



# 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

September 7, 2018

Mr. Tom Schwartz  
Castex Offshore, Inc.  
Three Allen Center  
333 Clay Street  
Houston, Texas 77002-2569

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control	N-10022
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	July 16, 2018, amended July 19, 2018
Lease(s)	OCS-G 36219, Block 127, Ship Shoal Area (SS)

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of September 7, 2018, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.233(b) (1).

This approval includes the proposed activities for Well A and Well Protector No. 1.

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 Group by email at [boemrmog@boem.gov](mailto:boemrmog@boem.gov) to determine if additional security is required and comply with any demand for this security.

Our review indicates that your proposed activities are in the vicinity of the unidentified magnetic anomalies listed in the Enclosure, features that may represent significant archaeological resources. In accordance with 30 CFR 550.194, you must either (1) conduct an underwater archaeological investigation (diver and/or ROV investigations) prior to commencing your activities to determine whether these features represent archaeological resources, or (2) ensure that all seafloor disturbing actions resulting from the proposed activities avoid the subject features by a distance greater than that listed in the Enclosure. If you conduct an underwater archaeological investigation, contact either Dr. Jack Irion at (504) 736-1742 or Dr. Christopher Horrell at (504) 736-2796 at least two weeks prior to performing operations to obtain the investigation methodology. If you choose to avoid the features, submit an as-built map at a scale of 1-inch = 1,000-feet with DGPS accuracy, showing the location of all seafloor disturbances (e.g., the rig or platform, anchors, anchor chains, wire ropes, cables, etc.) relative to these features to the BOEM Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Plans, Plans Section (GM 236D), at the same time you submit your notification of platform installation date and final as-built location data as directed in 30 CFR 250.900(e).

In response to the request accompanying your plan for a hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) 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 "H<sub>2</sub>S absent."

Exercise caution while drilling due to indications of shallow gas.

You must comply with the following species protective measures in all activities conducted pursuant to the plan:

- BOEM Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) No. 2016-G01, "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting" (available at <http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-NTL-No-2016-G01>);
- BOEM NTL No. 2016-G02, "Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program" (available at <http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-NTL-2016-G02>); and
- BSEE NTL No. 2015-G03, "Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination" (available at <https://www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/notices-to-lessees-ntl/alerts/ntl-2015-g03.pdf>)

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 Robert Arpino at (504)736-2414.

Sincerely,

**MICHELLE  
PICOU**

Digitally signed by  
MICHELLE PICOU  
Date: 2018.09.07  
18:20:35 -05'00'

for Bernadette Thomas  
Acting Regional Supervisor  
Office of Leasing and Plans

Enclosure