

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-067-1990; CA-40204]

Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Amendment.

SUMMARY: In the **Federal Register** of December 28, 1998 (Vol. 63, Number 248), a notice was published. This amends that notice. Because of expressed interest, the public comment period is extended to March 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Marty or Thomas Zale at (760) 337-4400.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

Elayn Briggs,

Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-989 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-930-1060-04]

Intent To Remove Wild Horses

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to remove wild horses.

SUMMARY: Periodic removals of wild horses are necessary in order to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public rangelands. These removals are intended to bring the populations down to the established AML (Appropriate Management Levels). These AML's were established through the planning process as a result of monitoring and analysis of data in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM Policies. This document serves as a Notice of Intent to remove excess wild horses from the following Herd Management Areas (HMA) and from areas outside Herd Management Areas.

Rock Springs Field Office

HMA Divide Basin—remove 266 of an estimated 681. AML is 500 with a range of 415-600. This action would reduce the population to the lower end of the range. Begin approximately February 15, finish November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Salt Wells Creek HMA—remove 362 from an estimated population of 888. AML is 365 and this action would bring

the population closer to AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Little Colorado HMA—remove 70 of an estimated population of 147. AML is 100 and this action would reduce the herd to 77 horses or 23 below AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

White Mountain HMA—remove 150 of an estimate population of 376. AML is 250 and this action would reduce the herd to 226 horses or 24 below AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Areas Outside HMAs—remove 152 of 152 horses. This action would remove all horses outside HMAs. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Weather conditions and other logistical considerations may dictate when actual removal operations take place. The dates indicated are approximate, and removal may take place in any of the HMAs listed above during anytime of the year with the exception that gathers will not take place between April 16 and July 7, since this is foaling season in Wyoming. Numbers are approximate and will be finalized by aircraft census to be conducted during January/February 1999. All actions are in conformance with Bureau of Land Management Policy, documents listed above, and current monitoring data. These actions represent no new decisions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Weynand, Assistant Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Hwy. 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, (307) 352-0246.

John S. McKee,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-6 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Minerals Management Service and the United States Coast Guard**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have updated their MOU concerning responsibilities for offshore facilities. The update was necessary to add responsibilities associated with floating facilities, the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), and civil penalties.

DATES: The effective date of the MOU is December 16, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Gould, MMS at (703) 787-1616 or Rajiv Khandpur, USCG at (202) 267-0494.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August, 1989 the MMS and the USCG signed an MOU that outlined responsibilities associated with facilities located on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The purpose was to minimize duplication, and to promote consistent regulation of these facilities. The use of floating facilities and responsibilities assigned by OPA created a need to update the MOU. Therefore, on January 5, 1998, MMS and USCG published an update of the 1989 MOU (63 FR 256) for public comment. We analyzed those comments and we revised the MOU as shown in Appendix A. We appreciate the excellent comments and suggestions that we received.

We are now implementing the MOU. The following is a sample list of actions that we will be considering in the process:

- Review the standards of both agencies for consistency;
- Determine the need for legislative changes to improve efficiency and clarify the jurisdiction for floating facilities;
- Determine how to make a smooth transition of duties;
- Determine how the certified verification agent program will function;
- Focus on our inspection programs to eliminate duplication;
- Work on safety management including accident investigations to promote safe practices;
- Implement the civil penalties process set out in the MOU;
- Continue to work on single point reporting;
- Communicate electronically;
- Improve the process of reporting and collecting incident data;
- Share incident data to prevent accidents, particularly fatalities;
- In the rare cases when both agencies are conducting a review (i.e., Design, fabrication, installation of non-ship-shape floating facilities), determine how the process will work; and
- Coordinate more research efforts for safety and oil spill prevention and response.

We will be forming many teams with participants from MMS, USCG, and

industry to ensure that implementation of the MOU is provides the most efficient and effective means to manage offshore oil and gas development. We also plan to have meetings/workshops during the MOU implementation process. The current requirements for each agency will remain in effect until new regulations implementing the MOU are promulgated.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

Carolita Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

Appendix A—Memorandum of Understanding Between Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and United States Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation

Ia. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the responsibilities of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) relating to managing the activities of MODU's, fixed, and floating systems. It is designed to minimize duplication and promote consistent regulation of facilities under the jurisdiction of both agencies. This MOU does not apply to deepwater ports as licensed by the Secretary of Transportation under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, as amended.

