

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2001

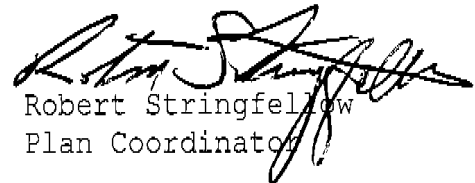
To: Public Information (MS 5034)  
From: Plan Coordinator, FO, Plans Section (MS 5231)

Subject: Public Information copy of plan

Control # - N-07079  
Type - Initial Exploration Plan  
Lease(s) - OCS-G02937 Block - 109 West Delta Area  
OCS-G16479 Block - 108 West Delta Area  
Operator - Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
Description - Well A-46  
Rig Type - JACKUP

Attached is a copy of the subject plan.

It has been deemed submitted as of this date and is under review for approval.

  
Robert Stringfellow  
Plan Coordinator

Site Type/Name	Botm Lse/Area/Blk	Surface Location	Surf Lse/Area/Blk
WELL/A-46	G16479/WD/108	4440 FSL, 3365 FEL	G02937/WD/109

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NOTED - SCHEXNAILDRE



Texaco

P O Box 60252  
New Orleans LA 70160

N-7079

March 9, 2001

Mr. Donald C. Howard, Regional Supervisor  
Office of Field Operations  
Minerals Management Service  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



Re: **GOV - MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**  
Plans of Exploration and Development  
Initial Development Operations  
Coordination Document (DOCD)  
West Delta 108 - OCS-G 16479  
Offshore Louisiana

Dear Mr. Howard:

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250.204 we submit for your approval five (5) proprietary and four (4) public information copies of an Initial DOCD for West Delta Block 108. This DOCD describes proposed activities relating to OCS-G 16479 Well A-46.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at telephone number (504) 680-1471 or by email at cottovf@texaco.com.

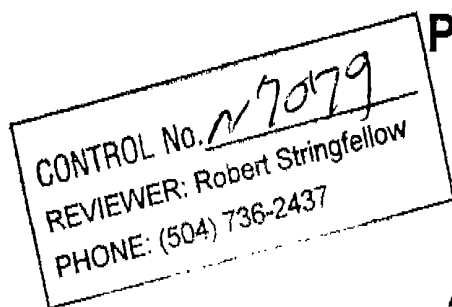
Yours very truly,

Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
EHS Professional

VFC:

Attachment

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY**



**INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT**

**GULF OF MEXICO: OFFSHORE LOUISIANA**

**WEST DELTA BLOCK 108**

**OCS-G 16479**

**TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INC.**

**WELL NO. A-46**

**JANUARY 2001**

**Prepared By:**

**Vincent F. Cottone, PE**  
**Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.**  
**400 Poydras Street**  
**New Orleans, LA 70130-3245**  
**Phone (504) 680-1471**  
**Fax (504) 680-4641**  
**E-mail [cottovf@texaco.com](mailto:cottovf@texaco.com)**

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## **PLAN CONTENTS**

### **(A) Description, Objectives, and Schedule**

Federal Lease OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will be drilled under an approved Exploration Plan (Plan Control No. R-3605). It will be drilled from the existing West Delta 109 "A" Platform, in place of OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-46, approved on July 6, 2000 under a Supplemental Development Operations Coordination Document (Plan Control No. S-5268).

Under this plan, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (Texaco) purposes to complete and produce West Delta Block 108, OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46. Well No. A-46 will be completed in the 4,700' Sand. The overall trapping mechanism is an east-northeast – west-southwest trending, down to the south fault. Geopressure is not expected to be encountered.

The closest producing analog well for the 4,700' Sand is located in an adjacent fault block. OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-51 is currently producing at approximately 9 million cubic feet of gas per day and 1,750 barrel of water per day.

Drilling of OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 should commence (under its approved EP) by the end of March 2001. Drilling is expected to take 28 days. Work under this plan should commence about May 1, 2001. Completion activities are expected to last 15 days. Work under this plan should be completed by June 2001.

### **(B) Location**

The West Delta 109 "A" Platform is located in about 183 feet (55.8 meters) of water at 3,446 feet (1,050 meters) from the east line and 4,464 feet (1,361 meters) for the south line of West Delta Block 109. The platform is approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) offshore of the Louisiana coast south of the mouth of the Mississippi River at Southwest Pass. Additional well specific information concerning this location (Latitude/Longitude, X/Y, PBHL, etc.) is contained on Form MMS-137 attached in the Appendix.

### **(C) Production Facilities**

The "A" platform is a 30-slot, 4-pile tubular steel space frame conventional jacket with 3 decks and crew quarters, boat dock, helicopter landing pad, process equipment capable of processing 25,000 barrels of oil per day, 40,000 barrels of water per day, and 100 million cubic feet of gas per day, and associated piping. The main and cellar decks are 127 feet by 135 feet (38.7 x 41.1 meters) and the top deck is 45 feet by 129 feet (13.7 x 39.3 meters). No changes to these facilities are expected as a result of the activity described in this plan.

### **(D) Drilling Unit**

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Texaco is using the API self-contained platform-type-drilling unit ENSCO 29 to drill and complete the well. The ENSCO 29 is rated to drill to 25,000 feet (7,620 meters). The derrick is 160 feet (49 meters) high with a 30 by 30 feet (9 x 9 meters) base and a maximum hook load of 1,300,000 pounds (589,670 kilograms).

Blowout prevention equipment includes a Koomey 360 gallon (1,363 liter), 3,000 psi (2,109,300 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. accumulator system; one (1) 20-inch (51 cm) Hydril with a 2,000 psi (1,406,200 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type GK diverter system; one (1) Shaffer 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 5,000 psi (3,515,500 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. annular preventer; one (1) Cameron 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type "U" single ram BOP and one (1) Cameron 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type "U" double ram BOP; and one (1) 3-1/16 inch (7.8 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. choke manifold. Blowout preventers and choke manifold are treated for H<sub>2</sub>S service. Other well control equipment includes mud pit level and flow indicators, combustible and H<sub>2</sub>S gas detectors, and emergency power.

Life saving equipment includes life vests or jackets, buoys, smoke signal, fireman's suits and air breathing apparatus, first aid kits, fire fighting equipment and communications equipment.

The well, when completed, will be equipped with appropriate safety devices and valves in accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250. All other safety and control equipment will be used in accordance with the applicable subparts of Title 30 CFR Part 250.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **(A) Contact**

Questions, concerns or requests for additional information about this plan should be directed to:

Mr. Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
400 Poydras Street 70130-3245  
PO Box 60252 70160-0252  
New Orleans, LA

(504) 680-1471 Phone  
(504) 680-4641 Fax  
[cottovf@texaco.com](mailto:cottovf@texaco.com) email

### **(B) Project Name**

This well is part of the "Cornell" prospect.

### **(C) Production Rates and Life of Reserves**

Initial production rates for Well No. A-46 are estimated at 10 million cubic feet of gas per day. Estimated reservoir life is 5 years.

### **(D) New or Unusual Technology**

No new or unusual technology is being employed to drill, complete or produce this development.

### **(E) Bonding Information**

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In accordance with the MMS NTL 2000-G13 concerning bond coverage requirements for OCS oil and gas operations, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. provides the following: By letter dated December 29, 1993, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. submitted a rider effective December 20, 1993 to Bond Number 301525, Item No. A-1454. This rider increased our area-wide lease bond from \$300,000 to \$3,000,000. By letter dated January 10, 1994, the MMS acknowledged receipt and filed this rider.

### **(F) Onshore Base and Support Vessel Information**

The Chevron dock at Venice, Louisiana will be used to support the activity proposed. This dock is approximately 26 nautical miles (48 kilometers) to activity site. It is equipped with cranes, docking space, and communications. No expansion of this base will be required to support the proposed activity. It is estimated that the service boats will make four trips each week. Additionally, personnel may be transported by helicopter. Helicopter flights to the area will average two (2) trips per week.

It is anticipated that the transportation vessels will utilize the most direct routes from their points of origin. (From the shorebase, vessels will proceed down either the Mississippi River through Southwest Pass, or out Tiger Pass to the Gulf (depending of wind direction) and then to the Platform.) However, because a vessel supporting the proposed activities may be scheduled for other stops in the area, the exact route for each vessel on each particular trip cannot be predetermined. Included on the Vicinity Map in the appendix are the proposed transportation routes.

(G) Lease Stipulations

Federal Lease OCS-G 16479 does not contain any specific operational lease stipulations. Lease OCS-G 2937 contains 5 specific operational lease stipulations. Stipulation (a) and (b) concern protection of cultural and archeological resources. All operations are proposed from an existing platform, therefore, no impact to possible cultural resources is expected. Stipulation (c) concerns lease development with minimum necessary facilities. West Delta 108 is being developed from an existing platform. This complies with this stipulation. Stipulation (d) concerns pollution containment and removal. Texaco is and will remain in compliance with this stipulation. Stipulation (e) concerns production from a royalty bid lease. This stipulation has been complied with by formation of the West Delta 109 Unit, Unit Agreement No. 14-08-0001-20245 (Note: OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will not be within the unit area).

(H) Socioeconomic Information

No work under this plan is proposed in deepwater (water depths 400 meters (1,312 feet) or greater), therefore, in accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no socioeconomic information is required with this plan.

(I) Related Facilities and Operations Information

No work under this plan is proposed in deepwater (water depths 400 meters (1,312 feet) or greater), therefore, in accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no related facilities and operations information is required with this plan.

**GEOLOGICAL, GEOPHYSICAL, AND H<sub>2</sub>S INFORMATION**

**Geological and Geophysical Information**

(A) Structure Contour Map(s)

Included in the Appendix to plan is a contoured structure map for the target sand (4,700' Sand). Structure maps reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.

(B) Interpreted 2-D and/or 3-D Seismic Line(s)

Included in the Appendix to one copy of this plan are interpreted seismic lines for the proposed well. Seismic lines reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.

(C) Geological Structure Cross-section(s)

Included in the Appendix to this plan is a geological cross-section. Cross-sections reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.



(D) Shallow Hazards Report

All activities proposed in this plan will be conducted at an existing platform site; therefore no new shallow drilling hazard report has been prepared. Texaco has already drilled over 50 wells (exploration and development) in West Delta 109 and is well aware of potential shallow drilling hazards.

(E) Shallow Hazards Assessment

All activities proposed in this plan will be conducted at an existing platform site; therefore no new shallow drilling hazard assessment has been prepared. Texaco has already drilled over 50 wells (exploration and development) in West Delta 109 and is well aware of potential shallow drilling hazards.

(F) High Resolution Survey Lines

No high-resolution survey lines have been included with this plan because all activity is proposed from an existing platform location.

**Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Information**

(A) Classification

The wells proposed are targeted to reach only as deep as the 4,700' Sand. No Hydrogen Sulfide has been produced or encountered in this sand or shallower sands by any of Texaco's wells in this area, therefore no contingency plan is proposed. Based on our knowledge of the area to date, Texaco would classify this area as "Zones where the absence of H<sub>2</sub>S has been confirmed". However, in accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250, Section 250.417 Paragraph (c), Texaco hereby requests the Regional Supervisor make a determination of the area's classification of probability of encountering H<sub>2</sub>S during operations. (Note: No drilling is scheduled under this plan. Drilling is being conducted under an approved EP.)

