Louisiana CZM consistency, which must approximate the format given in Section IV.B. of the attached Guidelines. You must attach a brief set of findings to the Consistency Certification unless it is

included in the Environmental Report. These findings, which are derived from the Environmental Report, must indicate that each of the proposed activities (e.g., drilling, platform placement) and their associated facilities (e.g., onshore support structures, offshore pipelines), and their effects (e.g., air, water, waste, discharge, erosion, wetlands, beach access impacts) are all consistent with the provisions of the management program.

IV. Environmental Report Submission Requirements


The GOMR encourages you to use tiering and referencing when you prepare an Environmental Report to reduce information reporting requirements. To eliminate the repetition of information and data discussed in other related documents, you can summarize the information, data, and issues in these documents and concentrate on the issues specific to the site of the proposed activity. Referenced documents can include the related plan, a broader presale environmental impact statement, other environmental reports, environmental analyses, or impact statements prepared for the geographic area. You can reference these documents when the incorporation will cause a reduction in the Environmental Report's bulk without impeding the review of the issues. Your Environmental Report must cite and describe briefly the referenced material and include a statement that indicates where the material is available for inspection. You may reference only material that is reasonably available for inspection by GOMR personnel.

The number of copies of Environmental Reports, Special Environmental Information, and/or Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency you submit must be the same as the number of required copies of your OCS plan.

The GOMR will deem incomplete any EP, DPP, or DOCD that fails to include a required Environmental Report and Consistency Certification. We will deem incomplete any EP or DOCD that fails to include the specified Special Environmental Information.

V. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection provisions of this NTL are intended to provide clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, Subpart B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for this regulation and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0049. In addition, the attachment to this NTL refers to several information collection requirements approved by OMB. You may find a list of the approved collections and the applicable OMB control numbers in 30 CFR 250, Subpart A. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.


for Chris C. Dynes
Regional Director
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Attachment

Attachment

GUIDELINES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
FOR PLANS SUBMITTED IN THE
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS/SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR OCS PLANS SUBMITTED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

I. General Information

You must prepare and submit Environmental Reports, Special Environmental Information, and Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency in accordance with the applicable sections of these Guidelines. You must prepare and submit Environmental Reports to support plans proposed in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) as depicted on Figure V.A. in accordance with Section II.A. of these Guidelines. You must prepare and submit Environmental Reports to support plans proposed in Area II of the GOM as depicted on Figure V.A. in accordance with Section III of these Guidelines. You must prepare and submit Special Environmental Information to support plans that propose activities within the restriction zones of the Flower Garden Banks in accordance with Section II.B. of these guidelines. In order to meet the Coastal Zone Management Plan requirements for the affected States having approved Coastal Zone Management Programs, you must prepare and submit Certificates of Coastal Zone Consistency, when required, in the appropriate format in accordance with Section IV of these Guidelines. Section V of these Guidelines includes figures delineating those areas of the GOM determined by the Director to affect the GOM coastal States.

You need not duplicate the Environmental Report/Special Environmental Information in other reports or surveys or portions of the plan. Any factor adequately described in an existing report, survey, or nonproprietary plan already in possession of the GOMR need only be referenced by document name and page number. Examples of documents that may be referenced in this manner include, but are not limited to, previously prepared site-specific surveys, environmental reports, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, other environmental documents, and the OCS plan itself.

A. Objectives

1. To provide guidelines that facilitate your compliance with the requirements of 30 CFR 250.203(b) and 30 CFR 250.204(b).
2. To establish a uniform method of portraying data and planned activities that can be efficiently utilized by the GOMR to prepare National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and to determine the potential environmental impacts of proposed oil and gas operations on the OCS.
3. To provide information to affected State(s) and the public concerning the nearshore and onshore impacts of the activities described in proposed OCS plans.

4. To provide the necessary data and information to the affected State(s) to enable them to make Coastal Zone Management consistency determinations.

B. Authority

1. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments (43 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and implementing regulations (30 CFR 250.203 and 30 CFR 250.204).

2. Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) and implementing regulations (15 CFR 930).

3. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

**II. Environmental Report/Special Environmental Information
Guidelines for OCS Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico**

A. Guidelines for Preparation of Environmental Reports for Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determinations for OCS Plans Submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico

You must include the following data in the Environmental Report in order for a Federal consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930 (Subpart E) to be made by the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for Federal license and permit activities described in detail in OCS Exploration Plans (EP's) and Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCD's) submitted in Area I of the Gulf of Mexico:

1. TITLE PAGE

- a. Project name
- b. Area name (general OCS area)
- c. Block number and field
- d. Lessee and/or operator
- e. Platform/Unit name (if applicable)
- f. Date of preparation of Environmental Report
- g. Name, address, and telephone number of a contact person

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section shall briefly summarize the nature and scope of the proposed activities described in the EP or DOCD. The information must include the following:

- a. Description of proposed travel modes and routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel to and from the offshore activity site and the onshore bases.

Examples — Number of trips/day and anticipated routes for crew boats, helicopters, supply boats, etc.

b. Identification of support bases and number and types of new workers associated with the proposed activity. Reference should also be made to the most current update of the socioeconomic database report, if available.

c. Identification of the number, location, and size of any support facilities that will need to be provided for the proposed activity. Examples — New bases, refineries, storage facilities, pumping stations, helicopter pads, boat docks, fueling facilities, etc.

d. Description of any new techniques or unusual technology that may affect coastal waters.

e. Maps showing location of the proposed activity in relation to each of the affected States' coastal zones.

f. For DOCD's, the means proposed to transport oil and gas to shore from the lease site, the routes to be followed, and the estimated quantities of oil and gas to be moved along such routes. You must also include onshore route information and probable onshore location of terminals. Examples — Pipeline routes (those going onshore or to coastal waters, not those of lease gathering lines), barge or tanker routes, etc.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

This section shall include a discussion of how the proposed activity will affect areas adjacent to the activity site and the affected States' coastal zone including coastal waters and onshore areas. Primary consideration should be given to the impacts of the proposed activity on environmentally sensitive areas. The following parameters must be addressed:

a. Physical and Environmental

- (1) Commercial fishing
- (2) Shipping (transit lanes, anchorage areas, fairways, etc.)
- (3) Small craft pleasure boating, sport fishing, and recreation
- (4) Archaeological resources — Known prehistoric and historic areas
- (5) Ecologically sensitive features — Wildlife refuges and preserves, marine and estuarine sanctuaries, areas of particular concern identified by each affected State, breeding and spawning grounds, migration routes, wetlands, and oyster reefs
- (6) Existing pipelines and cables
- (7) Other mineral uses
- (8) Ocean dumping activities
- (9) Endangered or threatened species

This discussion must include direct and indirect impacts associated with the activity site itself, as well as the impacts associated with ancillary activities such as pipelines and

support facilities. Where a discussion of these impacts has been included in the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the lease sale, you may reference this discussion by title, volume, and page number of the appropriate environmental impact statement. Take care to ensure that these cited discussions cover the full extent of the impact of this particular activity. For example, the commercial fishing impact discussion may be adequate for offshore shrimping but may not address the impacts of a newly proposed pipeline on oyster fishing near shore. Note: If the above mentioned items are not impacted, then the Environmental Report should clearly state that fact.

b. Socioeconomic

Rather than require that socioeconomic data beyond the identification of new employees required by Item 2.b. above be included in each plan, the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, will allow each OCS operator to submit a socioeconomic database report covering all OCS activities every six months. You must submit the first such report after the MMS and the States finalize the report requirements. You will base the report on the existing requirements for socioeconomic data submission outlined in the nationwide environmental report guidelines entitled "The Guidelines for Preparing Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Reports."

4. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

This section must contain a summary of those impacts resulting from the proposed action that are unavoidable. You should briefly state why these impacts are justified. If there are no impacts, you must so state. The individual States will be weighing these impacts against the need for the project and may, in some cases, be suggesting technically feasible and reasonable alternatives that could have a lesser impact.

5. REFERENCES

You must reference applicable Federal laws and regulations, Notices to Lessees and Operators, Federal and State environmental documents, and any other information source you may have used to prepare the Environmental Report.

6. STATEMENT

You must provide the following statement:

The proposed activity will be carried out and completed with the guarantee that:

The best available and safest technologies will be utilized throughout the project. This includes meeting all applicable requirements for equipment types, general project layout, safety systems, and equipment and monitoring systems.

All operations will be covered by an approved oil spill response plan.

All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding air emissions and water quality and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with.