Ib. Scope

This MOU covers oil and gas activities located in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). However, oil-spill preparedness is for facilities located seaward of the coast line, unless noted otherwise. Certificates of financial responsibility are for certain facilities located in the OCS and the State waters included in the definition of Covered

Offshore Facility found at 30 CFR 253.3. An MOU, dated February 3, 1994, among the Departments of Transportation and the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency established jurisdictional responsibilities for facilities located both seaward and landward of the coast line.

II. Definitions

For purposes of this MOU, the following definitions apply:

Act—The OCS Lands Act (OCSLA)—43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*

Coast Line—The line of ordinary low water along that portion of the coast that is in direct contact with the open sea and the line marking the seaward limit of inland waters, as defined by the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301 (c)).

Outer Continental Shelf—The submerged lands that are subject to the Act.

OCS Activity—Any activity in the OCS associated with exploration, development, production, transporting, or processing of OCS mineral resources including but not limited to oil and gas.

OCS Facility—Any artificial island, installation, pipeline, or other device permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed or subsoil of the OCS, including platforms, guyed towers, articulated gravity platforms, and other structures. This definition also includes gravel and ice islands and caisson-retained islands engaged in OCS activities used for drilling, production, or both.

1. **Fixed OCS Facility**—A bottom-founded OCS facility permanently attached to the seabed or subsoil of the OCS, including platforms, guyed towers, articulated gravity platforms, and other structures. This definition also includes gravel and ice islands and caisson-retained islands engaged in OCS activities used for drilling, production, or both.

2. **Floating OCS Facility**—A buoyant OCS facility securely and substantially moored so

that it cannot be moved without a special effort. This term includes tension leg platforms, spars, semisubmersibles and shipshape hulls.

3. **Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU's)**—Vessels capable of engaging in drilling operations for exploring or exploiting subsea oil, gas, or mineral resources.

OPA—The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-380).

Regional Director (RD)—The MMS officer delegated the responsibility and authority for a region within MMS. The USCG referrals for violations occurring in a particular MMS Region would be made to that MMS Region's RD.

Regional Supervisor (RS)—The MMS officer (or the authorized representative) in charge of operations within a Region.

Vessel—Every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on the water. This term does not include atmospheric or pressure vessels used for containing liquids or gases.

Violation—Failure to comply with the OCSLA, any regulations, or the terms or provisions of leases, licenses, permits, or rights-of-way issued under the OCSLA.

III. Responsibilities

The following table lists the lead agency for system responsibilities associated with MODU's and fixed and floating OCS facilities. Other agency roles are identified where applicable. The lead agency is responsible for coordinating with the other agency as appropriate. The attachments to the table list the typical equipment that is included in the system.

The MMS and USCG will work together to develop the standards necessary to implement this MOU. Where the agencies have overlapping responsibilities, they will work together to minimize duplication.

Item	System	Sub-system	Lead agency			Other agency role/comments
			MODU	Fixed	Floating	
1	Design & Operating Over-view/Plan.					
1.a .....	.....	Deepwater Operating Plan.	N/A	MMS	MMS	Where required.
1.b .....	.....	Design Basis Document.	USCG	N/A	USCG	
1.c .....	.....	Design, fabrication, and installation verification plans.	N/A	MMS	MMS	Section applies to MMS's Certified Verification Agent (CVA) Program.
2	Structural Integrity.					
2.a .....	.....	Structural integrity, modifications for construction and repair requirements.	USCG	MMS	MMS & USCG	USCG responsibilities for fabrication, installation, and inspection of floating units are found in 33 CFR Subchapter N. MMS responsibilities are found in 30 CFR Subpart I. USCG and MMS will each review the design of the turret and turret/hull interface structure for ship-shape floating facilities. All other aspects of the design and fabrication of all ship-shape floating facilities will receive only USCG review. All design, fabrication, and installation activities of all non-ship-shape floating facilities will be reviewed by both agencies.