(B) H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan

No H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan is required unless the Regional Supervisor's determination is different than the one outlined above. Should it be determined that there is a need for Texaco to submit an H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan, it will be prepared and submitted as part of the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) for this well.

**BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

(A) Chemosynthetic Information

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G20, an analysis of the evidence and consequences of geological phenomena (such as hydrocarbon charged sediments, seismic wipe-out zones, anomalous mounds, gas vents, or oil seeps) that could support chemosynthetic organisms is required when activities are proposed in water depths of greater than 400 meters (1,312 feet). Since the activities proposed in this plan are in water depths of approximately 56 meters (183 feet), no analysis for chemosynthetic organisms has been conducted.

(B) Topographic Features Information

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No activity under this plan will take place within 500 feet (152 meters) of a topographic feature.

(C) Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Information

No activity under this plan will take place within 100 feet (30 meters) of any pinnacle trend feature.

## WASTE AND DISCHARGE INFORMATION

### (A) Cuttings

No cuttings are proposed for discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and cutting discharge) will be under an approved EP.

### (B) Drilling Fluids

No drilling fluids are proposed for discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and drilling fluid discharge) will be under an approved EP.

### (C) Produced Water

Produced water from the proposed well will be cleaned up with equipment on the platform and discharged overboard in accordance with the EPA General NPDES Permit for the Gulf of Mexico.

### (D) Excess Cement

No cement is expected to be discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and any cement discharges) will be under an approved EP.

### (E) Test Fluids

This well should not be tested; therefore, no test fluids are proposed for discharge under this plan. Any completion fluids which might be discharged will be cleaned up with equipment on the platform and discharged overboard in accordance with the EPA General NPDES Permit for the Gulf of Mexico

### (F) Sanitary and Domestic Wastes

#### a. Drilling Rig

Sanitary wastes are collected from commodes on board the drilling rig and are treated in an USCG approved sewerage treatment plant prior to discharge. The average daily discharge from the sewerage treatment plant will be approximately 660 gallons (2,271 liters). Wastewater from sinks, showers, laundry and the galley comprise the domestic wastes produced on the rig. No solids are included in this effluent. Approximately 2,700 gallons (10,221 liters) of domestic waste are discharged daily.

#### b. Support Vessels

Sanitary and domestic wastes are treated on board the vessel prior to discharge. The amount of wastes discharged is dependent upon the number of people on board at any one time. The volume, however, is small and would have negligible impact on receiving waters.

#### c. Onshore Support Bases

Sanitary and domestic wastes produced at the onshore base will be processed by the local sewerage treatment system. The quantity of effluent involved is dependent upon the number of personnel at the support base at any one time. It is anticipated that crew change days will account for the largest volume of sanitary and domestic wastes, but these volumes should have negligible impact on treatment facilities.

### (G) Freshwater Maker Blowdown

The desalination unit(s) on the platform and/or drilling rig are capable of producing 10,000 to 15,000 gallons (37,854 to 56,781 liters) of freshwater per day. The unit(s) are cooled by heat exchange with incoming

seawater that is then discharged. Approximately 460,000 gallons (1,741,289 liters) of seawater and desalination unit effluent are discharged from each unit daily.

(H) Service Water and Fire System Test Water

The non-contact cooling water for engines, air conditioners, and air compressors and fire-system test water are composed of seawater that is not exposed to any form of contaminant. These waters are discharged at a daily rate of 1,340,000 gallons (5,072,452 liters).

(I) Deck Drainage

Two types of deck drainage effluent are produced on a platform and/or drilling rig. One is derived from decked areas that are not subject to hydrocarbon contamination. The volume of effluent discharged from these areas is dependent primarily upon rainfall and rig maintenance operations. Since no hydrocarbon contamination occurs in these areas, the effluent is discharged directly to receiving waters. The second type of effluent is derived from deck space contaminated by hydrocarbons. This effluent is routed through a settling tank where the hydrocarbon fraction is separated from the water. Water discharged from the settling tank contains no free oil. Approximately 50 gallons (189 liters) of oil per month is collected from the settling tank and shipped to the onshore base for proper disposal.

(J) Non-Hazardous Solid Waste

Solid wastes, in addition to the drill cuttings that are generated and discharged offshore, include mud sacks, paper, plastic, cloth, food scraps, and metal. All of these wastes, except for the metal and possibly paper, will be collected in multi-layer polypropylene sacks and transported to shore for disposal at an approved disposal facility. Scrap metal, casing and thread protectors, used drilling bits, and other metal wastes are classified as tangible items. These are either re-used or sold as scrap and are, therefore, not treated in the same manner as the solid waste discussed earlier. Paper may be incinerated onsite. Solid wastes generated from the transportation vessels, normally just garbage, will be collected and returned to shore for disposal with the rig refuse. Supply base wastes, normally consisting of paper, plastic, and packing materials, will be collected and disposed of along with the other solid wastes generated by the proposed operation. The volume of solid wastes generated by the proposed operation is dependent upon a variety of factors, however it is not anticipated to exceed 400 pounds (181 kg) per day.

(K) Contaminated Liquid and Solid Wastes

All liquid and solid wastes contaminated by hydrocarbons or other hazardous substances will be collected and transported to an approved disposal site. Included in this waste category are used engine oil, vessel bilge drainage, hydrocarbons collected from settling tanks on the rig, and hydrocarbon-contaminated solids such as rag and paper.

## **OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CHEMICAL INFORMATION**

(A) Information to Comply with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA '90)

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a. Regional Oil Spill Response Plan Information

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.'s Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) was approved by the MMS on August 25, 1999. The activities proposed under this Supplemental DOCD will be covered by this plan. The following companies are covered by our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (see OSRP Section 3, Page 3):

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (TEPI) a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 00771).

Four Star Oil and Gas Company, a majority owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code is 00005)

Sabine Pipeline Company Inc., a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 00835)

Discovery Gas Transmission L.L.C., a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 02272)

Bridgeline Gas Distribution L.L.C., a majority owned and operated subsidiary.  
(Louisiana State Company Code: B124)

Gulf Coast Unit Facilities Located in MMS OPA 1990 Jurisdiction Waters.  
(Louisiana State Company Code: 6840)

b. Oil Spill Removal Organizations

The following are the names our primary oil spill removal organizations for both equipment and personnel (see OSRP Section 4, Page 43):

Texaco, being a member of Clean Gulf Associates and the Marine Spill Response Corporation, will use equipment and personnel from these cooperatives and that of USCG certified, contracted oil spill removal organizations (OSROs). Texaco also maintains a list of qualified Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO) to provide equipment and a manpower pool of trained personnel to provide cleanup and removal expertise.

Texaco's USCG-classified Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) that may provide assistance in performing oil spill response requirements are listed below. Our Master Work Agreements With Independent Contractors require these contractors to provide without limitation, oil spill response, oil spill cleanup, environmental services, site characterizations remediation, training, equipment, confined space entry, waste management services at various Texaco leases and/or properties.

Oil Mop, Inc.	L & L Environmental Services, Inc.
Cenac Environmental Services, Inc.(ES&H, Inc.)	Philip Services/Louisiana, Inc. (Allwaste)
Garner Environmental Services, Inc.	Industrial Cleanup, Inc. (ICI)
Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc.	

c. Worst-Case Scenario Comparison

Category	Regional OSRP	DOCD
Type of Activity	Production – platform	Production – Well
Facility Location (area/block)	WD 109	WD 109
Facility Designation	"A"	"A-46"
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (miles)	5.1	5.1
Storage tanks (total volume)	5,582 bbls	5,582 bbls
Flowlines (on facility)	558 bbls	558 bbls
Lease term pipelines	0 bbls	0 bbls
Uncontrolled blowout (volume per day)	2,190 bbls	0 bbls
Total Volume	8,330 bbls	6,140 bbls
Type of Oil(s) - (crude oil, condensate, diesel)	Crude oil Diesel	Diesel
API Gravity(s) <sup>4</sup>	37.5° (Oil) No. 2 Diesel	No. 2 Diesel

Since Texaco has the capability to respond to the worst-case spill scenario included in its Regional OSRP approved on August 25, 1999, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our DOCD does not replace the worst-case scenario in our regional OSRP, I hereby certify that Texaco has the capability to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst-case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in our DOCD.

(B) Information for MMS to Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no additional information is required in this plan for the MMS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

**AIR EMISSION INFORMATION**

No air emission information is provided with this plan. All emissions for this well have been approved under an approved EP (for drilling) or under an approved DOCD (for drilling, completion and production). Air emissions from OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will be less than already approved for OCS-G 2897 Well No. A-46.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, an Environmental Report (ER) is required with this DOCD. It is attached as a separate report to this document.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION**

In accordance with MMS's NTL No. 2000-G21, a Certificate of Consistency with Louisiana's Coastal Management Plan is required for this activity. It and its public notice are attached in the Appendix.

**PLAN INFORMATION FORM**

Attached in the Appendix to each copy of this document is the appropriate Form MMS-137 providing specific summary information concerning this plan.

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## **APPENDIX**

Form MMS-137

Vicinity Map with Transportation Routes

Structure Map for 4,700' Sand

Interpreted Seismic Line Within 500 feet of Proposed Surface Location (1 copy only)

Geological Structure Cross-Sections through Target Sand

Louisiana Coastal Zone Consistency Certification and Public Notice

Environmental Report

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# PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY

## OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM (USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH LEASE)

EXPLORATION PLAN	DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT	X	DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION PLAN
OPERATOR: Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.		ADDRESS: 400 Poydras Street	
MMS OPERATOR NO.: 00771		New Orleans, LA 70130-3245	
CONTACT PERSON: Vince Cottone		PHONE NO. 504-680-1471	
PROPOSED START DATE: April 1, 2001		RIG TYPE: Platform	DISTANCE TO CLOSEST LAND (IN MILES): 5.1
NEW OR UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGY	YES	NO XXX	ONSHORE SUPPORT BASE(S): Venice, Louisiana
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: Complete one (1) development well in West Delta Block 108 (OCS-G 16479).			
PROJECT NAME, IF APPLICABLE: Cornell			

