



HERCULES **Offshore**

IADC Training Committee Meeting

Regulatory Update July 21 - Present



July 21, 2010

BOEMRE Issues Additional Updates to FAQ for NTL 2010-N06

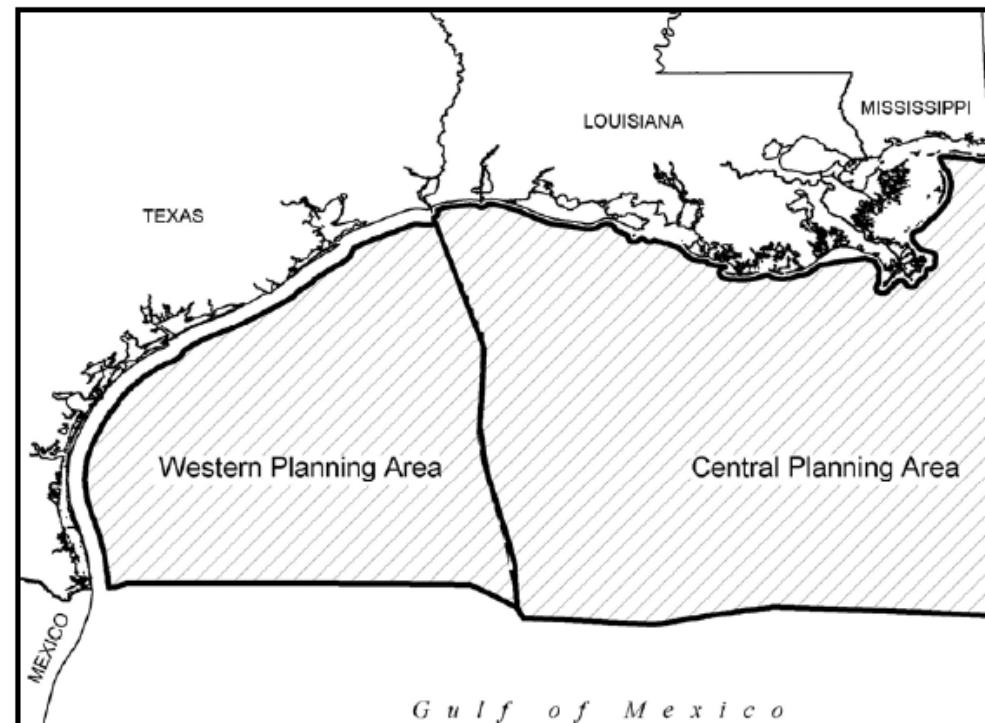
The BOEMRE has added another page of questions and answers to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for NTL No. 2010-N06. Originally issued on June 26, 2010 this list was updated previously on July 15, 2010.





July 28, 2010

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE); Cancellation of Oil and Gas Lease Sale 215 in the Western Planning Area (WPA) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM)





August 2, 2010

Director Bromwich to Kick off Forum Series to Discuss Deepwater Drilling Safety, Containment and Spill Response

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEM) recently announced that Director Michael R. Bromwich will kick off a series of fact-finding forums in New Orleans, La. on Wednesday, August 4, 2010. The forums are designed to collect information and views about deepwater drilling safety reforms, well containment, and oil spill response.

New Orleans, LA Mobile, AL Pensacola, FL

Santa Barbara, CA Anchorage, Alaska

Houston, TX Biloxi, MS Lafayette, LA





August 10, 2010

BOEMRE Issues 3rd Update to FAQ for NTL 2010-N06

The BOEMRE has added additional pages of questions and answers to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for NTL No. 2010-N06, originally issued on June 26, 2010 and revised on July 15, 2010.





August 16, 2010

Report Regarding the MMS's NEPA Policies, Practices, and Procedures

This report offers several recommendations to promote implementation of NEPA practices, procedures, and policies. (National Environmental Protection Act)

Perform comprehensive NEPA review of individual deepwater exploration, operation, development, production, and decommissioning activities.

Track and take into account all mitigation commitments Programmatic EIS through site-specific NEPA analyses and decisions.

Review the use of categorical exclusions for OCS oil and gas exploration and development and determine whether to revise these categorical exclusions.

Continue to seek amendments to the OCS Lands Act to eliminate the 30-day decisional timeframe for approval of submitted Exploration Plans.





August 18, 2010

BOEM Announces Misconduct Reporting Hotline

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEM) Director Michael R. Bromwich today announced the creation of a new online and telephone hotline for reporting misconduct and unethical behavior involving BOEM personnel, and misconduct by persons and companies who interact with BOEM personnel.