Item	System	Sub-system	Lead agency			Other agency role/comments
			MODU	Fixed	Floating	
2.b .....	.....	Design environmental conditions.	USCG	MMS	MMS	Establishes in-place design environmental criteria.
2.c .....	.....	Risers (drilling, production, and pipeline).	MMS	MMS	MMS	Establishes design environmental criteria for intact and damage stability. Some pipeline risers may be subject to the Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) jurisdiction.
3	Floating Stability.	.....	USCG	N/A	USCG	USCG reviews and approves stability and sends copies to MMS.
4	Station Keeping.	.....	USCG	N/A	USCG	USCG is not responsible for site specific mooring analyses.
4.a .....	.....	Foundations	USCG	MMS	MMS	USCG is not responsible for site specific mooring analyses.
4.b .....	.....	Mooring and tethering systems.	USCG	MMS	USCG & MMS	
4.c .....	.....	Dynamic positioning.	USCG	N/A	USCG	
5	Drilling, Completion, Well Servicing & Workover.	.....	MMS	MMS	MMS	See Attachment A for description of Drilling, Completion, Well Servicing & Workover Systems.
6	Production .....	.....	MMS*	MMS	MMS	See Attachment B for description of Production Systems. *Production equipment is not normally installed on a MODU. However, such equipment may be installed for a finite time and designed for removal. In such cases, MMS is the lead agency.
7	Pipeline Operations and Components.	.....	MMS	MMS	MMS	Note: Certain pipelines are subject to MMS MOU(s) with RSPA.
8	Lightering Equipment & Procedures.	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG	
9	Utility Systems	.....	USCG	MMS	USCG	Listed equipment/systems not supporting drilling or production.
9.a .....	.....	Boilers, pressure vessels, waste heat recovery (from any engine exhaust), water heaters and other piping or machinery.	USCG	MMS	USCG	
9.b .....	.....	High pressure (H.P.) washdown.	USCG	MMS	MMS USCG	Listed equipment/systems supporting drilling or production. Listed system components and piping not supporting drilling or production.
9.c .....	.....	Seawater supply.	USCG	MMS	MMS	Listed system components and piping supporting drilling or production.
9.d .....	.....	Compressed air.	USCG	MMS	USCG	Listed system components and piping not supporting drilling or production.
9.e .....	.....	Potable wash and sanitary water.	USCG	USCG	MMS	Listed system components and piping supporting drilling or production.
9.f .....	.....	Sewage unit & piping.	USCG	USCG	USCG	
9.g .....	.....	Diesel fuel	USCG	MMS	USCG	
9.h .....	.....	Bilge & ballast, including pumps and related control systems.	USCG	N/A	USCG	
9.i .....	.....	Fuel gas from well.	MMS	MMS	MMS	For MODU's and floating facilities, when powering drilling and production systems.
			USCG		USCG	For MODU's and floating facilities, when powering emergency and ship-service systems.