### PROPOSED WELL/STRUCTURE LOCATIONS

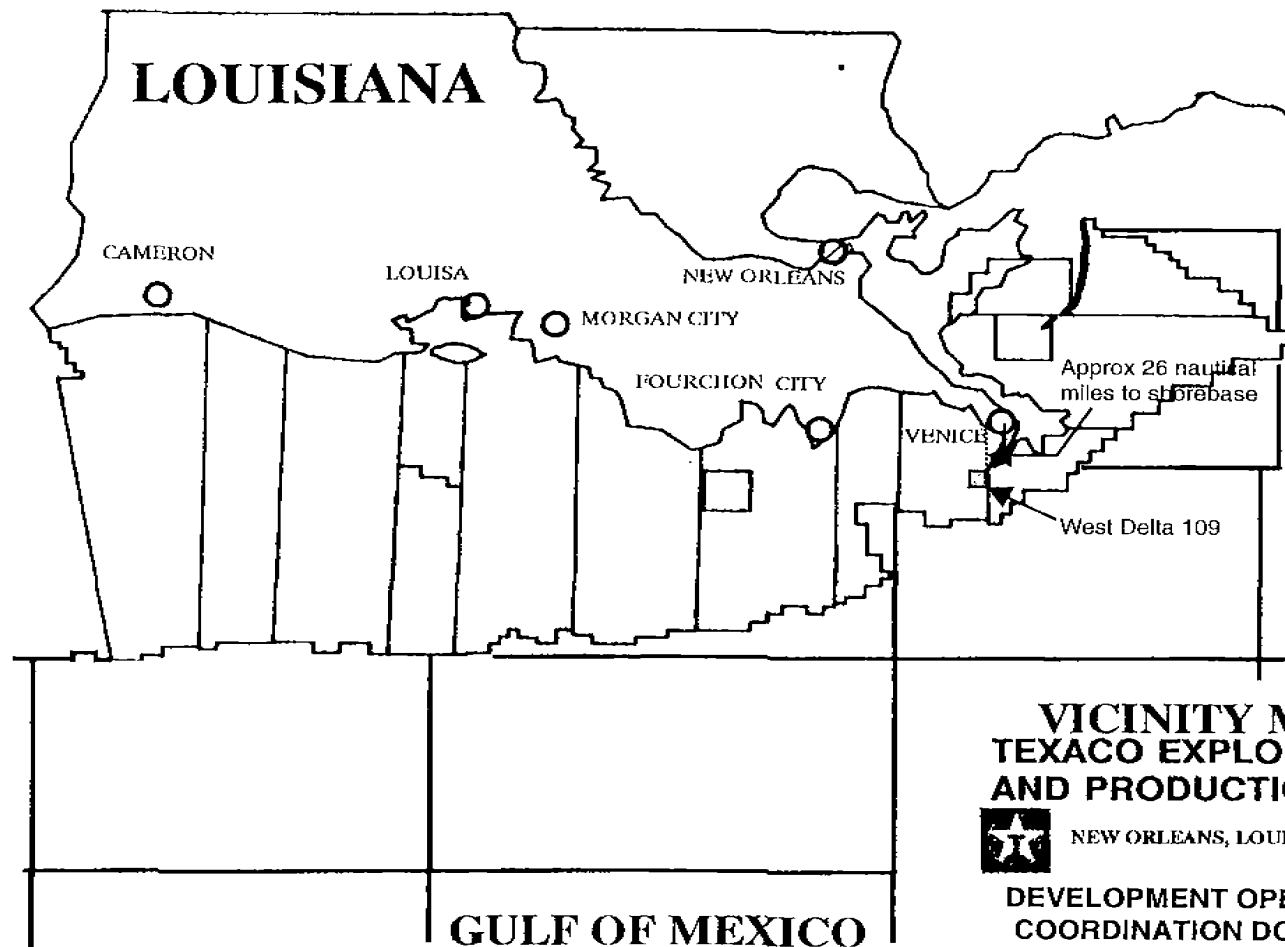
WELL/ STRUCTURE NAME	SURFACE LOCATION	BOTTOM-HOLE LOCATION (FOR WELLS)
Well No. A-46	CALLS: 3,365' FEL and 4,440' FSL OF LEASE OCS-G 2937, WEST DELTA AREA, BLOCK 109	Information contained in these sections of this Public Information Copy of this document has been deleted.
	X: 2,602,113' Y: 65,748'	
	LAT: 28° 50' 01.952" N LONG: 89° 27' 10.982" W	
	TVD(IN FEET):	MD (IN FEET):

Form MMS-137 (January 2000)

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# LEGEND

PROPOSED AIR ROUTES: .....  
PROPOSED BOAT ROUTES: - - - -



DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

**VICINITY MAP  
TEXACO EXPLORATION  
AND PRODUCTION INC.**



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



**DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS  
COORDINATION DOCUMENT  
West Delta 109 - OCS-G 2937**



**STRUCTURE CONTOUR MAP(S),  
2-D AND/OR 3-D SEISMIC LINES  
GEOLOGICAL CROSS-SECTION(S), &  
HIGH RESOLUTION SURVEY LINES  
HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM THIS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY**

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## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

Development  
Type of Plan

West Delta 108  
Area and Block

OCS-G 16479  
Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

Arrangements have been made with The Advocate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to publish a notice of the proposed activities no later than twelve (12) working days from the date below. Additionally, arrangements have been made with the Plaquemines Gazette in Belle Chasse, LA to publish a public notice of the proposed activities no later than twelve (12) working days from the date below.

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
Lessee or Operator

Vincent J. Cothone  
Certifying Official

March 9, 2001  
Date

---

Public Notice of Federal Consistency Review of a  
Proposed Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD)  
By the Coastal Management Division/Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources for the Plan's Consistency with  
The Louisiana Coastal Resources Program

**Applicant:** Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
P. O. Box 60252  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0252

**Location:** West Delta Area, Lease OCS-G 16479  
Block 108  
Lease date: 08/01/1996

**Description:** The proposed DOCD for the above area provides for the development and production of hydrocarbons. Support activities are to be conducted from an onshore base located at Venice, Louisiana. No ecologically sensitive species or habitats are expected to be located near or affected by these activities.

A copy of the plan described above is available for inspection at the Coastal Management Division Office located on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of the State Land and Natural Resources Bldg., 625 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The public is requested to submit comments to the Coastal Management Division, Attention: OCS Plans, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487. Comments must be received within 15 days of the date of this notice or 15 days after the Coastal Management Division obtains a copy of the plan and it is available for public inspection. This Public Notice is provided to meet the requirements of the NOAA Regulations on Federal Consistency with approved Coastal Management Programs.

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**Note:** This public notice was sent to the Advocate in Baton Rouge, LA, and the Plaquemines Gazette in Belle Chasse, LA for publication as a legal ad. A one-(1) time publication was requested on or before twelve (12) working days from the submittal date of this document.



# **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**CORNELL PROSPECT**

**WEST DELTA AREA**

**BLOCKS 108-109**

**TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INC.**

**MARCH 2001**

**Prepared by:**

**Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
Post Office Box 60252  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0252  
(504) 680-1471  
Email – cottovf@texaco.com**

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## Description of Proposed Action

This report addresses the activities proposed by Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (Texaco) for West Delta Block 108 (OCS-G 16479). The approximate location of the proposed activities (to take place in West Delta Block 109) is presented in Figure 1, a general vicinity map of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease areas. The surface location and additional information regarding specific activities that are proposed by Texaco for this block is included in the DOCD to which this document is a part.

### a. Travel Modes, Routes, and Frequencies

Service boats and helicopters will be used to transport equipment, material, personnel, and supplies to the site. It is estimated that the service boats will make four (4) trips each week. Helicopter flights to the area will average two (2) trips per week.

It is anticipated that transportation will use the most direct routes from their points of origin. Service boats will travel down either the Mississippi River through Southwest Pass or out Tiger Pass to the Gulf, depending on wind direction, and then to the Platform. Helicopters should fly directly from their point of origin to the Platform.

However, because transportation equipment supporting the proposed activity may be scheduled for other stops, the exact route for each piece on each particular trip cannot be predetermined. Included on Figure 1 are the proposed transportation routes.

### b. Support Facilities and New Personnel

The proposed activity will use the existing Chevron Dock at Venice, Louisiana to support this activity. This base is equipped with cranes, docking space and communications. No expansion to this base will be required to support the proposed activities. Also, all activities will be accomplished using existing employees and contract personnel, therefore no new employment is expected as a result of these activities.

### c. New Support Facilities

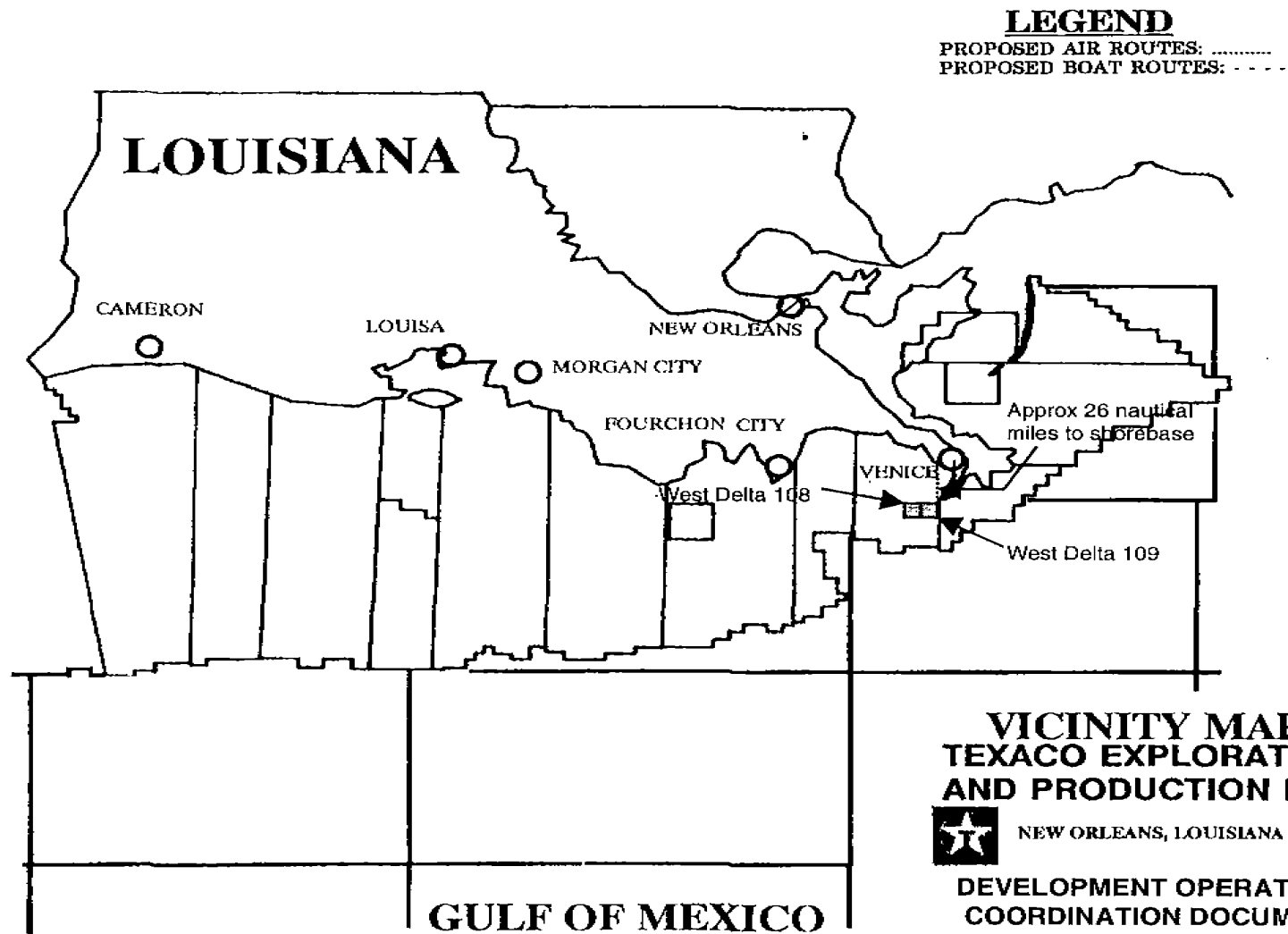
The proposed activity will not require any new support facilities. All activity is planned at an existing platform and will use existing export pipelines to transport produced hydrocarbons to other existing facilities.