B. Special Environmental Information Required for OCS Plans Proposing Activities Within the Protective Zones of the Flower Garden Banks

1. A brief description of the major safety and monitoring systems you will use on the rig/platform specified for use in the operational plan.
2. A discussion of all operational lease stipulations including the steps you have taken or will take to satisfy the conditions of such requirements.
3. A discussion of your approved oil spill response plan including identification of the primary base and staging area and calculation of travel and deployment times.
4. A brief description of proposed travel modes, routes, and frequency for both personnel and supplies.
5. A description of any new construction or expansion of onshore facilities, including dredging and filling activities.
6. Identification of any additional onshore and/or offshore personnel you will employ.
7. A discussion of any new or unusual technology you will use.
8. A discussion of the solid and liquid wastes the proposed activities will likely generate:
 - (a) Solid wastes including:
 - (1) The total quantity discharged, the rates of discharge, the method of discharge or disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all drill cuttings.
 - (2) The estimated quantity, composition, and methods of disposal of other solid wastes.
 - (b) Liquid wastes including:
 - (1) The composition (with emphasis on diesel or mineral oil), the total quantity discharged (in dry weight if possible), the average and maximum daily discharge rates including a discussion of the variance of the daily rates, the method of discharge or disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all drilling fluids. Also include a discussion of any special requirements imposed by your NPDES permit.
 - (2) The composition, quantity, rates of discharge, methods of treatment and disposal, and the basis for determining each of the above values for all domestic and sanitary wastes.

(3) A brief description of the types of other liquid wastes (such as ballast water, freshwater maker blowdown, and blowout preventer fluid) to be discharged.

9. For DOCD's, a brief description of the mode and tentative route for the transportation of hydrocarbons to shore.

If you have adequately addressed any of the above topics in the OCS plan, a reference to the appropriate section of the plan will be sufficient.

III. Guidelines for Preparation of an Environmental Report for OCS Plans Submitted in Area II of the Gulf of Mexico

A. Introduction

These guidelines set forth the basic format you must use in preparing an Environmental Report in support of a plan submitted for Area II of the GOM OCS as depicted on Figure V.A. of these Guidelines and are based upon the format and content outlined in "Guidelines for Preparing Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Reports." Dependent upon the nature of the proposed action, you must address the environmental factors discussed in this section in the report when these are relevant. You will submit the report with your EP, DPP, or DOCD as specified in 30 CFR 250.203 and 30 CFR 250.204. It will contain information available at the time you submit the related plan to the extent that such information is accurate, current, and applicable to the geographic area of the activities proposed in the plan. You must refer to information and data contained in the related plan, survey reports, previous environmental reports, and other environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared for the geographic area by identifying the information and indicating the source for obtaining copies of cited materials.

Each environmental report will include the following sections:

1. Title Page
2. Description of Proposed Action
3. Alternatives to Proposed Action
4. Description of Affected Environment
5. Environmental Consequences
6. Bibliography
7. Appendices

B. Outline

The following outline provides a detailed listing of the types of information the GOMR requires for each section of the Environmental Report. The outline includes the combined requirements of Environmental Reports for EP's, DPP's, or DOCD's. As a result, some of the listed items may not apply to a particular proposal, and you should

discuss only those items that are relevant in the Environmental Report. Where data are not available or where the data requirements are not applicable to a proposed action, you must provide a statement to that fact.

1. TITLE PAGE

The title page must contain the following information:

- a. Project name.
- b. Area name (general OCS area).
- c. Block number and field.
- d. Lessee and/or operator.
- e. Platform/unit name (if applicable).
- f. Date of preparation of Environmental Report.
- g. Name, address, and telephone number of your representative to whom the GOMR and the affected State(s) may make inquiries.
- h. Previous related environmental report(s), environmental assessment(s), and/or environmental impact statement(s).

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

This section must briefly summarize the nature and scope of the proposed activities described in the EP, DPP, or DOCD. If the plan clearly and adequately addresses all of the information requirements of this section, a reference to the plan is all that is needed here. For plans that do not address all of the information requirements of this section, you may use a combination of references to the plan and supplemental information and discussion supplied here to describe the proposed activities. The following information must be included (where appropriate):

- a. General
 - (1) Lessee and/or operator.
 - (2) Lease number and location.
 - (3) Objectives of the proposed activities.
 - (4) Description and location of existing and/or proposed platforms or vessels.
 - (5) The means proposed to transport oil and gas to shore, the routes to be followed, and the estimated quantities of oil and gas to be moved along such routes. Include probable onshore location of terminals for DPP's and DOCD's).

