



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

In Reply Refer To: GM 235D

October 4, 2024

Ms. Tracy Albert
Shell Offshore Inc.
P.O. Box 61933
New Orleans, Louisiana 70161

Dear Ms. Albert,

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No. S-8162
Type Supplemental Exploration Plan
Received July 15, 2024, amended July 25, August 14 and 30, 2024
Lease(s) OCS-G 31513, Block 569, Mississippi Canyon Area (MC)
OCS-G 33161, Block 524, Mississippi Canyon Area (MC)
OCS-G 33163, Block 568, Mississippi Canyon Area (MC)

The Minerals Management Service Mississippi Canyon Area, Block 525 Unit(s) Agreement Number is 754317003.

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of October 4, 2024, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.233(b)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Subsea Wells H and H-Alt1 in MC Block 568 and I in MC Block 524.

In accordance with 30 CFR 556.901(d), additional security may be required for your proposed activities. Prior to conducting activities in which you need to obtain approvals and/or permits described in 30 CFR 550.281(a) from the appropriate District Manager or BSEE Regional Supervisor, you must contact BOEM Risk Management Operations Section by email at boemrmos@boem.gov to determine if additional security is required and comply with any demand for this security.

Exercise caution while drilling due to indications of shallow gas and possible water flow.

In response to the request accompanying your plan for a hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) classification, the area in which the proposed drilling operations are to be conducted is hereby classified, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.490(c), as "H₂S present." Accordingly, comply with the appropriate requirements of 30 CFR 250.490.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.) is designed to protect threatened and endangered species and applies to activities authorized under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq.). BOEM, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consulted on oil and gas program activities in the Gulf of Mexico and NMFS issued a 2020 Biological Opinion and 2021 Amended Incidental Take Statement that include required mitigations. Conditions of Approval (COA) derived from this consultation ensure ESA compliance.

ESA consultation documents and required mitigations covering oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico, can be found here: <https://www.boem.gov/regions/gulf-mexico-ocs-region/oil-and-gas-esa-consultations-and-guidance>. You must comply with the protective measures for all activities conducted pursuant to the plan. Activities conducted in association with the subject approval must adhere to these COAs, including all reporting requirements therein.

The following species protective measures found in the link (<https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/gom-o-g-esa-coas>) are applicable for your proposed activities. The numbering below corresponds to the numbering found in the linked document entitled *Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Endangered Species Act Conditions of Approval*:

1. Compliance with Biological Opinion Terms and Conditions and Reasonable and Prudent Measures
2. Notification of Intention to Transit Rice's Whale Area Condition of Approval (COA)
3. Seismic Survey Operation, Monitoring, and Reporting Guidelines
4. Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination
5. Vessel-strike Avoidance/Reporting
7. Sea Turtle Resuscitation Guidelines
8. Slack-line Precautions Condition of Approval (COA)
9. Moon Pool Monitoring Condition of Approval (COA)
10. Reporting Requirements Condition of Approval (COA)

These measures are designed to promote environmental protection, consistent environmental policy, compliance with environmental laws, and safety.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval, please contact Laura Christensen at (504)736-2959.

Sincerely,

for Bernadette Thomas
 Regional Supervisor
 Office of Leasing and Plans