### d. New or Unusual Technology

No new techniques or unusual technology will be used.

### e. Location of the Proposed Activities

The proposed activity is located approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) south of the Mississippi River's Southwest Pass. Figure 1 shows the location of Block 109 in relation to the Gulf Coast, as well as the geographic relationship between this West Delta block and other OCS lease areas.



DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

**VICINITY MAP  
TEXACO EXPLORATION  
AND PRODUCTION INC.**



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



**DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS  
COORDINATION DOCUMENT  
West Delta 109 - OCS-G 2937**

## **Description of the Affected Environment and Impacts**

### **a. Physical and Environmental**

#### **(1) Commercial Fishing**

West Delta Block 109 is located approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) from land. Water depth range within the block is approximately 100 to 200 feet (30 to 61 meters). This location is within the limits of the major commercial marine fishing area (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). No additional surface facilities are planned with this activity; however, waters adjacent to the drill site may become temporarily turbid due to drilling operations. These operations should have no impact on commercial fisheries.

#### **(2) Shipping**

West Delta Block 109 is traversed in the north-south direction with the designated shipping fairway leading to Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). Marine vessels supporting the proposed activities may use this shipping fairway to access the shorebase. These vessels should not interfere with normal shipping. All marine vessel operations will be in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard's regulations regarding navigation standards and each will be equipped with all U.S. Coast Guard required navigational safety aids.

#### **(3) Small Craft Pleasure Boating, Sport Fishing and Recreation**

Activities proposed in the accompanying plan are confined to West Delta Block 109. This block is located approximately 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the coast and has a water depth range of approximately 100 to 200 feet (30 meters to 61 meters). Many fishermen charter boats to deep-sea fish and sport dive in the Gulf. Petroleum platforms in the Gulf provide recreation for fishermen and scuba divers because they act as artificial reefs attracting and establishing aquatic communities including highly sought food and sport fishes. The reef effect created by petroleum platforms is well known and is evidenced by the numerous private boat owners who regularly visit offshore facilities to harvest food and sport fishes.

Frequently, offshore rigs and platforms serve as navigation points for small commercial and recreational marine craft. Manned rigs and platforms can also provide a haven for small craft operators forced to abandon their vessels during storms or following accidents.

Installation and use of navigational aids, lifesaving equipment and other safety requirements pursuant to Coast Guard regulations are standard procedure for rigs, production platforms and marine vessels used by Texaco. No adverse impacts on pleasure boating, sport fishing or recreation are anticipated as a result of these proposed activities.

#### **(4) Archaeological Resources**

There are no known archaeological resources located in West Delta Block 109. Visual 3 to U.S.D.I. Lease Sale Environmental Impact Statements indicates the block is outside the designated prehistoric cultural resources high probability line. The U.S.D.I. MMS map titled "Archaeological Resources in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico" indicates West Delta 109 is designated as a Historic Archaeological High Probability Area in water less than 60 meters for containing an historic period shipwreck. Since all activities are planned from an existing platform, no impact to archaeological resources is expected.

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(5) Ecologically Sensitive Features

There are no known ecologically sensitive features located in West Delta Block 109 (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). The nearest sensitive marine feature is the Sackett Bank located approximately 15 miles (24 kilometers) to the southwest.

Transportation to the onshore support bases will necessitate the passage of marine vessels and helicopter traffic across the coastline. These operations will have only minimal impact on the shoreline.

The greatest threat to ecologically sensitive features is from an oil spill. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Gulf of Mexico Sales 157 and 161 for the Central and Western Planning Areas dated November 1995 and its related Oil-Spill Analysis Report (OCS report MMS 95-0026) discusses trajectory simulations. An oil spill for the proposed activity area (launch site C 51) would have a 23% chance of impacting Land Segment 19 (Plaquemines Parish, LA area), an 18% chance of impacting Land Segment 17 (Lafourche, Parish, LA area), a 10% chance of impacting Land Segments 16 or 18 (Terrebonne or Jefferson, Parishes, LA areas), and a 1% chance of impacting Land Segments 13 or 14 (Vermilion or New Iberia Parishes, LA area) within 10 days. All other land segments have less than a 0.5% chance of being impacted within 10 days.

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 254, Texaco has on file with the MMS an approved Oil Spill Response Plan. MMS letter dated August 25, 1999 approved this plan. West Delta 109 "A" (this facility) is the "near shore" facility for which a Worst Case Discharge volume is planned in the approved Oil Spill Response Plan.

Texaco is a member of Clean Gulf Associates (CGA) and the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC). This provides us access to a stockpile of oil spill containment and clean-up equipment and materials for use in the offshore and estuarine areas. There are several CGA bases which are strategically located along the Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida coast lines of the Gulf of Mexico that have the material and equipment necessary to control and clean-up oil spills. The closest CGA base, which is at Fort Jackson, Louisiana, is a distance of 35 nautical miles (64 kilometers) to the proposed site.

The CGA Dedicated Response Vessel (DRV) is a 37' purpose built fast-response oil recovery vessel. It is positioned, for rapid deployment, in Venice, LA. Also, CGA has a 46' purpose built fast-response recovery vessel, the M/V Timbalier Bay positioned at their base in Houma, LA. Texaco proposes to use the Venice-based vessel for first response. Its' estimated response time is 4 hours.

Also, Texaco owns considerable pollution control equipment in addition to the equipment available through the Clean Gulf Associates. This equipment is stored at shore bases and at various locations in and around the Gulf of Mexico. Texaco using workboats will deploy this equipment. It would be transported to the spill site by either boat or helicopter. This equipment is immediately available, and in the event of pollution would be used as needed.

If a spill should occur from the proposed location, Texaco would activate its Oil Spill Response Team. Determine from the current conditions the probable location and time of landfall. Then using the Clean Gulf Operations Manual, Volume II, Louisiana Map Nos. 5 and 6, updated by contact with local wildlife agency personnel and by using SpillNet™, identify the biologically sensitive areas and determine the appropriate response mode. Upon activation of the proper equipment, Texaco would deploy it as suggested by Section VI of Volume II of the Clean Gulf Operations Manual or as appropriate to effectively respond to site-specific circumstances.



(6) Existing Pipelines and Cables

There is no evidence of any cables in West Delta Block 109. There is a 12-inch (30-cm) natural gas export pipeline leaving West Delta 109 "A" to the south and an 8-inch (20-cm) crude oil pipeline leaving to the north.

(7) Other Mineral Uses

The activities that are proposed for West Delta Block 109 would have no impact on other mineral uses. Texaco knows of no other mineral uses planned for this block other than oil or gas exploration.

(8) Ocean Dumping

The major sources of ocean dumping related to OCS hydrocarbon development activities are drilling mud and drill cuttings. Drill cuttings are brought to the surface by the drilling mud, separated and disposed of overboard. No drilling is planned under the DOCD to which this Environmental Report is a part. Treated domestic waste, kitchen, and other wastes may also be disposed of at the proposed activity site. There will be no intentional discharge of any oily or hazardous materials in violation of MMS or EPA regulations.

(9) Endangered or Threatened Species

Five (5) species of baleen whales (blue, fin, humpback, northern right, and sei) and one (1) species of toothed whale (sperm) and five (5) species of marine turtles (Kemp's ridley, green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead) found within the Gulf of Mexico are currently listed as endangered (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1997, p III-39 through III-44). Of the whale species, all are uncommon to rare in the Gulf except for the sperm whale. Generally, these whales inhabit the waters of the continental slope and the deep oceanic waters. The leatherback turtle is believed to prefer the deeper oceanic waters while the other species may be considered more coastal in nature. However, it is possible that any of these species may occur in the project area at one time or another. Little or no impact is expected to any of these threatened or endangered species by the proposed activities.

Federally listed endangered or threatened species expected to occur in the vicinity of the onshore bases are the bald eagle, the brown pelican, whooping crane, piping plover, least tern and eskimo curlew (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1997, p III-44 through III-46). The bald eagle inhabits the area from Morgan City, Louisiana east and north to the Mississippi River. The eskimo curlew is a small American curlew that nests in Arctic tundra and migrates across the Louisiana coast. The brown pelican nests in coastal Louisiana. The piping plover is a migratory shorebird that is endemic to North America and winters on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. The whooping crane is an omnivorous, wading bird. These birds winter in coastal marshes and estuarine habitat along the Gulf of Mexico coast at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. The least tern is the smallest North American Tern. Least terns are listed as endangered, except within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the coast.

No federally listed endangered plant species are known to occur in the Louisiana coastal area.

The FEIS for lease sales 169, 172, 175, 178 and 182 (U.S.D.I., 1997) discusses the occurrence and impact on endangered or threatened species. The impacts discussed are primarily based on the occurrence of oil spills. The impacts on various endangered and threatened species will depend on the nature of the spill, weather conditions, proximity of the spill to the species, tolerance of the species for oil, and the response time and effectiveness of the spill cleanup and containment.

services. Given these variables, the impact on the various endangered or threatened species will vary from no effect to serious.

The experience of oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico indicates that there is a small probability of occurrence of an oil spill. The probability remains low because of the level of technology used by the industry to insure safe and responsible operations. Texaco, as a prudent operator, will take the necessary measures to reduce the probability of oil spills. It is unlikely offshore or onshore activities related to this activity would have any effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species.

## **Socioeconomic Data**

In accordance with MMS guidelines, the initial OCS Socioeconomic Database Report for support base facilities used by Texaco will be prepared pursuant to parameters to be established between MMS and the States.

## **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

An oil spill or well blowout would cause the greatest environmental threat. Using trained personnel, adequate operational safeguards, and employing available safety and pollution control systems can reduce these occurrences in number. These measures are standard operating procedure for Texaco.

The unavoidable adverse impacts that will occur as a result of the proposed exploration activity will be few in number and temporary in nature. The primary adverse impacts are a localized degradation of water and air quality in the vicinity of the activity sites the potential obstruction to commercial and recreational fishing vessels, and the disruption and/or killing of benthic and/or pelagic organisms during the disposal of domestic wastes and treated sewage.

The proposed activities will generate a small amount of air pollutants due to the emissions from the diesel engines; therefore, some deterioration in air quality of the OCS operation area is expected. These emissions affect only the immediate activity site and are rapidly dissipated by the atmosphere. Air emissions for this activity have been approved in two previous plans. Air emissions from drilling are covered in both the EP under which the well is being drilled and the Supplemental DOCD for the OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-46 that is being replaced with this activity.

Commercial and recreational fishing could be affected by the proposed activities, mainly in terms of interference. Although the unavoidable adverse impacts could include some smothering of shellfish, reduction of the area presently available for unrestricted fishing, and minimal finfish killing, fishing activities would not be significantly affected.

## **References**

1. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 157 and 161: Central and Western Planning Areas, November 1995.
2. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 166 and 168: Central and Western Planning Areas, December 1996.
3. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 169, 172, 175, 178 and 182: Central and Western Planning Areas, November 1997.

4. Shallow Hazards Report, Blocks 18, 62, 108, and 64, West Delta Area, Gulf of Mexico to Texaco USA, New Orleans, Louisiana by Fugro-McCelland Marine Geosciences, Inc., Report No. 02012-1762, Dated April 15, 1992.