Item	System	Sub-system	Lead agency			Other agency role/comments
			MODU	Fixed	Floating	
10	Elevators for Personnel.	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG	
11	Aircraft Land- ing and Re- fueling.	Decks, fuel handling, and storage.	USCG	MMS	USCG	
12	Fire Protection	.....			
12.a .....	.....	Fire protection, detection, and extin- guishing.	USCG	USCG	USCG	See Attachment C for description of Fire Protection, Detec- tion, and Extinguishing. Excludes MMS-regulated safety systems.
2.b .....	.....	Structural fire protection for accommoda- tions.	USCG	USCG	USCG	
13	Safety Systems	.....			
13.a .....	.....	Emergency shut-down systems.	MMS	MMS	MMS	Includes interfaces between fire protection systems and MMS regulated safety systems. For MMS required systems. Excludes "remote stopping de- vices" required for USCG-regulated systems.
13.b .....	.....	Gas detection	MMS	MMS	MMS	
13.c .....	.....	Drilling, pro- duction, well- control safe- ty, and shut- down sys- tems.	MMS	MMS	MMS	
13.d .....	.....	General alarm	USCG	USCG	USCG	Includes public address system when integrated with general alarm system.
14	Electrical De- sign & Equipment.	.....			
14.a .....	.....	Production	MMS*	MMS	MMS	See Attachment B for definition of Production Systems. *Same comment as item #6.
14.b .....	.....	Drilling sys- tems.	USCG	MMS	USCG	See Attachment A for definition of Drilling Systems.
14.c .....	.....	Emergency lighting power gen- eration and distribution.	USCG	USCG	USCG	*MMS is the lead agency for drilling equipment installed for a finite time and designed for removal.
14.d .....	.....	Hazardous areas classi- fication.	USCG	MMS	MMS and USCG	MMS and USCG will work on common, logical standards to minimize duplication of effort for industry.
15	Aids to Naviga- tion.	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG	
16	Communicatio- ns	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG	
17	Pollution Pre- vention.	.....			
17.a .....	.....	Pollution not associated with vessel transfers.	USCG	USCG	USCG	Garbage and plastics per the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships MARPOL 73/78.
17.b .....	.....	Petroleum and other product transfers to and from a vessel (in- cludes lightering of produced hy- drocarbons).	MMS USCG	MMS USCG	MMS USCG	Other Pollution.
18	Cranes and Material Handling Equipment.	.....			

Item	System	Sub-system	Lead agency			Other agency role/comments			
			MODU	Fixed	Floating				
18.a	Crane design, certification, and operations.	USCG	MMS	USCG	Includes permanent and temporary units design & arrangement.			
18.b .....	.....	Other Material Handling Equip.	USCG	MMS	USCG			
19	Ventilation	USCG	USCG	USCG				
19.a .....	.....	Accommodations and machinery spaces.						
19.b .....	.....	Areas other than accommodations or machinery spaces.	USCG	MMS	MMS			
20	Life Saving Equipment.	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG			
21	Workplace Safety and Health.	USCG	USCG	USCG				
21.a .....	.....	Personnel protection equipment.						
21.b .....	.....	Hazardous material storage & handling (other than produced hydrocarbons).	USCG	USCG	USCG			
22	Living Quarters and Accommodation Spaces.	.....	USCG	USCG	USCG			
23	General Arrangements.	USCG	USCG	USCG				
23.a .....	.....	Access/egress & means of escape.						
23.b .....	.....	Safety plan, fire control or fire equipment, and lifesaving equipment plans.	USCG	USCG	USCG			
24	Miscellaneous Systems and Operational Requirements.	USCG	MMS	USCG		Supplements list of above mentioned systems.		
24.a .....	.....	Structural inspection requirements.						
24.b	Personnel requirements for marine and lifesaving operations.					USCG	USCG	USCG
24.c	Emergency evacuation plans.					USCG	USCG	USCG
24.d	Drills—fire, abandon, and lifeboat.					USCG	USCG	USCG
							USCG will copy MMS on approvals and compliance records. MMS recommends that USCG at least meet the requirements of the American Petroleum Institute's Recommended Practice 2A (API-RP2A)—Planning, Designing, and Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms Working Stress Design.		

Item	System	Sub-system	Lead agency			Other agency role/comments
			MODU	Fixed	Floating	
24.e	Inspection and testing of all production and drilling equipment.	MMS	MMS	MMS	Includes hydrogen sulfide gas (H ₂ S).
24.f .....	.....	Inspection and testing of marine and lifesaving equipment.	USCG	USCG	USCG
24.g .....	.....	Well-head & platform removal (decommissioning).	MMS	MMS	MMS
24.h .....	.....	Safe welding, burning and hot tapping.	MMS	MMS	MMS
24.i	Diving operations & equipment.	USCG	USCG	USCG	Includes H ₂ S personnel protection equipment.
24.j .....	.....	H ₂ S contingency plan (including equipment, control, and detection systems).	MMS	MMS	MMS
25	Investigation— Lead Responsibility:	.....			
25.a		Oil Pollution reportable under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OSCLA).	MMS	MMS	MMS	
25.b		Oil Pollution under the Clean Water Act (CWA impact).	USCG	USCG	USCG	Conduct preliminary assessments and follow-on actions in accordance with the National Contingency Plan and investigation into violation of CWA.
25.c		Incidents involving systems under USCG jurisdiction.	USCG	USCG	USCG	
25.d .....	.....	Incidents involving systems under MMS's jurisdiction.	MMS	MMS	MMS
26	Administer Shutdown or Resumption of Operation of a Facility.	MMS	MMS	MMS	See Section V, Para C.2 of this MOU for the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) responsibility for spill response.
27		Safety analysis of industrial systems.	USCG	MMS	MMS	