- b. A brief description of equipment and support systems to include:
- (1) Equipment to be used and general layout
 - (2) Safety systems
 - (3) Monitoring systems
 - (4) Onshore support systems, including any requirements for new or modified onshore facilities and the location of onshore facilities you will use.
- c. Schedule. Approximate time frames for conducting individual activities, to the maximum extent practicable. This will include possible recompletions, workovers, and abandonment activities for which permits may be required. Provide:
- (1) Expected sequence of events.
 - (2) Estimated time required to complete specific activities.
 - (3) Month and year you expect specific activities to occur onshore and offshore.
 - (4) Month and year other associated activities are likely to occur.
- d. Transportation Routes. Description of proposed travel modes and routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel to and from the offshore activity site.
- e. Personnel Requirements. Personnel required to conduct activities (total numbers and types) both offshore and onshore.
- f. Technology. Detailed, comprehensive discussion of any new or unusual technology that you propose to use in the implementation of the proposed plan or that you may use in onshore support facilities owned and/or operated by others (when applicable).
- g. Response Plans. Discuss the use of your response plans described in the plan. This discussion will include contingency plans for preventing, reporting, and cleaning up spills of oil (including diesel fuel) or waste materials. Include:
- (1) Description of pollution prevention procedures.
 - (2) Personnel involved in implementation of contingency plans.
 - (3) Description of cleanup activities, response time, capacity, and location of equipment.
- h. Discharges and Emissions. Discussion of the quantity, rates of discharge, and chemical composition of solid, liquid, and gaseous wastes and pollutants likely to be generated by onshore and offshore activities and transport operations (including, but not limited to, drilling muds and cuttings, sewage, and chemicals), the basis for determining the composition, quantities, and rates of discharge of pollutants and plans for treating, storing, transporting, and disposing of such wastes and pollutants. This must include a discussion of airborne pollutants generated, including:

(1) Sources (e.g., rig power units, incineration equipment, supply and transport vessels).

(2) Composition (e.g., hydrocarbons, particulates, CO, NO_x, SO_x).

i. State Certification. Certificate of Coastal Zone Consistency for each affected State having an approved Coastal Zone Management Program, as provided in 15 CFR 930.

j. Measures for Compliance. Provide:

(1) A description of measures you propose to comply with pertinent regulations.

(2) A discussion of any existing or planned environmental protection measures you have not previously described in this section.

k. Nearby Pending Actions. Nearby pending actions (leasing actions, actual or planned operations for the development of overlying or underlying minerals other than oil and gas, or other present uses or proposals under consideration as far as the applicant is aware).

l. Monitoring Systems. Discussion and delineation of existing or planned monitoring systems that could be or will be used to measure changes in environmental conditions and provide information and data on the impacts and activities in the geographic area of the proposed activities. This may include monitoring systems maintained on nearby platforms by industry, State and Federal Government Agencies, and colleges and universities.

m. Maps. Suitable maps and diagrams showing details of the proposed project layout.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section must discuss relevant alternatives to the proposed activities or major segments of the proposed activities that would result in less risk of adverse environmental impacts. The alternatives considered must be technically feasible and reasonable. At a minimum, you must include a discussion of practicable alternatives for mitigating against the impacts described in "Environmental Consequences." If you believe that practical alternatives for accomplishing the stated objectives or reducing environmental impacts do not exist, you must so state. You need not discuss alternatives in Environmental Reports for EP's.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section will contain a description of the existing environment at or near the site of the proposed activities. You will emphasize those environmental values that may affect or be affected by these activities. You must use the parameters outlined below as a basic

checklist for preparing this part of the Environmental Report. You must address any parameter that may affect or may be affected by the proposed activities. The extent to which consideration of any listed parameter is appropriate will depend upon the nature of the activities proposed. If a parameter listed here will not affect or be affected by the proposed activities, you must include a statement to that effect.

a. Physical Environment. The physical environment of the area of the proposed activities to include:

(1) Environmental Geology and Hazards

(a) General description of geology and bathymetric map or other suitable presentation of seafloor relief.

(b) Submarine geologic hazards, such as unstable bottom sediments (e.g., erosion, sand waves), mass wasting phenomena (e.g., landslide, mud flow, slumping, creep), shallow gas accumulations, toxic gas, geopressed zones (e.g., geopressed aquifers), karst topography, shallow faults, fill facies, and subsidence. This may include a map depicting hazard areas in relation to the proposed activity site (e.g., platform location).