### **Statement**

"The proposed activity will be carried out and completed with the guarantee that: The best available and safest technologies will be used throughout the project. These include meeting all applicable requirements for equipment types, general project layout, safety systems, and equipment and monitoring systems. All operations will be covered by an approved oil spill response plan. All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding air emissions and water quality and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with."

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March 12, 2001

Mr. Gus C. Rodemacher  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Mineral Resources  
Post Office Box 2827  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2827

Dear Mr. Rodemacher:

In accordance with 30 CFR 250.203(f) and (h) and your letter of August 21, 1997, enclosed for your review and comment is the following plan and its accompanying documents:

Control #	-	N-07079
Type	-	Initial Exploration Plan
Lease(s)	-	OCS-G02937 Block - 109 West Delta Area OCS-G16479 Block - 108 West Delta Area
Operator	-	Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.
Description	-	Well A-46

During the evaluation, we shall consider all comments received from your office within 21 days of the receipt of this plan.

Please refer to the above control number in all communication and correspondence concerning the subject plan.

Your review and comments are requested by April 13, 2001.

Sincerely,

Robert Stringfellow  
Plan Coordinator

bcc: Lease OCS - G16479 POD File w/plan, N-07079 (MS 5032)

STRINGFER: 03/12/2001 Louisiana Governor Review



Texaco

P O Box 60252  
New Orleans LA 70160

N-7079

March 9, 2001

Mr. Donald C. Howard, Regional Supervisor  
Office of Field Operations  
Minerals Management Service  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



Re: **GOV - MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**  
Plans of Exploration and Development  
Initial Development Operations  
Coordination Document (DOCD)  
West Delta 108 - OCS-G 16479  
Offshore Louisiana

Dear Mr. Howard:

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250.204 we submit for your approval five (5) proprietary and four (4) public information copies of an Initial DOCD for West Delta Block 108. This DOCD describes proposed activities relating to OCS-G 16479 Well A-46.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at telephone number (504) 680-1471 or by email at cottovf@texaco.com.

Yours very truly,

Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
EHS Professional

VFC:

Attachment

# PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY



## INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT

GULF OF MEXICO: OFFSHORE LOUISIANA

WEST DELTA BLOCK 108

OCS-G 16479

TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INC.

WELL NO. A-46

JANUARY 2001

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Prepared By:

Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
400 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3245  
Phone (504) 680-1471  
Fax (504) 680-4641  
E-mail [cottovf@texaco.com](mailto:cottovf@texaco.com)

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## **PLAN CONTENTS**

### **(A) Description, Objectives, and Schedule**

Federal Lease OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will be drilled under an approved Exploration Plan (Plan Control No. R-3605). It will be drilled from the existing West Delta 109 "A" Platform, in place of OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-46, approved on July 6, 2000 under a Supplemental Development Operations Coordination Document (Plan Control No. S-5268).

Under this plan, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (Texaco) purposes to complete and produce West Delta Block 108, OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46. Well No. A-46 will be completed in the 4,700' Sand. The overall trapping mechanism is an east-northeast – west-southwest trending, down to the south fault. Geopressure is not expected to be encountered.

The closest producing analog well for the 4,700' Sand is located in an adjacent fault block. OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-51 is currently producing at approximately 9 million cubic feet of gas per day and 1,750 barrel of water per day.

Drilling of OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 should commence (under its approved EP) by the end of March 2001. Drilling is expected to take 28 days. Work under this plan should commence about May 1, 2001. Completion activities are expected to last 15 days. Work under this plan should be completed by June 2001.

### **(B) Location**

The West Delta 109 "A" Platform is located in about 183 feet (55.8 meters) of water at 3,446 feet (1,050 meters) from the east line and 4,464 feet (1,361 meters) for the south line of West Delta Block 109. The platform is approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) offshore of the Louisiana coast south of the mouth of the Mississippi River at Southwest Pass. Additional well specific information concerning this location (Latitude/Longitude, X/Y, PBHL, etc.) is contained on Form MMS-137 attached in the Appendix.

### **(C) Production Facilities**

The "A" platform is a 30-slot, 4-pile tubular steel space frame conventional jacket with 3 decks and crew quarters, boat dock, helicopter landing pad, process equipment capable of processing 25,000 barrels of oil per day, 40,000 barrels of water per day, and 100 million cubic feet of gas per day, and associated piping. The main and cellar decks are 127 feet by 135 feet (38.7 x 41.1 meters) and the top deck is 45 feet by 129 feet (13.7 x 39.3 meters). No changes to these facilities are expected as a result of the activity described in this plan.

### **(D) Drilling Unit**

Texaco is using the API self-contained platform-type-drilling unit ENSCO 29 to drill and complete the well. The ENSCO 29 is rated to drill to 25,000 feet (7,620 meters). The derrick is 160 feet (49 meters) high with a 30 by 30 feet (9 x 9 meters) base and a maximum hook load of 1,300,000 pounds (589,670 kilograms).

Blowout prevention equipment includes a Koomey 360 gallon (1,363 liter), 3,000 psi (2,109,300 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. accumulator system; one (1) 20-inch (51 cm) Hydril with a 2,000 psi (1,406,200 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type GK diverter system; one (1) Shaffer 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 5,000 psi (3,515,500 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. annular preventer; one (1) Cameron 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type "U" single ram BOP and one (1) Cameron 13-5/8 inch (34.6 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. Type "U" double ram BOP; and one (1) 3-1/16 inch (7.8 cm), 10,000 psi (7,031,000 Kgs/m<sup>2</sup>) W.P. choke manifold. Blowout preventers and choke manifold are treated for H<sub>2</sub>S service. Other well control equipment includes mud pit level and flow indicators, combustible and H<sub>2</sub>S gas detectors, and emergency power.

Life saving equipment includes life vests or jackets, buoys, smoke signal, fireman's suits and air breathing apparatus, first aid kits, fire fighting equipment and communications equipment.

The well, when completed, will be equipped with appropriate safety devices and valves in accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250. All other safety and control equipment will be used in accordance with the applicable subparts of Title 30 CFR Part 250.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **(A) Contact**

Questions, concerns or requests for additional information about this plan should be directed to:

Mr. Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
400 Poydras Street 70130-3245  
PO Box 60252 70160-0252  
New Orleans, LA

(504) 680-1471 Phone  
(504) 680-4641 Fax  
[cottovf@texaco.com](mailto:cottovf@texaco.com) email

### **(B) Project Name**

This well is part of the "Cornell" prospect.

### **(C) Production Rates and Life of Reserves**

Initial production rates for Well No. A-46 are estimated at 10 million cubic feet of gas per day. Estimated reservoir life is 5 years.

### **(D) New or Unusual Technology**

No new or unusual technology is being employed to drill, complete or produce this development.

### **(E) Bonding Information**

In accordance with the MMS NTL 2000-G13 concerning bond coverage requirements for OCS oil and gas operations, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. provides the following: By letter dated December 29, 1993, Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. submitted a rider effective December 20, 1993 to Bond Number 301525, Item No. A-1454. This rider increased our area-wide lease bond from \$300,000 to \$3,000,000. By letter dated January 10, 1994, the MMS acknowledged receipt and filed this rider.

### **(F) Onshore Base and Support Vessel Information**

The Chevron dock at Venice, Louisiana will be used to support the activity proposed. This dock is approximately 26 nautical miles (48 kilometers) to activity site. It is equipped with cranes, docking space, and communications. No expansion of this base will be required to support the proposed activity. It is estimated that the service boats will make four trips each week. Additionally, personnel may be transported by helicopter. Helicopter flights to the area will average two (2) trips per week.

It is anticipated that the transportation vessels will utilize the most direct routes from their points of origin. (From the shorebase, vessels will proceed down either the Mississippi River through Southwest Pass, or out Tiger Pass to the Gulf (depending of wind direction) and then to the Platform.) However, because a vessel supporting the proposed activities may be scheduled for other stops in the area, the exact route for each vessel on each particular trip cannot be predetermined. Included on the Vicinity Map in the appendix are the proposed transportation routes.

#### (G) Lease Stipulations

Federal Lease OCS-G 16479 does not contain any specific operational lease stipulations. Lease OCS-G 2937 contains 5 specific operational lease stipulations. Stipulation (a) and (b) concern protection of cultural and archeological resources. All operations are proposed from an existing platform, therefore, no impact to possible cultural resources is expected. Stipulation (c) concerns lease development with minimum necessary facilities. West Delta 108 is being developed from an existing platform. This complies with this stipulation. Stipulation (d) concerns pollution containment and removal. Texaco is and will remain in compliance with this stipulation. Stipulation (e) concerns production from a royalty bid lease. This stipulation has been complied with by formation of the West Delta 109 Unit, Unit Agreement No. 14-08-0001-20245 (Note: OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will not be within the unit area).

#### (H) Socioeconomic Information

No work under this plan is proposed in deepwater (water depths 400 meters (1,312 feet) or greater), therefore, in accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no socioeconomic information is required with this plan.

#### (I) Related Facilities and Operations Information

No work under this plan is proposed in deepwater (water depths 400 meters (1,312 feet) or greater), therefore, in accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no related facilities and operations information is required with this plan.

### **GEOLOGICAL, GEOPHYSICAL, AND H<sub>2</sub>S INFORMATION**

#### **Geological and Geophysical Information**

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##### (A) Structure Contour Map(s)

Included in the Appendix to plan is a contoured structure map for the target sand (4,700' Sand). Structure maps reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.

##### (B) Interpreted 2-D and/or 3-D Seismic Line(s)

Included in the Appendix to one copy of this plan are interpreted seismic lines for the proposed well. Seismic lines reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.

##### (C) Geological Structure Cross-section(s)

Included in the Appendix to this plan is a geological cross-section. Cross-sections reflect current subsurface interpretation of geology in the area and are considered confidential data. They are submitted for use by authorized Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel only. They are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom on Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 and not included in the Public Information copies of this document.

(D) Shallow Hazards Report

All activities proposed in this plan will be conducted at an existing platform site; therefore no new shallow drilling hazard report has been prepared. Texaco has already drilled over 50 wells (exploration and development) in West Delta 109 and is well aware of potential shallow drilling hazards.

(E) Shallow Hazards Assessment

All activities proposed in this plan will be conducted at an existing platform site; therefore no new shallow drilling hazard assessment has been prepared. Texaco has already drilled over 50 wells (exploration and development) in West Delta 109 and is well aware of potential shallow drilling hazards.

(F) High Resolution Survey Lines

No high-resolution survey lines have been included with this plan because all activity is proposed from an existing platform location.

**Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Information**

(A) Classification

The wells proposed are targeted to reach only as deep as the 4,700' Sand. No Hydrogen Sulfide has been produced or encountered in this sand or shallower sands by any of Texaco's wells in this area, therefore no contingency plan is proposed. Based on our knowledge of the area to date, Texaco would classify this area as "Zones where the absence of H<sub>2</sub>S has been confirmed". However, in accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250, Section 250.417 Paragraph (c), Texaco hereby requests the Regional Supervisor make a determination of the area's classification of probability of encountering H<sub>2</sub>S during operations. (Note: No drilling is scheduled under this plan. Drilling is being conducted under an approved EP.)

(B) H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan

No H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan is required unless the Regional Supervisor's determination is different than the one outlined above. Should it be determined that there is a need for Texaco to submit an H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan, it will be prepared and submitted as part of the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) for this well.

**BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

(A) Chemosynthetic Information

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G20, an analysis of the evidence and consequences of geological phenomena (such as hydrocarbon charged sediments, seismic wipe-out zones, anomalous mounds, gas vents, or oil seeps) that could support chemosynthetic organisms is required when activities are proposed in water depths of greater than 400 meters (1,312 feet). Since the activities proposed in this plan are in water depths of approximately 56 meters (183 feet), no analysis for chemosynthetic organisms has been conducted.

(B) Topographic Features Information

No activity under this plan will take place within 500 feet (152 meters) of a topographic feature.

(C) Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Information

No activity under this plan will take place within 100 feet (30 meters) of any pinnacle trend feature.

## WASTE AND DISCHARGE INFORMATION

### (A) Cuttings

No cuttings are proposed for discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and cutting discharge) will be under an approved EP.

### (B) Drilling Fluids

No drilling fluids are proposed for discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and drilling fluid discharge) will be under an approved EP.

### (C) Produced Water

Produced water from the proposed well will be cleaned up with equipment on the platform and discharged overboard in accordance with the EPA General NPDES Permit for the Gulf of Mexico.

### (D) Excess Cement

No cement is expected to be discharge under this plan. Drilling of this well (and any cement discharges) will be under an approved EP.

### (E) Test Fluids

This well should not be tested; therefore, no test fluids are proposed for discharge under this plan. Any completion fluids which might be discharged will be cleaned up with equipment on the platform and discharged overboard in accordance with the EPA General NPDES Permit for the Gulf of Mexico

### (F) Sanitary and Domestic Wastes

#### a. Drilling Rig

Sanitary wastes are collected from commodes on board the drilling rig and are treated in an USCG approved sewerage treatment plant prior to discharge. The average daily discharge from the sewerage treatment plant will be approximately 660 gallons (2,271 liters). Wastewater from sinks, showers, laundry and the galley comprise the domestic wastes produced on the rig. No solids are included in this effluent. Approximately 2,700 gallons (10,221 liters) of domestic waste are discharged daily.

#### b. Support Vessels

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Sanitary and domestic wastes are treated on board the vessel prior to discharge. The amount of wastes discharged is dependent upon the number of people on board at any one time. The volume, however, is small and would have negligible impact on receiving waters.

#### c. Onshore Support Bases

Sanitary and domestic wastes produced at the onshore base will be processed by the local sewerage treatment system. The quantity of effluent involved is dependent upon the number of personnel at the support base at any one time. It is anticipated that crew change days will account for the largest volume of sanitary and domestic wastes, but these volumes should have negligible impact on treatment facilities.

### (G) Freshwater Maker Blowdown

The desalination unit(s) on the platform and/or drilling rig are capable of producing 10,000 to 15,000 gallons (37,854 to 56,781 liters) of freshwater per day. The unit(s) are cooled by heat exchange with incoming

seawater that is then discharged. Approximately 460,000 gallons (1,741,289 liters) of seawater and desalination unit effluent are discharged from each unit daily.

(H) Service Water and Fire System Test Water

The non-contact cooling water for engines, air conditioners, and air compressors and fire-system test water are composed of seawater that is not exposed to any form of contaminant. These waters are discharged at a daily rate of 1,340,000 gallons (5,072,452 liters).

(I) Deck Drainage

Two types of deck drainage effluent are produced on a platform and/or drilling rig. One is derived from decked areas that are not subject to hydrocarbon contamination. The volume of effluent discharged from these areas is dependent primarily upon rainfall and rig maintenance operations. Since no hydrocarbon contamination occurs in these areas, the effluent is discharged directly to receiving waters. The second type of effluent is derived from deck space contaminated by hydrocarbons. This effluent is routed through a settling tank where the hydrocarbon fraction is separated from the water. Water discharged from the settling tank contains no free oil. Approximately 50 gallons (189 liters) of oil per month is collected from the settling tank and shipped to the onshore base for proper disposal.

(J) Non-Hazardous Solid Waste

Solid wastes, in addition to the drill cuttings that are generated and discharged offshore, include mud sacks, paper, plastic, cloth, food scraps, and metal. All of these wastes, except for the metal and possibly paper, will be collected in multi-layer polypropylene sacks and transported to shore for disposal at an approved disposal facility. Scrap metal, casing and thread protectors, used drilling bits, and other metal wastes are classified as tangible items. These are either re-used or sold as scrap and are, therefore, not treated in the same manner as the solid waste discussed earlier. Paper may be incinerated onsite. Solid wastes generated from the transportation vessels, normally just garbage, will be collected and returned to shore for disposal with the rig refuse. Supply base wastes, normally consisting of paper, plastic, and packing materials, will be collected and disposed of along with the other solid wastes generated by the proposed operation. The volume of solid wastes generated by the proposed operation is dependent upon a variety of factors, however it is not anticipated to exceed 400 pounds (181 kg) per day.

(K) Contaminated Liquid and Solid Wastes

All liquid and solid wastes contaminated by hydrocarbons or other hazardous substances will be collected and transported to an approved disposal site. Included in this waste category are used engine oil, vessel bilge drainage, hydrocarbons collected from settling tanks on the rig, and hydrocarbon-contaminated solids such as rag and paper.

**OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CHEMICAL INFORMATION**

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(A) Information to Comply with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA '90)

a. Regional Oil Spill Response Plan Information

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.'s Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) was approved by the MMS on August 25, 1999. The activities proposed under this Supplemental DOCD will be covered by this plan. The following companies are covered by our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (see OSRP Section 3, Page 3):

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (TEPI) a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 00771).

Four Star Oil and Gas Company, a majority owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code is 00005)

Sabine Pipeline Company Inc., a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 00835)

Discovery Gas Transmission L.L.C., a wholly owned and operated subsidiary.  
(MMS OCSIS ID Code: 02272)

Bridgeline Gas Distribution L.L.C., a majority owned and operated subsidiary.  
(Louisiana State Company Code: B124)

Gulf Coast Unit Facilities Located in MMS OPA 1990 Jurisdiction Waters.  
(Louisiana State Company Code: 6840)

b. Oil Spill Removal Organizations

The following are the names our primary oil spill removal organizations for both equipment and personnel (see OSRP Section 4, Page 43):

Texaco, being a member of Clean Gulf Associates and the Marine Spill Response Corporation, will use equipment and personnel from these cooperatives and that of USCG certified, contracted oil spill removal organizations (OSROs). Texaco also maintains a list of qualified Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO) to provide equipment and a manpower pool of trained personnel to provide cleanup and removal expertise.

Texaco's USCG-classified Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) that may provide assistance in performing oil spill response requirements are listed below. Our Master Work Agreements With Independent Contractors require these contractors to provide without limitation, oil spill response, oil spill cleanup, environmental services, site characterizations remediation, training, equipment, confined space entry, waste management services at various Texaco leases and/or properties.

Oil Mop, Inc.  
Cenac Environmental Services, Inc.(ES&H, Inc.)  
Garner Environmental Services, Inc.  
Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc.

L & L Environmental Services, Inc.  
Philip Services/Louisiana, Inc. (Allwaste)  
Industrial Cleanup, Inc. (ICI)

c. Worst-Case Scenario Comparison

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Category	Regional OSRP	DOCD
Type of Activity	Production -- platform	Production -- Well
Facility Location (area/block)	WD 109	WD 109
Facility Designation	"A"	"A-46"
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (miles)	5.1	5.1
Storage tanks (total volume)	5,582 bbls	5,582 bbls
Flowlines (on facility)	558 bbls	558 bbls
Lease term pipelines	0 bbls	0 bbls
Uncontrolled blowout (volume per day)	2,190 bbls	0 bbls
Total Volume	8,330 bbls	6,140 bbls
Type of Oil(s) - (crude oil, condensate, diesel)	Crude oil Diesel	Diesel
API Gravity(s) <sup>4</sup>	37.5° (Oil) No. 2 Diesel	No. 2 Diesel

Since Texaco has the capability to respond to the worst-case spill scenario included in its Regional OSRP approved on August 25, 1999, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our DOCD does not replace the worst-case scenario in our regional OSRP, I hereby certify that Texaco has the capability to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst-case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in our DOCD.

(B) Information for MMS to Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, no additional information is required in this plan for the MMS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

**AIR EMISSION INFORMATION**

No air emission information is provided with this plan. All emissions for this well have been approved under an approved EP (for drilling) or under an approved DOCD (for drilling, completion and production). Air emissions from OCS-G 16479 Well No. A-46 will be less than already approved for OCS-G 2897 Well No. A-46.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

In accordance with NTL No. 2000-G21, an Environmental Report (ER) is required with this DOCD. It is attached as a separate report to this document.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION**

In accordance with MMS's NTL No. 2000-G21, a Certificate of Consistency with Louisiana's Coastal Management Plan is required for this activity. It and its public notice are attached in the Appendix.

**PLAN INFORMATION FORM**

Attached in the Appendix to each copy of this document is the appropriate Form MMS-137 providing specific summary information concerning this plan.

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## **APPENDIX**

Form MMS-137

Vicinity Map with Transportation Routes

Structure Map for 4,700' Sand

Interpreted Seismic Line Within 500 feet of Proposed Surface Location (1 copy only)

Geological Structure Cross-Sections through Target Sand

Louisiana Coastal Zone Consistency Certification and Public Notice

Environmental Report

# PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY

## OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM (USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH LEASE)

