



# 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  
GM216864

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) Pipeline Right-of-Way Grant Bond No. GM216864, in the amount of \$300,000, was received by our office on March 2, 2023. This bond, conditioned to cover the principal's pipeline operations in the Gulf of Mexico, 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) Pipeline Right-of-Way Grant Bond No. B013555, in the amount of \$300,000. This bond, conditioned to cover principal's pipeline operations in the Gulf of Mexico, 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. GM216864, 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. B013555 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 10:55:32  
-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. GM216864 (Replacing U.S. Specialty B013555)  
\$300,000.00 Area Wide Bond for OCS area: Gulf of Mexico

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. B013555.

We ask that you please accept the enclosed bond and **release U.S. Specialty Insurance Company Bond No. B013555 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 PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY  
GRANT BOND**

**Form BOEM-2030**

**This form dated January 2020 supersedes all previous versions of form  
BOEM-2030**

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.

**OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT BOND**

Bond No.: GM216864

Bond Type:  Area wide  Additional Security (Check One) Area/ROW #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ 300,000.00

The Surety is the Company 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 Pipeline Right-of-way (ROW) Grant Holder for Whom the Bond or additional security\* is Issued.

Name of Principal: Empire Auger 12, LLC

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

Schedule A, the OCS area and pipeline ROW grant covered by this bond or additional security\*, is comprised of (check one or both):

The following OCS area[(see 30 CFR 550.1011(b))]: Gulf of Mexico

The following pipeline ROW grant [see 30 CFR 550.1011(a)(2)]: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if additional information is continued on attached sheet.

In addition to the Obligations of the Principal during the period of liability of this bond or additional security\*, 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 or additional security\*.

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 or additional security\*.

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 or additional security\* with the following exceptions or limitations (use an attached sheet if needed):

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this document:

An **Obligation** 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 USC 1331 *et seq.*

An **Instrument** includes any pipeline ROW grant, whereunder the Principal has the right, privilege, or license to conduct pipeline operations on the OCS.

A **Person** includes an individual, a public or private corporation, a State, a political subdivision of a State, any association of individuals, corporations, States, or subdivisions of States, or a government agency.

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

The Principal as agent on behalf of the pipeline ROW grant holder will fulfill all Obligations for the entire pipeline ROW grant and to the same extent as though the Principal were the sole pipeline ROW grant holder for all pipeline ROW grants in Schedule A within an area designated in Schedule A.

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

1. 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 performance of all present and future Obligations.
2. The Surety agrees to meet all existing and future Obligations of the Principal on the pipeline ROW grant(s) described in Schedule A or acquired within that area after the effective date of this document at a cost not to exceed \$ \$ 300,000.00 unless this sum has been increased or decreased by a rider to this bond or additional security\*executed in the same manner as this bond or additional security\*.
3. 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 or additional security\*.

**OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT BOND (Continued)**


4. If the Regional Director terminates the period of liability of this bond or additional security\*, 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 or additional security\* in favor of the Surety.
5. If this bond or additional security\* is cancelled, the Regional Director may reinstate this bond or additional security\* as if no cancellation had occurred if any payment of any obligations 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 pipeline ROW grant(s) in accordance with BOEM specifications be materially false and the BOEM relied upon such representation in canceling the instrument.
6. The Surety waives any right of notice of this bond or other security\* taking effect and agrees that this bond or additional security\* will take effect upon delivery to BOEM.
7. The Surety's Obligations will remain in full force and effect, even if:
  - (a) Any person assigns the 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 modification of regulations or interpretations of regulations; 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 or additional security\*, whether the termination is by operation of law or otherwise.
  - (d) The BOEM takes or fails to take any action in enforcing, as against any party to the Instrument, the performance of any other covenant, condition or agreement of the pipeline ROW grant, 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.
8. The Surety agrees to be bound under this bond or additional security\* as to the interests in any Instrument retained by the Principal when the BOEM approves the transfer of any or all of the Instruments.
9. In the event of any default under a pipeline ROW grant, the Surety must perform the Obligations of the Principal upon demand by the BOEM.
10. If the 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 the BOEM joins the pipeline ROW grant holder or any other party.
11. 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 or additional security\* is on a "solidary" or "joint and several" basis along with other guarantors or sureties.
12. The Surety agrees to give prompt notice to the 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.
13. The Surety's Obligation and liabilities under this Bond or additional security\* 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 the BOEM.
14. The Surety hereby waives any defenses to liability on this bond or additional security\* based on an unauthorized Principal signature.

**\* Must be approved by the Regional Director**

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT BOND (Continued)

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

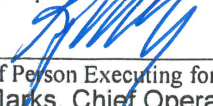
Business Address

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

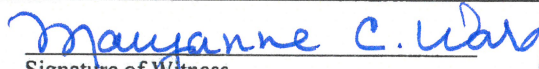
Name typed or printed

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 party signing 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 pipeline right-of-way grant holder, if a corporation, must affix their corporate seals.

**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 (pipeline right-of-way holder). Responses are required to obtain or retain a benefit. Proprietary data are covered under 30 CFR 550.197. 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 (in the Alaska and Pacific Regions, this could take longer), 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.

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.

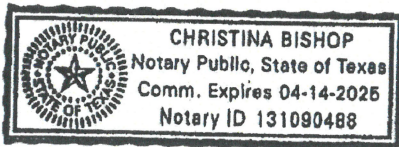


GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE COMPANY

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.