Attachment A—Drilling, Completion, Well Servicing and Workover Systems

System requirements for operating the following equipment and systems:

- Drilling, production, and workover risers
- Blowout prevention equipment and control systems

- Drilling system and related relief valves, vent system, pressure vessels and piping, pumps, water systems, safety systems, cementing systems, and circulating systems
- Riser and guideline tensioning systems
- Motion compensation systems
- Instruments and controls

- Atmospheric vessels and piping
- Fitness of the Drilling Unit
- Lifting and hoisting equipment associated with the derrick
- Cementing systems
- Circulating systems, including: pipes and pumps for mud; shale shakers; desanders;

- degassers.
- Structures including derrick and sub-structure
- Bulk material storage and handling systems
- Other pressurized systems designed for industrial operations

Attachment B—Production Systems

Includes but not limited to the following equipment:

- Hydraulic systems
- Connections between production and workover (industrial) systems
- Production safety systems including subsurface and surface well control
- Relief valves, relief headers, vent and flare systems
- Production wells and wellhead
- Well-handling equipment (contract drilling rig)
- Instrumentation, controls, and measurement (including oil and gas)
- Gas compression
- Process system and related pumps
- Odorization for gas piped into enclosures
- Process system and related pressure vessels and piping
- Process system and related heat exchangers, including waste heat recovery units
- Chemical injection and treatment systems

Attachment C—Fire Protection, Detection and Extinguishing

Includes the following equipment:

- Deluge systems in the wellbay area
- Firewater pumps, piping, hose reel and monitor equipment
- Foam extinguishing equipment
- Fixed gaseous extinguishing equipment [carbon dioxide(CO₂) and halon alternatives]
- Fixed watermist extinguishing equipment
- Portable and semi-portable extinguishers
- Fire and smoke detection (excludes interfaces to MMS regulated safety systems)

IV. Civil Penalties

The USCG reports violations of OCSLA statutes or regulations that may result in civil penalty action to MMS. The USCG will investigate and document OCSLA based violation cases according to the procedures in 33 CFR 140.40 with the following clarification:

1. The cognizant Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) makes the determination whether a violation “constitutes or constituted a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm.” If the OCMI determines:

a. That it does, then the OCMI will refer the case to MMS and recommend that a civil penalty be assessed.

b. That it does not, then the OCMI will establish a reasonable time for the violator to fix the problem. The OCMI may do this in consultation with MMS, particularly on matters in which MMS has expertise or knowledge of industry practice. If the violator does not correct the problem, or does not file an appeal with the appropriate USCG official in the allotted time, the OCMI will refer the case to MMS, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1348(a).

When referring a case to MMS, the OCMI will forward the following information:

i. The case file, which consists of a summary of the investigation and a USCG determination of the regulations violated.

ii. A description of the seriousness of violation and any incidents actually associated with the violation.

iii. If requested, additional information concerning the merits of a civil penalty action. All physical evidence remains with the USCG, but available to MMS upon request.

2. If the violator files an appeal of a USCG's enforcement action the USCG will not forward the case to MMS until the appeal has been resolved.

3. Upon receipt of the violation report, the MMS Regional Civil Penalty Coordinator will appoint a Reviewing Officer (RO) who will process the report in accordance with the MMS OCS Criminal/Civil Penalties Program Guidebook.

4. Notification of the MMS RO's decision regarding the civil penalty assessment, collection, compromise, or dismissal shall be provided to the OCMI originating the violation report.

V. Oil Pollution Responsibilities

A. Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFR)

1. The MMS issues certifications of oil-spill financial responsibility for certain facilities located in the OCS and State waters included in the definition of Covered Offshore Facility found at 30 CFR 253.3. The COFR ensures that responsible parties can pay for cleanup and damages from facility oil spills.