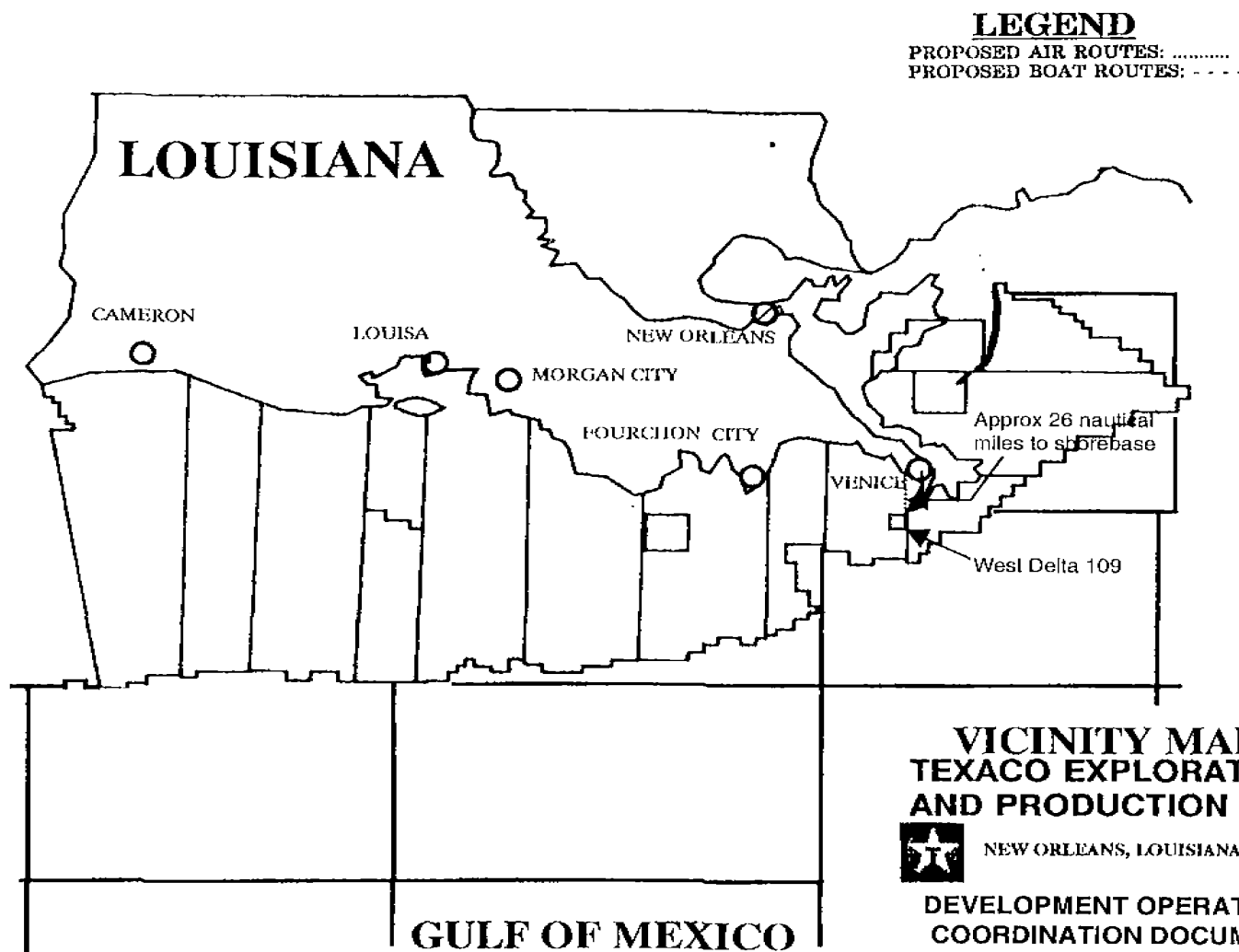
EXPLORATION PLAN	DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT	X	DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION PLAN
OPERATOR: Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.		ADDRESS: 400 Poydras Street	
MMS OPERATOR NO.: 00771		New Orleans, LA 70130-3245	
CONTACT PERSON: Vince Cottone		PHONE NO. 504-680-1471	
PROPOSED START DATE: April 1, 2001	RIG TYPE: Platform	DISTANCE TO CLOSEST LAND (IN MILES): 5.1	
NEW OR UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGY	YES	NO XXX	ONSHORE SUPPORT BASE(S): Venice, Louisiana
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: Complete one (1) development well in West Delta Block 108 (OCS-G 16479).			
PROJECT NAME, IF APPLICABLE: Cornell			

### PROPOSED WELL/STRUCTURE LOCATIONS

WELL/ STRUCTURE NAME	SURFACE LOCATION	BOTTOM-HOLE LOCATION (FOR WELLS)
Well No. A-46	CALLS: 3,365' FEL and 4,440' FSL OF LEASE OCS-G 2937, WEST DELTA AREA, BLOCK 109	Information contained in these sections of this Public Information Copy of this document has been deleted.
	X: 2,602,113' Y: 65,748'	
	LAT: 28° 50' 01.952" N LONG: 89° 27' 10.982" W	
	TVD(IN FEET):	MD (IN FEET):

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DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



**STRUCTURE CONTOUR MAP(S),  
2-D AND/OR 3-D SEISMIC LINES  
GEOLOGICAL CROSS-SECTION(S), &  
HIGH RESOLUTION SURVEY LINES  
HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM THIS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION COPY**

## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

Development  
Type of Plan

West Delta 108  
Area and Block

OCS-G 16479  
Lease Number

The proposed activities described in detail in this Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

Arrangements have been made with The Advocate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to publish a notice of the proposed activities no later than twelve (12) working days from the date below. Additionally, arrangements have been made with the Plaquemines Gazette in Belle Chasse, LA to publish a public notice of the proposed activities no later than twelve (12) working days from the date below.

Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
Lessee or Operator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Certifying Official

March 9, 2001  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

Public Notice of Federal Consistency Review of a  
Proposed Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD)  
By the Coastal Management Division/Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources for the Plan's Consistency with  
The Louisiana Coastal Resources Program

**Applicant:** Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
P. O. Box 60252  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0252

**Location:** West Delta Area, Lease OCS-G 16479  
Block 108  
Lease date: 08/01/1996

**Description:** The proposed DOCD for the above area provides for the development and production of hydrocarbons. Support activities are to be conducted from an onshore base located at Venice, Louisiana. No ecologically sensitive species or habitats are expected to be located near or affected by these activities.

A copy of the plan described above is available for inspection at the Coastal Management Division Office located on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of the State Land and Natural Resources Bldg., 625 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The public is requested to submit comments to the Coastal Management Division, Attention: OCS Plans, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487. Comments must be received within 15 days of the date of this notice or 15 days after the Coastal Management Division obtains a copy of the plan and it is available for public inspection. This Public Notice is provided to meet the requirements of the NOAA Regulations on Federal Consistency with approved Coastal Management Programs.

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**Note:** This public notice was sent to the Advocate in Baton Rouge, LA, and the Plaquemines Gazette in Belle Chasse, LA for publication as a legal ad. A one-(1) time publication was requested on or before twelve (12) working days from the submittal date of this document.

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**CORNELL PROSPECT**

**WEST DELTA AREA**

**BLOCKS 108-109**

**TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INC.**

**MARCH 2001**

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

**Prepared by:**

**Vincent F. Cottone, PE  
Texaco Exploration and Production Inc.  
Post Office Box 60252  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0252  
(504) 680-1471  
Email – cottovf@texaco.com**

## Description of Proposed Action

This report addresses the activities proposed by Texaco Exploration and Production Inc. (Texaco) for West Delta Block 108 (OCS-G 16479). The approximate location of the proposed activities (to take place in West Delta Block 109) is presented in Figure 1, a general vicinity map of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease areas. The surface location and additional information regarding specific activities that are proposed by Texaco for this block is included in the DOCD to which this document is a part.

### a. Travel Modes, Routes, and Frequencies

Service boats and helicopters will be used to transport equipment, material, personnel, and supplies to the site. It is estimated that the service boats will make four (4) trips each week. Helicopter flights to the area will average two (2) trips per week.

It is anticipated that transportation will use the most direct routes from their points of origin. Service boats will travel down either the Mississippi River through Southwest Pass or out Tiger Pass to the Gulf, depending on wind direction, and then to the Platform. Helicopters should fly directly from their point of origin to the Platform.

However, because transportation equipment supporting the proposed activity may be scheduled for other stops, the exact route for each piece on each particular trip cannot be predetermined. Included on Figure 1 are the proposed transportation routes.

### b. Support Facilities and New Personnel

The proposed activity will use the existing Chevron Dock at Venice, Louisiana to support this activity. This base is equipped with cranes, docking space and communications. No expansion to this base will be required to support the proposed activities. Also, all activities will be accomplished using existing employees and contract personnel, therefore no new employment is expected as a result of these activities.

### c. New Support Facilities

The proposed activity will not require any new support facilities. All activity is planned at an existing platform and will use existing export pipelines to transport produced hydrocarbons to other existing facilities.

### d. New or Unusual Technology

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No new techniques or unusual technology will be used.

### e. Location of the Proposed Activities

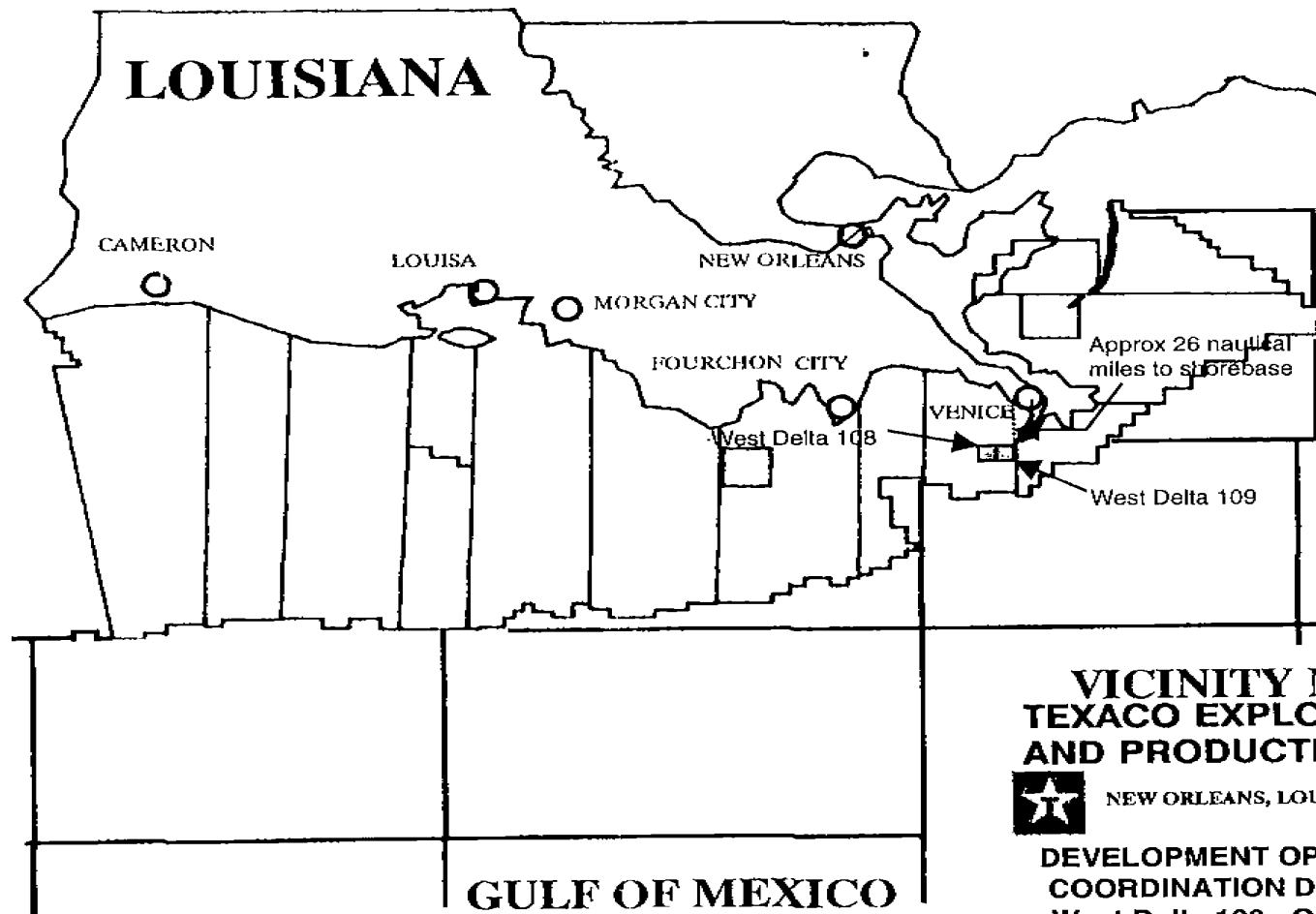
The proposed activity is located approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) south of the Mississippi River's Southwest Pass. Figure 1 shows the location of Block 109 in relation to the Gulf Coast, as well as the geographic relationship between this West Delta block and other OCS lease areas.



## LEGEND

PROPOSED AIR ROUTES: .....

