



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

New Orleans Office  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

In Reply Refer To: MS GM 266A  
OCS-G 12726

March 3, 2023

Empire Auger 12, LLC  
c/o Lockton  
3657 Briarpark Dr., Suite 700  
Houston, TX 77042  
Attn: Laura Kneitz

Dear Ms. Kneitz:

Your letter dated March 1, 2023, submitting replacement Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Mineral Lessee's or Operator's Supplemental Bond No. GM216863, in the amount of \$1,212,300, was received by our office on March 2, 2023. This bond, conditioned to cover Right-of-Way OCS-G 12726, was executed on March 1, 2023, with Empire Auger 12, LLC as principal and Great Midwest Insurance Company as surety.

This bond replaces Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Mineral Lessee's or Operator's Supplemental Bond No. B013554, in the amount of \$1,212,300. This bond, conditioned to cover Right-of-Way OCS-G 12726, was executed on March 1, 2017, with Empire Auger 12, LLC as principal, and U.S. Specialty Insurance Company as surety.

The replacement bond, Bond No. GM216863, conforms to the requirements of the leasing and operating regulations for submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf and is considered to be effective March 1, 2023, the date it was executed. The period of liability of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Pipeline Right-of-Way Grant Bond No. B013554 is considered to have terminated and the bond is considered cancelled without residual liability on the same date.

Should you need further assistance, please contact Kathleen Lee at (504) 736-5774 or [boemgomrfinancialassurance@boem.gov](mailto:boemgomrfinancialassurance@boem.gov).

Sincerely,

**BRIDGETTE** Digitally signed by  
**DUPLANTIS** BRIDGETTE DUPLANTIS  
Date: 2023.03.03 11:02:33  
-06'00'

Bridgette Duplantis, Section Chief  
Leasing and Financial Responsibility Section  
Leasing and Plans

cc: Laura Kneitz ([lkneitz@lockton.com](mailto:lkneitz@lockton.com))  
Kyle Marks ([kyle@empiremidstream.com](mailto:kyle@empiremidstream.com))  
Joy Durham ([jdurham@indemco.com](mailto:jdurham@indemco.com))



UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT

Laura Kneitz  
3657 Briarpark Dr., Ste. 700 Houston, TX 77042  
Phone: 713.458.5433  
Email: lkneitz@lockton.com

March 1, 2023

**RECEIVED**

**March 2, 2023**

*Leasing & Financial  
Responsibility Section*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Office  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394  
ATTN: Leasing and Financial Responsibility-Mail Stop GM266A  
Boemgomrfinancialssurance@boem.gov

**RE: Empire Auger 12, LLC – No. 3666**  
Great Midwest Insurance Company - Bond No. **GM216863** (Replacing U.S. Specialty B013554)  
\$1,212,300.00 Supplemental ROW Bond for OCS-G 12726

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to enclose the originals of the above referenced bond. This bond has been issued to replace U.S. Specialty Bond No. B013554.

We ask that you please accept the enclosed bond and **release U.S. Specialty Insurance Company Bond No. B013554 as of March 1, 2023, by issuing a letter of release directly to the surety, principal or agent as follows:**

Laura Kneitz Lockton Companies 3657 Briarpark Dr., Suite 700 Houston, TX 77042 lkneitz@lockton.com	Kyle Marks Empire Midstream, LLC 601 Poydras St., Suite 1725 New Orleans, LA 70130 kyle@empiremidstream.com	Joy Durham IndemCo 13403 Northwest Frwy Houston, TX 77040 jdurham@indemco.com
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We trust that you will find the enclosed to be in complete order. However, should you require any adjustments or have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Laura Kneitz  
Account Manager - Surety  
Enclosure

Cover Page  
**OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)  
MINERAL LESSEE'S OR OPERATOR'S  
SUPPLEMENTAL BOND**

**Form BOEM-2028A**

This form dated January 2020 supersedes all previous versions of form BOEM-2028A

All Bond Forms must be submitted with a transmittal letter to the appropriate BOEM office:

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Office  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. New Orleans LA 70123-2394  
Leasing and Financial Responsibility - Mail Stop GM266A

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Alaska OCS Office  
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500  
Anchorage AK 99503-5820 Alaska Leasing Section

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Pacific OCS Office  
760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102  
Camarillo CA 93010  
Lease Management

**RECEIVED**

**March 2, 2023**

**Leasing & Financial  
Responsibility Section**

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement:** The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) requires us to inform you that BOEM collects this information to hold the surety liable for the obligations and liability of the Principal (lessee or operator). Responses are mandatory. No proprietary information is collected. 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 OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form should be directed to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

Bond No. GM216863

OCS Lease/RUE/ROW No. OCS-G 12726

Bond Type Supplemental ROW

Amount \$ 1,212,300.00

**OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) MINERAL LESSEE'S OR OPERATOR'S  
SUPPLEMENTAL BOND**

The Surety is the entity Guaranteeing Performance.

Name of Surety: Great Midwest Insurance Company

Mailing Address: 800 Gessner, Suite 600  
Houston, TX 77024

If a Corporation, Incorporated in the State of: Texas; County or Parish of: Harris County

Check here if Surety is certified by U.S. Treasury as an acceptable surety on Federal Bonds and listed in the current U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570.

The Principal is the Lessee or Designated Operator for Whom the Bond is Issued.

Name of Principal: Empire Auger 12, LLC

Mailing Address: 601 Poydras Street, Suite 1725, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-6033

Schedule A, the lease/RUE/ROW covered by this bond, is composed of: (add legal description)

Check here if additional information is on attached sheet.

The following lease/RUE/ROW: OCS-G 12726, Segment No. 11228, 200-foot wide and approximately 31.16 miles (164,530 feet)  
long corridor associated with the 12-inch Pipeline Segment Number (PSN) 11228.

In addition to the Obligations of the Principal during the period of liability of this bond, the Surety also accepts the following Obligations: (Check one)

No Obligations other than the Obligations of the Principal during the period of liability of this bond.

All Obligations of all previous Sureties or guarantors even if the Obligations are not Obligations of the Principal during the period of liability of this bond.

All Obligations of all previous Sureties or guarantors even if the Obligations are not Obligations of the Principal during the period of liability of this bond with the following exceptions or limitations (use an attached rider).

<b>Definitions</b>	<p>A <b>Principal</b> includes an entity holding an interest in the oil &amp; gas lease in one or more of the following ways: (1) as an approved record title owner of all or a portion of the lease, (2) as an approved operating rights owner of all or a portion of the lease, or (3) as a designated operator or designated agent in all or a portion of the lease.</p> <p>A <b>Lessee</b> includes an approved record title owner of all or a portion of the lease or an approved operating rights owner of all or a portion of the lease.</p> <p>An <b>Obligation</b> includes any obligation arising from any regulations of the Department of the Interior or any Instrument issued, maintained, or approved under the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 <i>et seq.</i>).</p> <p>An <b>Instrument</b> includes individually or collectively any lease, operating agreement, designation of operator or agent, storage agreement, compensatory royalty agreement, transfer of operating rights, permit, license, or easement, whereunder the Principal has the right, privilege, or license to conduct operations on the OCS.</p> <p>A <b>Person</b> includes an individual, a public or private entity, a State, a political subdivision of a State, any association of individuals, corporations, States, or subdivisions of States, or a government agency.</p>
For the purposes of this document:	

**By signing below, the Principal verifies that the information above is correct and agrees to the following:**

The Principal as agent on behalf of all lessees, operating rights owners, and operators will fulfill all Obligations for the entire leasehold and to the same extent as though the Principal were the sole lessee for the lease/RUE/ROW in Schedule A.