(c) Nature and extent of known mineral deposits (leased and unleased) on or adjacent to the lease.

(2) Meteorological Conditions

(a) Temperature. Averages, extremes, and variations in temperature.

(b) Cloudiness and Visibility. Seasonal variations in cloudiness and visibility.

(c) Wind Speed and Direction. Patterns and seasonal variations of wind speed and direction.

(d) Precipitation. Nature and amount, averages and extremes.

(e) Severe Weather. Frequency and magnitude of severe weather occurrences.

(3) Physical Oceanography

(a) Sea Temperature and Salinity. Variation with depth and depth of thermo- or halocline.

(b) Currents. General direction and speed, variation with depth.

(c) Tides and Sea State. Variations during storms, averages and extremes.

(4) Water Quality. A description of the existing water quality including aquifers having potential as freshwater supplies for onshore.

(5) Air Quality

(a) Present onshore air quality.

(b) Present offshore air quality.

b. Biological Environment. The biotic environment of the area of the proposed activities to include:

(1) Coastal Habitats. Plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(2) Offshore Habitats

(a) Pelagic Environment. Pelagic plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(b) Benthic Environment. Benthic plant and animal species and communities that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(c) Sensitive Underwater Features. Presence of sensitive underwater features (e.g., live-bottom areas including pinnacle features, fishing banks) in the area of the proposed activities.

(3) Endangered or Threatened Species. Endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat that may exist in the area. If none exist, you must so state.

(4) Breeding Habitats and Migration Routes. Breeding habitats (e.g., rookeries, spawning grounds) nursery grounds, wintering grounds, and migration routes that may be disturbed by the proposed activities and how they may be disturbed.

(5) Protected Areas of Biological Concern. Refuges, preserves, marine and estuarine sanctuaries, and areas of particular concern.

c. Socioeconomic Conditions and Concerns

(1) Economic and Demographic Conditions. The discussion in this part should be limited in scope to those socioeconomic impacts that you can practically identify. For example, if you can identify impacts on a State or local level, you must discuss them in that context.

(a) Related employment and area unemployment.

(b) Location and size of related population and industry centers.

(2) Land Use. Include:

(a) Existing community services.

(b) Existing transportation systems and facilities.

(c) Supply and/or existence of coastal resources.

(3) Onshore Support Facilities. Description of onshore support facilities.

(4) Public Opinion. Public opinion as it relates to any of the proposed activities or supporting facilities and activities.

(5) Navigation. Transit lanes, anchorage areas, fairways, etc.

(6) Military Warning/Use Areas. Military use including potential hazards from undetonated explosives.

(7) Commercial Fishing. Types and seasons.

(8) Recreation. Small craft pleasure boating, sport fishing, and recreation.

(9) Archaeological Resources. Potential or known archaeological resources in the area. A summary of conclusions for the archaeological resource survey for the area of operation (when required). You must attach a copy of the survey conclusions to the Environmental Report. If no anomalies exist or a survey was not required for the area, you must so state.

(10) Other Commercial Uses.

(11) Other Minerals Uses. Activities for mining sand, gravel, sulfur, salt, seafloor nodules, etc.

(12) Pipelines and Cables. Location, use, size, date of placement, and burial information of existing pipelines and cables.

(13) Ocean Dumping. Dump site locations, materials dumped, date, etc.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section will contain a description of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the onshore and offshore environments expected to occur as a result of the implementation of the plan. You will quantify effects wherever possible and express them in terms of magnitude and duration. Note that you need only include those adverse impacts that are not effectively minimized by your proposed mitigating measures.

a. Accidental Hydrocarbon Discharges. Accidents with impacts on human and natural environments are not anticipated. However, when matching human and material resources with a hostile environment, such as the OCS, the potential for accidents does exist. This section will address this potential and any impacts on the environment resulting from an accident.

(1) Discussion of potential impacts of a major accident. This section covers the impact of a major platform failure and/or large-scale hydrocarbon discharge (as apart from probable impacts resulting from normal operations).

(2) Discussion of impacts from hydrocarbon discharge resulting from normal operations.

b. Impacts Concerning the Physical Environment.