PROPOSED BOAT ROUTES: - - - -



## VICINITY MAP TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INC.



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS  
COORDINATION DOCUMENT  
West Delta 109 - OCS-G 2937

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

## Description of the Affected Environment and Impacts

### a. Physical and Environmental

#### (1) Commercial Fishing

West Delta Block 109 is located approximately 5.1 miles (8 kilometers) from land. Water depth range within the block is approximately 100 to 200 feet (30 to 61 meters). This location is within the limits of the major commercial marine fishing area (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). No additional surface facilities are planned with this activity; however, waters adjacent to the drill site may become temporarily turbid due to drilling operations. These operations should have no impact on commercial fisheries.

#### (2) Shipping

West Delta Block 109 is traversed in the north-south direction with the designated shipping fairway leading to Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). Marine vessels supporting the proposed activities may use this shipping fairway to access the shorebase. These vessels should not interfere with normal shipping. All marine vessel operations will be in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard's regulations regarding navigation standards and each will be equipped with all U.S. Coast Guard required navigational safety aids.

#### (3) Small Craft Pleasure Boating, Sport Fishing and Recreation

Activities proposed in the accompanying plan are confined to West Delta Block 109. This block is located approximately 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the coast and has a water depth range of approximately 100 to 200 feet (30 meters to 61 meters). Many fishermen charter boats to deep-sea fish and sport dive in the Gulf. Petroleum platforms in the Gulf provide recreation for fishermen and scuba divers because they act as artificial reefs attracting and establishing aquatic communities including highly sought food and sport fishes. The reef effect created by petroleum platforms is well known and is evidenced by the numerous private boat owners who regularly visit offshore facilities to harvest food and sport fishes.

Frequently, offshore rigs and platforms serve as navigation points for small commercial and recreational marine craft. Manned rigs and platforms can also provide a haven for small craft operators forced to abandon their vessels during storms or following accidents.

Installation and use of navigational aids, lifesaving equipment and other safety requirements pursuant to Coast Guard regulations are standard procedure for rigs, production platforms and marine vessels used by Texaco. No adverse impacts on pleasure boating, sport fishing or recreation are anticipated as a result of these proposed activities.

#### (4) Archaeological Resources

There are no known archaeological resources located in West Delta Block 109. Visual 3 to U.S.D.I. Lease Sale Environmental Impact Statements indicates the block is outside the designated prehistoric cultural resources high probability line. The U.S.D.I. MMS map titled "Archaeological Resources in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico" indicates West Delta 109 is designated as a Historic Archaeological High Probability Area in water less than 60 meters for containing an historic period shipwreck. Since all activities are planned from an existing platform, no impact to archaeological resources is expected.

(5) Ecologically Sensitive Features

There are no known ecologically sensitive features located in West Delta Block 109 (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1995, Visual No. 2). The nearest sensitive marine feature is the Sackett Bank located approximately 15 miles (24 kilometers) to the southwest.

Transportation to the onshore support bases will necessitate the passage of marine vessels and helicopter traffic across the coastline. These operations will have only minimal impact on the shoreline.

The greatest threat to ecologically sensitive features is from an oil spill. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Gulf of Mexico Sales 157 and 161 for the Central and Western Planning Areas dated November 1995 and its related Oil-Spill Analysis Report (OCS report MMS 95-0026) discusses trajectory simulations. An oil spill for the proposed activity area (launch site C 51) would have a 23% chance of impacting Land Segment 19 (Plaquemines Parish, LA area), an 18% chance of impacting Land Segment 17 (Lafourche, Parish, LA area), a 10% chance of impacting Land Segments 16 or 18 (Terrebonne or Jefferson, Parishes, LA areas), and a 1% chance of impacting Land Segments 13 or 14 (Vermilion or New Iberia Parishes, LA area) within 10 days. All other land segments have less than a 0.5% chance of being impacted within 10 days.

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 254, Texaco has on file with the MMS an approved Oil Spill Response Plan. MMS letter dated August 25, 1999 approved this plan. West Delta 109 "A" (this facility) is the "near shore" facility for which a Worst Case Discharge volume is planned in the approved Oil Spill Response Plan.

Texaco is a member of Clean Gulf Associates (CGA) and the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC). This provides us access to a stockpile of oil spill containment and clean-up equipment and materials for use in the offshore and estuarine areas. There are several CGA bases which are strategically located along the Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida coast lines of the Gulf of Mexico that have the material and equipment necessary to control and clean-up oil spills. The closest CGA base, which is at Fort Jackson, Louisiana, is a distance of 35 nautical miles (64 kilometers) to the proposed site.

The CGA Dedicated Response Vessel (DRV) is a 37' purpose built fast-response oil recovery vessel. It is positioned, for rapid deployment, in Venice, LA. Also, CGA has a 46' purpose built fast-response recovery vessel, the M/V Timbalier Bay positioned at their base in Houma, LA. Texaco proposes to use the Venice-based vessel for first response. Its' estimated response time is 4 hours.

Also, Texaco owns considerable pollution control equipment in addition to the equipment available through the Clean Gulf Associates. This equipment is stored at shore bases and at various locations in and around the Gulf of Mexico. Texaco using workboats will deploy this equipment. It would be transported to the spill site by either boat or helicopter. This equipment is immediately available, and in the event of pollution would be used as needed.

If a spill should occur from the proposed location, Texaco would activate its Oil Spill Response Team. Determine from the current conditions the probable location and time of landfall. Then using the Clean Gulf Operations Manual, Volume II, Louisiana Map Nos. 5 and 6, updated by contact with local wildlife agency personnel and by using SpillNet™, identify the biologically sensitive areas and determine the appropriate response mode. Upon activation of the proper equipment, Texaco would deploy it as suggested by Section VI of Volume II of the Clean Gulf Operations Manual or as appropriate to effectively respond to site-specific circumstances.

(6) Existing Pipelines and Cables

There is no evidence of any cables in West Delta Block 109. There is a 12-inch (30-cm) natural gas export pipeline leaving West Delta 109 "A" to the south and an 8-inch (20-cm) crude oil pipeline leaving to the north.

(7) Other Mineral Uses

The activities that are proposed for West Delta Block 109 would have no impact on other mineral uses. Texaco knows of no other mineral uses planned for this block other than oil or gas exploration.

(8) Ocean Dumping

The major sources of ocean dumping related to OCS hydrocarbon development activities are drilling mud and drill cuttings. Drill cuttings are brought to the surface by the drilling mud, separated and disposed of overboard. No drilling is planned under the DOCD to which this Environmental Report is a part. Treated domestic waste, kitchen, and other wastes may also be disposed of at the proposed activity site. There will be no intentional discharge of any oily or hazardous materials in violation of MMS or EPA regulations.

(9) Endangered or Threatened Species

Five (5) species of baleen whales (blue, fin, humpback, northern right, and sei) and one (1) species of toothed whale (sperm) and five (5) species of marine turtles (Kemp's ridley, green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead) found within the Gulf of Mexico are currently listed as endangered (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1997, p III-39 through III-44). Of the whale species, all are uncommon to rare in the Gulf except for the sperm whale. Generally, these whales inhabit the waters of the continental slope and the deep oceanic waters. The leatherback turtle is believed to prefer the deeper oceanic waters while the other species may be considered more coastal in nature. However, it is possible that any of these species may occur in the project area at one time or another. Little or no impact is expected to any of these threatened or endangered species by the proposed activities.

Federally listed endangered or threatened species expected to occur in the vicinity of the onshore bases are the bald eagle, the brown pelican, whooping crane, piping plover, least tern and eskimo curlew (U.S.D.I., FEIS, Gulf of Mexico, 1997, p III-44 through III-46). The bald eagle inhabits the area from Morgan City, Louisiana east and north to the Mississippi River. The eskimo curlew is a small American curlew that nests in Arctic tundra and migrates across the Louisiana coast. The brown pelican nests in coastal Louisiana. The piping plover is a migratory shorebird that is endemic to North America and winters on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. The whooping crane is an omnivorous, wading bird. These birds winter in coastal marshes and estuarine habitat along the Gulf of Mexico coast at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. The least tern is the smallest North American Tern. Least terns are listed as endangered, except within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the coast.

No federally listed endangered plant species are known to occur in the Louisiana coastal area.

The FEIS for lease sales 169, 172, 175, 178 and 182 (U.S.D.I., 1997) discusses the occurrence and impact on endangered or threatened species. The impacts discussed are primarily based on the occurrence of oil spills. The impacts on various endangered and threatened species will depend on the nature of the spill, weather conditions, proximity of the spill to the species, tolerance of the species for oil, and the response time and effectiveness of the spill cleanup and containment

services. Given these variables, the impact on the various endangered or threatened species will vary from no effect to serious.

The experience of oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico indicates that there is a small probability of occurrence of an oil spill. The probability remains low because of the level of technology used by the industry to insure safe and responsible operations. Texaco, as a prudent operator, will take the necessary measures to reduce the probability of oil spills. It is unlikely offshore or onshore activities related to this activity would have any effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species.

## **Socioeconomic Data**

In accordance with MMS guidelines, the initial OCS Socioeconomic Database Report for support base facilities used by Texaco will be prepared pursuant to parameters to be established between MMS and the States.

## **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

An oil spill or well blowout would cause the greatest environmental threat. Using trained personnel, adequate operational safeguards, and employing available safety and pollution control systems can reduce these occurrences in number. These measures are standard operating procedure for Texaco.

The unavoidable adverse impacts that will occur as a result of the proposed exploration activity will be few in number and temporary in nature. The primary adverse impacts are a localized degradation of water and air quality in the vicinity of the activity sites the potential obstruction to commercial and recreational fishing vessels, and the disruption and/or killing of benthic and/or pelagic organisms during the disposal of domestic wastes and treated sewage.

The proposed activities will generate a small amount of air pollutants due to the emissions from the diesel engines; therefore, some deterioration in air quality of the OCS operation area is expected. These emissions affect only the immediate activity site and are rapidly dissipated by the atmosphere. Air emissions for this activity have been approved in two previous plans. Air emissions from drilling are covered in both the EP under which the well is being drilled and the Supplemental DOCD for the OCS-G 2937 Well No. A-46 that is being replaced with this activity.

Commercial and recreational fishing could be affected by the proposed activities, mainly in terms of interference. Although the unavoidable adverse impacts could include some smothering of shellfish, reduction of the area presently available for unrestricted fishing, and minimal finfish killing, fishing activities would not be significantly affected.

## **R eferences**

1. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 157 and 161: Central and Western Planning Areas, November 1995.
2. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 166 and 168: Central and Western Planning Areas, December 1996.
3. United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Mexico, Sales 169, 172, 175, 178 and 182: Central and Western Planning Areas, November 1997.

4. Shallow Hazards Report, Blocks 18, 62, 108, and 64, West Delta Area, Gulf of Mexico to Texaco USA, New Orleans, Louisiana by Fugro-McCelland Marine Geosciencies, Inc., Report No. 02012-1762, Dated April 15, 1992.

### **Statement**

"The proposed activity will be carried out and completed with the guarantee that: The best available and safest technologies will be used throughout the project. These include meeting all applicable requirements for equipment types, general project layout, safety systems, and equipment and monitoring systems. All operations will be covered by an approved oil spill response plan. All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding air emissions and water quality and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with."

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