2. The MMS will provide COFR-related information to the USCG upon request. Upon request from the USCG, MMS will provide available information for any covered OCS facility (COF) in certain OCS and the State waters included in the definition of Covered Offshore Facility found at 30 CFR 253.3 that are involved in an oil pollution incident including:

(1) Copies of the lease, permit, or right of use and easement for the area in which the COF is located;

(2) Contacts for claims;

(3) Agents for service of process;

(4) Amounts guaranteed; and

(5) List of all responsible parties.

3. The USCG issues COFR for vessels and floating OCS facilities which store oil. This COFR is in addition to the MMS COFR and addresses the operator's financial responsibility for the clean up and damages from oil discharges resulting from non-well-related sources and produced oil stored onboard the floating OCS facility.

B. Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Planning

1. The MMS, for all facilities seaward of the coast line, requires that responsible parties maintain approved Oil Spill Response Plans (OSRP) consistent with the area contingency plan; ensures that response personnel receive training; and that response equipment is inspected. The MMS will require unannounced oil-spill response drills. The MMS RS will advise the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) of drills to coordinate participation, and avoid conflict or duplication.

2. The USCG Captain of the Port serves as the pre-designated FOSC in accordance with the National Contingency Plan. The appropriate FOSC will also jointly approve OSRPs for floating facilities which store oil. Participation in MMS drills will be at the discretion of the FOSC. The FOSC will advise the MMS RS of spill-response drills and activities, such as exercise and response activities, occurring on facilities seaward of the coast line.

C. Spill Response

1. All spills are required to be reported to the National Response Center (NRC). The NRC provides notification to the appropriate agencies and State offices. Additionally, OCS facility owners or operators are required to report spills of one barrel or more to the MMS RS.

2. The FOSC will direct and monitor Federal, State, and private actions, consult with responsible parties, and determine the removal action. The MMS RS will direct measures to abate sources of pollution from an OCS facility. However, if a discharge poses a serious threat to public health, welfare, or the environment, in accordance with Public Law 101-380 (OPA) Sec. 4201, the FOSC may mitigate or prevent the substantial threat of a discharge and notify the MMS RS as soon as possible. The MMS will authorize the return of an OCS facility to operation in coordination with the FOSC.

VI. Exchanging Services and Personnel

To the extent its own operations and resources permit, each agency will provide the other agency with assistance, technical advice, and support, including transportation, if requested in accordance with 43 U.S.C. 1348. Exchange of services and personnel is non-reimbursable (except for pollution removal funding authorizations for incident specific fund access). The assistance may extend to areas beyond the OCS where one Agency's expertise will benefit the other agency in applying and enforcing its safety regulations.

VII. Other Cooperative Functions

1. Both agencies will exchange data and study results, participate in research and development projects, and exchange early drafts of rulemaking notices to avoid duplicative or conflicting requirements.

2. Both agencies will review current standards, regulations, and directives and will propose revisions to them as necessary in keeping with the provisions of this MOU.

3. Both agencies will review reporting and data collection requirements imposed on operators of OCS facilities and, where feasible, eliminate or minimize duplicate reporting and data collection requirements.

4. Each agency will conduct scheduled and unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with its own requirements. If the inspector notices deficiencies that fall within the responsibility of the other agency, the deficiency will be reported to the other agency for action. However, if the deficiency may cause serious or irreparable harm to persons, property, or the environment, the inspector may take the necessary preventative action. The preventative action will then be reported to the other agency.

VIII. Accident Investigations

The MMS or the USCG is responsible for conducting investigations and preparing a public report for each major fire, oil spillage, serious injury, and fatality associated with OCS activities. To avoid duplication of effort and to simplify administration, the responsibility for investigating and preparing a public report for these incidents rests with the agency that is listed in Section III as being responsible for the system associated with the incident. In addition, the MMS investigates blowouts and the USCG investigates collisions.