(1) The effects of geologic hazards on the proposed activities, such as unstable bottom sediments (e.g., erosion, sand waves), mass wasting phenomena (e.g., landslide, mud flow, slumping, creep), shallow gas accumulations, toxic gas, geopressed zones (e.g., geopressed aquifers), karst topography, shallow faults, fill facies, and subsidence.

(2) The effect of the general weather patterns (temperature, sky cover and visibility, wind speed, severe weather conditions, etc.) on the proposed activities.

(3) The effect of physical oceanographic conditions such as sea temperature, currents, tides, sea state, water depth, etc., on the proposed activities.

(4) Effects of the proposed activities on water quality (mud and drill cuttings discharge, sewage, chemicals, and other potential pollution from OCS operations).

(5) Potential impacts of proposed OCS activities on the current nearby onshore and offshore air quality. This must include a discussion of the probable extent and duration of air quality degradation and the basis for the assessment of impacts.

c. Impacts on the Biological Environment. Potential effects of the proposed activities on the pelagic and benthic environments, including endangered species or critical habitat, other sensitive biological resources, and coastal habitats.

d. Impacts on Socioeconomic Conditions and Concerns.

(1) Impacts to economic and demographic conditions.

(a) Effects upon local employment, including a discussion of estimated numbers of employees required for offshore, onshore, and transport activities and the approximate number of local residents to be employed, by major skill and craft.

(b) Effects upon local population centers and industry, including estimates of the numbers of new employees or families likely to move into an affected coastal area.

(2) Impacts on land use.

(a) Effects of increased demands on community services.

(b) Effects of increased boat and air traffic upon existing transportation systems and facilities. You must discuss proposed travel routes and frequency for moving supplies and personnel.

(c) Effects from competition for scarce coastal resources, such as dock space. Discuss the demand for goods and services that may be purchased in the coastal zone of an affected State. Include the types of vendors or contractors you expect to be needed and that may place a demand on local goods and services. Address (i) supplies and equipment, (ii) water, (iii) aggregate energy such as electricity, oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel, and (iv) other resources.

(3) Impacts from the construction of onshore support facilities. This discussion must include a description of facilities (location, size, and number) proposed, an assessment of acreage requirements, rights-of-way, easements, and a timetable for land acquisition and construction.

(4) Impacts of public opinion concerning the proposed activities.

(5) Impacts on navigation including the use of anchorage areas, fairways, transit lanes, etc.

(6) Impacts concerning military use.

(7) Impacts on commercial fishing.

(8) Impacts on recreation/tourism.

(9) Impacts on archaeological resources.

(10) Impacts on other commercial uses.

(11) Impacts on mineral resource development other than oil and gas.

(12) Impacts concerning pipelines and cables.

(13) Impacts on ocean dumping.

(14) Any impacts of the proposed activities on the onshore environment that have not been addressed elsewhere in this report.

e. Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects. This section will contain a summary of adverse impacts that could occur if the plan were implemented. This should include separate summaries for the activities as proposed in the plan and the alternatives you describe (if any). If you believe that no avoidable adverse impacts will result from plan implementation, you must so state.

6. REFERENCES

This section must include references to the materials you used in preparing the Environmental Report. Your list of references must contain the author, title of article,

title of publication, volume, number, series, pages, date, and publisher.

7. APPENDICES

The following items, as appropriate, must be appended to the Environmental Report.

- a. Appendix 1. Any available information concerning biological and endangered and threatened species surveys.
- b. Appendix 2. Archaeological surveys.
- c. Appendix 3. Response plans to the extent you have not included them in the plan or described them elsewhere in the Environmental Report.
- d. Appendix 4. Maps, diagrams, and photographs you have not included in the Environmental Report text or the plan and that would facilitate the presentation of data or aid in the understanding of potential environmental impacts. All maps must contain title, scale, legend, north arrow, OCS block, date, and source.

IV. Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification

A. Format For Use with Louisiana Development Operations Coordination Documents and all Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Plans Requiring Consistency Certification.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

Type of Plan

Area and Block

Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with [Name of State(s)] approved Coastal Management Program(s) and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program(s).

Lessee or Operator

Certifying Official

Date

B. Format For Use with Louisiana Exploration Plans Requiring Consistency Certification.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

Type of Plan

Area and Block

Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with [Name of State(s)] approved Coastal Management Program(s) and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program(s).

Arrangements have been made with the *Advocate* in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to publish a public notice of the proposed activities no later than [Date].

Lessee or Operator

Certifying Official

Date