Personnel can be reported online by going to www.boemre.gov/iru or by calling 877-440-0173 or 202-208-5646.





September 8, 2010

BP Releases Report on Deepwater Horizon Incident

A report released by BP today concludes that decisions made by “multiple companies and work teams” contributed to the accident which it says arose from “a complex and interlinked series of mechanical failures, human judgments, engineering design, operational implementation and team interfaces.”

The report – based on a four-month investigation led by Mark Bly, BP's Head of Safety and Operations and conducted independently by a team of over 50 technical and other specialists drawn from inside BP and externally – found that a sequence of failures involving a number of different parties led to the explosion and fire which killed 11 people and caused widespread pollution in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year.





September 15, 2010

Publicly Available API Exploratory & Production Safety Standards

To make Exploration and Production safety standards more readily available to the oil and gas producing sector to assist in improving safety performance, API has made many documents available for free download.

<http://www.api.org/Standards/epstandards/index.cfm>





September 19, 2010

Statement of Secretaries Salazar and Chu on the Permanent Plugging of Macondo well

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Energy Secretary Steven Chu issued the following statement regarding the permanent plugging of BP's Macondo well.

“With the successful first intercept by the relief well and our confirmation through pressure tests that the cement plugs are secure, we can now declare BP's Macondo well effectively dead. At the direction of President Obama and under the leadership of National Incident Commander Thad Allen, we have worked tirelessly and relentlessly as a US Team to reach this point and to provide oversight and direction to the source control effort.”





Continued -

Continued -

“We are proud of our government team which played such a key role in ensuring the successful killing of the Macondo well, including USGS Director Marcia McNutt, former Sandia National Laboratories Director Tom Hunter, the many leading scientists from our National Labs, academia, and the private sector, along with the professionals of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, who have been working non-stop since April 20th. The best minds in the public and private sectors came together to ensure that science and sound regulatory oversight guided every step of the well control efforts, and that redundancies and safeguards were in place to protect against further damage to the environment or additional risks to human life.”

“Though our source control mission is complete, President Obama has made it clear the administration will not rest until all the oil is cleaned up and the Gulf Coast is restored.”

Secretaries Salazar and Chu





September 30, 2010

Salazar Announces Regulations to Strengthen Drilling Safety, Reduce Risk on Offshore Oil and Gas Operations

Two new rules:

- 1. The Drilling Safety Rule, makes mandatory requirements for proper cementing and casing practices and the appropriate use of drilling fluids to maintain well bore integrity. It also strengthens oversight of Blowout Preventer (BOP) and its components, including Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), shear rams and pipe rams. Operators must also secure independent and expert reviews of their well design, construction and flow intervention mechanisms.**
- 2. The Workplace Safety Rule, requires offshore operators to have clear programs in place to identify potential hazards when they drill, protocols for addressing those hazards, and procedures and risk-reduction strategies for all phases of activity, from well design and construction to operation, maintenance, and decommissioning.**





October 12, 2010

Salazar: Deepwater Drilling May Resume

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has determined it is appropriate that deepwater oil and gas drilling resume, provided that operators certify compliance with all existing rules and requirements, including those that recently went into effect, and demonstrate the availability of adequate blowout containment resources.

In addition to the recently issued Drilling Safety Rule, Secretary Salazar said he anticipates the Department and BOEM will undertake further rulemaking that considers additional safety measures – such as redundant blind shear rams, remote activation systems for BOPs, and enhanced instrumentation and sensors on BOPs – to further enhance recent safety improvements.





October 14, 2010

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf; Final Rule

This interim final rule implements certain safety measures recommended in the report entitled, "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf" (Safety Measures Report), dated May 27, 2010. The President directed the Department of the Interior to develop the Safety Measures Report to identify measures necessary to improve the safety of oil and gas exploration and development on the Outer Continental Shelf in light of the Deepwater Horizon event on April 20, 2010, and resulting oil spill. To implement the practices recommended in the Safety Measures Report, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement is amending drilling regulations related to well control, including: subsea and surface blowout preventers, well casing and cementing, secondary intervention, unplanned disconnects, recordkeeping, well completion, and well plugging.





October 15, 2010

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Safety and Environmental Management Systems; Final Rule

This final rule establishes a new subpart under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) regulations to require operators to develop and implement Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) for oil and gas and sulphur operations in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This rulemaking will incorporate in its entirety and make mandatory the American Petroleum Institute's Recommended Practice 75, Development of a Safety and Environmental Management Program for Offshore Operations and Facilities, with respect to operations and activities under the jurisdiction of BOEMRE.





SEMS Continued

Final Rule – No comment period is provided.