For those incidents for which both agencies have an investigative interest in the system associated with the incident, one agency will assume lead investigative responsibility with supporting participation by the other agency. The lead agency in a joint investigative effort shall investigate and prepare, approve, and release the report in accordance with the normal procedures of that agency, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The lead agency shall be determined through mutual agreement. If mutual agreement is not reached, each agency may decide to conduct its own investigation.
2. The specific details of a supporting agency's participation in a joint investigation shall be determined on a case-by-case basis through mutual agreement.
3. Prior to the public release of a joint agency report, the supporting agency will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the report. If the supporting agency's conclusions and/or recommendations differ with those of the lead agency, either both conclusions and/or recommendations will be included in the lead agency's report in a mutually acceptable manner, or a joint report will not be issued, and each agency may issue separate reports.

IX. Implementing this MOU

1. Each agency will review its internal procedures and, where appropriate, will revise them to accommodate the provisions of this MOU. Each agency will also designate in writing one senior official who will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the provisions of this MOU.
2. Each agency will designate regional officials to be responsible for coordinating and implementing the provisions of this MOU in their respective regions.
3. The USCG—MMS MOU concerning regulation of activities and facilities in the OCS, dated August 29, 1989 is canceled on the effective date of this agreement.
4. If new technology (or new uses of current technology) require a change to this MOU, the MMS regional office and appropriate USCG district will work together to reach an agreement. The MMS regional office and the USCG district will notify their respective Headquarters office of any change. If the MMS regional office and the USCG district office can't reach an agreement, it will be elevated to MMS and USCG Headquarters. The new policy will become part of a revised MOU the next time the MOU is revised.

X. Savings Provision

Nothing in this MOU alters, amends, or affects in any way the statutory authority of MMS or the USCG.

XI. Effective Date

This MOU is effective upon signature.

XII. Termination

Both parties may amend this MOU by mutual agreement and either agency may terminate it with a 30-day written notice.

Signed at Washington, DC, December 16, 1998.

James M. Loy,

Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service, Department of Interior.

[FR Doc. 99-817 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine, Acadia National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, 5 U.S.C. App. 1, Sec. 10), that the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, February 8, 1999.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99-420, Sec. 103. The purpose of the commission is to consult with the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee, on matters relating to the management and development of the park, including but not limited to the acquisition of lands and interests in lands (including conservation easements on islands) and termination of rights of use and occupancy.

The meeting will convene at park Headquarters, McFarland Hill, Bar Harbor, Maine, at 1:30 p.m. to consider the following agenda:

1. Review and approval of minutes from the meeting held September 28, 1998
2. Committee reports
Land Conservation
Education
Park Use
Science
Nomination—nomination of officers
3. Old business
4. Superintendent's report
5. Public comments
6. Proposed agenda and date of next Commission meeting

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral/

written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made to the Superintendent at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Superintendent, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, tel: (207) 288-3338.

Dated: January 7, 1999.

Len Bobinchock,

Acting Superintendent, Acadia National Park.

[FR Doc. 99-929 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Joshua Tree National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Joshua Tree National Park Advisory Commission (Commission) will be held from 9:00 am (PDT) until 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 6, 1999, at the Helen Gray Center, on Whitefeather Drive in the village of Joshua Tree, California. The Commission will hear presentations about issues related to the Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, which serves as an amendment to the General Management Plan for Joshua Tree National Park, a comprehensive assessment regarding placement of wireless telecommunication facilities (WTF), and an environmental assessment to relocate segments of a military training route over the park.

The Commission was established by Public Law 103-433, section 107 to advise the Secretary concerning the development and implementation of a new or revised comprehensive management plan for Joshua Tree National Park.

Members of the Commission include:

Mr. Chuck Bell: Planner
Ms. Diane Benson: Town of Yucca Valley
Ms. Cyndie Bransford: Recreational Climbing
Mr. Gary Daigneault: Property Owner
Hon. Kathy Davis: County of San Bernadino
Mr. Brian Huse: Conservation
Mr. Michael McCormack: Property Owner
Mr. Julian McIntyre: Conservation
Mr. Roger Melanson: Homeowner
Mr. Ramon Mendoza: Native American Interest
Ms. Leslie Mouriquand: Planner
Mr. Richard Russell: All Wheel Drive Vehicle Interest