**By signing below, the Surety verifies that the information above is correct and agrees to the following:**

- The Surety does hereby absolutely and unconditionally bind itself to the United States of America acting through and by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), or such other official designated by the Secretary of the Interior for this purpose, for the payment of all of the cost of the plugging and abandonment Obligations.
- The Surety will be responsible for all Obligations of the Principal in existence at the time this document becomes effective and all Obligations that accrue after that date and until all Obligations are met or until the Regional Director terminates the period of liability of this bond.
- If the Regional Director terminates the period of liability of this bond, the Surety will remain responsible for Obligations that accrued during the period of liability until the Regional Director issues a written cancellation of the bond in favor of the Surety.
- If this bond is cancelled, the Regional Director may reinstate this bond as if no cancellation had occurred if any payment of any Obligation of the Principal(s) is rescinded or must be restored pursuant to any insolvency, bankruptcy, reorganization, or receivership, or should the representation of the Principal that it has paid its financial Obligations or performed the other

Obligations of the lease in accordance with BOEM specifications be materially false and BOEM relied upon such representation in canceling the instrument.

5. The Surety waives any right of notice of this bond taking effect and agrees that this bond will take effect upon delivery to BOEM.
6. The Surety's Obligations will remain in full force and effect, even if:
  - (a) Any person assigns all or part of any interest in an Instrument covered by this document.
  - (b) Any person modifies an Instrument or Obligation under an Instrument in any manner including modifications that result from a commitment to a unit, cooperative, communitization, or storage agreement; suspension of operations or production; suspension or changes in rental, minimum royalty, or royalties; modification of regulations or interpretations of regulations; creation or modification of compensatory royalty agreements or payments; or creation of any mortgage, pledge, or other grant of security interest in the Instruments.
  - (c) Any person, event, or condition terminates any Instrument covered by this bond, whether the termination is by operation of law or otherwise.
  - (d) BOEM takes or fails to take any action in enforcing, as against any party to the Instrument, the payment of rentals or royalties or the performance of any other covenant, condition or agreement of the lease, or giving notice of or making demand with respect to such nonperformance.
  - (e) The Surety suffers any loss by reason of any law limiting, qualifying, or discharging the Principal's Obligation.
7. The Surety agrees to be bound under this bond as to the interests in any Instrument retained by the Principal when BOEM approves the transfer of any or all of the Instruments or interests in the Instruments.
8. In the event of any default under a lease, the Surety must provide payment of all of the cost of the Obligations of the Principal upon demand by BOEM.
9. If BOEM decides to commence suit to enforce its rights, it may commence and prosecute any claim, suit, action, or other proceeding against the Principal and Surety, or either of them, whether or not BOEM joins the lessees or any other party.
10. In the event there is more than one Surety for the Principal's performance of the Obligations, as to any Instrument, the Surety's Obligation and liability under this bond is on a "solidary" or "joint and several" basis along with other guarantors or sureties.
11. The Surety agrees to give prompt notice to BOEM and the Principal of any action filed alleging the insolvency or bankruptcy of the Surety or the Principal, or alleging any violation that would result in suspension or revocation of the Surety's charter or license to do business.
12. The Surety's Obligation and liabilities under this Bond are binding upon the Surety's successors and assigns. Nothing in this document permits assignment of the Surety's Obligation without the written consent of BOEM.
13. The Surety hereby waives any defenses to liability on this bond based on an unauthorized Principal signature.

Great Midwest Insurance Company

Name of Surety



Signature of Person Executing for Surety

Laura Lee Kneitz, Attorney-in-Fact

Name and Title (typed or printed)  
800 Gessner, Suite 600

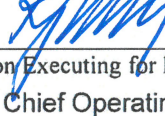
Business Address

Houston, TX 77024

Business Address

Empire Auger 12, LLC

Name of Principal



Signature of Person Executing for Principal

Kyle T. Marks, Chief Operating Officer

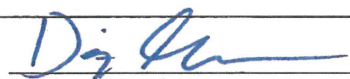
Name and Title (typed or printed)  
601 Poydras Street, Suite 1725

Business Address

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-6033

Business Address

Signed on this 1st day of March, 2023, in the State of Texas, in the presence of:



Signature of Witness

Daisy Greathouse

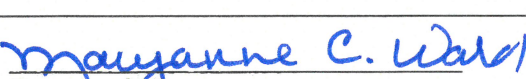
Name (typed or printed)

3657 Briarpark Dr., Ste. 700

Address

Houston, TX 77042

Address



Signature of Witness

Maryanne C. Ward

Name (typed or printed)

601 Poydras Street, Suite 1725

Address

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-6033

Address

*Note:* The person executing for the Surety must attach a corporate resolution and power of attorney stating his or her authority to undertake this Obligation, pursuant to the acts of the corporate board of directors and the laws of the State of incorporation. The corporation executing this bond as Surety and the Principal, if a corporation, must affix their corporate seals.

BOEM-2028A (January 2020)

Previous Editions are Obsolete.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Great Midwest Insurance Company

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY, a Texas Corporation, with its principal office in Houston, TX, does hereby constitute and appoint:

Robert F. Bobo, Timothy F. Kelly, Florence McClellan, Aaron P. Clark, Kristin Darling, Autumn Stockton, Rachel Richardson, Nick Patetta, Averi Stockton, Laura Lee Kneitz, Teresa D. Kelly, Craig C. Payne

its true and lawful Attorney(s)-In-Fact to make, execute, seal and deliver for, and on its behalf as surety, any and all bonds, undertakings or other writings obligatory in nature of a bond.

This authority is made under and by the authority of a resolution which was passed by the Board of Directors of GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY, on the 1st day of October, 2018 as follows:

Resolved, that the President, or any officer, be and hereby is, authorized to appoint and empower any representative of the Company or other person or persons as Attorney-In-Fact to execute on behalf of the Company any bonds, undertakings, policies, contracts of indemnity or other writings obligatory in nature of a bond not to exceed Ten Million dollars (\$10,000,000.00), which the Company might execute through its duly elected officers, and affix the seal of the Company thereto. Any said execution of such documents by an Attorney-In-Fact shall be as binding upon the Company as if they had been duly executed and acknowledged by the regularly elected officers of the Company. Any Attorney-In-Fact, so appointed, may be removed in the Company's sole discretion and the authority so granted may be revoked as specified in the Power of Attorney.

Resolved, that the signature of the President and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile on any power of attorney granted, and the signature of the Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any certificate of any such power and any such power or certificate bearing such facsimile signature and seal shall be valid and binding on the Company. Any such power so executed and sealed and certificate so executed and sealed shall, with respect to any bond of undertaking to which it is attached, continue to be valid and binding on the Company.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY, has caused this instrument to be signed by its President, and its Corporate Seal to be affixed this 11th day of February, 2021.

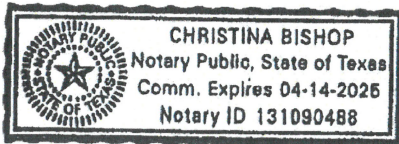


GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY

BY [Signature] Mark W. Haushill President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On this 11th day of February, 2021, before me, personally came Mark W. Haushill to me known, who being duly sworn, did depose and say that he is the President of GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY, the corporation described in and which executed the above instrument; that he executed said instrument on behalf of the corporation by authority of his office under the By-laws of said corporation.

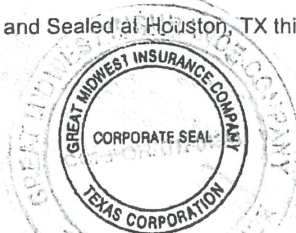


BY [Signature] Christina Bishop Notary Public

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY, A Texas Insurance Company, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the original Power of Attorney of which the foregoing is a true and correct copy, is in full force and effect and has not been revoked and the resolutions as set forth are now in force.

Signed and Sealed at Houston, TX this 1st Day of March, 2023.



BY [Signature] Leslie K. Shaunty Secretary

"WARNING: Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person, files and application for insurance of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime and subjects such person to criminal and civil penalties.