<http://www.iadc.org/committees/offshore/Documents/SEMS%20FINAL%20RULE.pdf>

“This final rule will require the operator to integrate a comprehensive SEMS program into the management of their OCS operations,It is the intent of this rule to hold the operator accountable for the overall safety of the offshore facility, including ensuring that all contractors and subcontractors have safety policies and procedures in place that support the implementation of the operator’s SEMS program and align with the principles of managing safety set forth in API RP 75. This final rule will require all elements of API RP 75 as follows:”

You must comply with the provisions of this subpart and have your SEMS program in effect on or before **November 15, 2011**, except for the submission of Form MMS–131 as required in § 250.1929.

BOEMRE will require operators to submit Form MMS– 131 on an annual basis, broken down quarterly, reporting the previous calendar year’s data, by **March 31st**.





Form MMS-131

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Regulation and Enforcement

OMB Control Number 1010-0186
OMB Approval Expires 10/31/2013

PERFORMANCE MEASURES DATA

Provide Data on an Annual Basis for the Previous Calendar Year by March 31 of Each Year

Company Name(s) _____ BOEMRE Region _____

Operator Code(s)* _____ Calendar Year _____

Contact Name _____ Email Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Date _____

	<u>SAFETY</u>	<u>PRODUCTION OPERATIONS</u>	<u>DRILLING** OPERATIONS</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS</u>
A. No. of Company Employee Recordable Injuries/Illnesses	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
B. No. of Contract Employee Recordable Injuries/Illnesses	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
C. No. of Company Employee DART Injuries/Illnesses***	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
D. No. of Contract Employee DART Injuries/Illnesses***	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____

	<u>SAFETY</u>	<u>PRODUCTION OPERATIONS</u>	<u>DRILLING** OPERATIONS</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS</u>
E. Company Employee Hours Worked	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
F. Contract Employee Hours Worked	1 st Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	2 nd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 rd Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____
	4 th Qtr _____	_____	_____	_____

ENVIRONMENT

G. No. of EPA NPDES Noncompliances _____

H. For Oil Spills < 1 bbl

- No. of Spills _____
- Total Volume for Spills _____ bbl

* Please list all operator codes that these data represent.

** Drilling Operations include Drilling, Workover, and Allied Services.

*** Formerly Lost Time Cases that include Days Away from work, Restricted duty, and Transfer situations.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA): The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) requires us to inform you that BOEMRE collects this information to carry out its responsibilities under the OCS Lands Act, as amended. BOEMRE will use the information to evaluate the effectiveness of industry's continued improvement of safety and environmental management in the OCS. Responses are mandatory. No proprietary data are collected. We estimate the public reporting burden, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the information to average 10 hours per response. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB has approved this collection of information and assigned OMB control number 1010-0186. You may direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Mail Stop 5438, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

COMPANY-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED UNDER THIS REQUEST IS INTENDED FOR GOVERNMENT USE ONLY





October 19, 2010

Deep-Water Safety Rules Thrown Out by Federal Judge

The federal judge who overturned a moratorium on deep-water drilling threw out regulations issued after the BP oil spill, saying the government failed to give proper notice for its rulemaking.

U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman in New Orleans said today that the government was obliged to offer notice and accept comments on 10 new safety measures imposed on deep-water oil and gas operators in May. Feldman didn't address Interior Department rules, known collectively as NTL-05, when he struck down the moratorium in June.





October 22, 2010

Meeting: National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

This notice announces an open meeting of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (the Commission).

The President directed that the Commission be established to examine the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the root cause of the BP Deepwater Horizon explosion, fire, and oil spill and to develop options to guard against, and mitigate the impact of, any oil spills associated with offshore drilling in the future.

**The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President to serve as special Government employees. The members were selected because of their extensive scientific, legal, engineering, and environmental expertise, and their knowledge of issues pertaining to the oil and gas industry. Information on the Commission can be found at its Web site:
<http://www.OilSpillCommission.gov>.**





October 26, 2010

Drilling rig inspectors had vast gaps in knowledge, oil spill panel finds

Members of President Barack Obama's Oil Spill Commission said this week that they were shocked to learn during their months of investigation that federal drilling rig inspectors generally know little or nothing about the process of safely lining and sealing an offshore oil well.

MMS inspectors who actually visited the rigs once a month were not required to view any drilling operations, and rig crews often chose to stop key work while the inspectors were visiting. And inspectors rarely made unannounced visits.

Now, with a revamped federal regulatory agency promising to add dozens of new employees to exercise more robust control over offshore drilling, the commission wonders if the new front-line inspectors will understand the issues that played critical roles in the Deepwater Horizon disaster.





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