UNIVERSITY OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
New Orleans, Louisiana

FINAL
SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENDANGERED SPECIES/STRUCTURE REMOVAL
No. ES/SR 96-042

Structure-Removal Activity
Eugene Island Area Block 90
Lease OCS-0229
March 1996
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
New Orleans, Louisiana

FINAL
SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENDANGERED SPECIES/STRUCTURE REMOVAL
No. ES/SR 96-042

Assessment of the Environmental Impacts
of the Proposed Removal of Structure CF in Eugene Island Area,
Block 90
(Lease OCS-0229)
by Gulfstream Resources, Inc.

Date Submitted: February 15, 1996
Commencement Date: March, 1996

Prepared by Dave Moran
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have considered the notification by Gulfstream Resources to remove Structure CF in Eugene Island Area Block 90 (Lease OCS-0229), SEA No. ES/SR 96-042. Based on the environmental analysis contained in the site-specific environmental assessment, there is no evidence to indicate that the proposed action will significantly (40 CFR 1508.27) affect the quality of the human environment. Preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Dave Moran
Analyst

3/7/96
Date

Jerry Braider
Chief, Environmental Operations Section
Leasing and Environment

3-7-96
Date

Acting Regional Supervisor
Leasing and Environment
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

3/7/96
Date
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A. GULFSTREAM RESOURCES, INC., CORRESPONDENCE
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to assess the specific impacts associated with proposed structure-removal activities. The SEA is based on a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) (USDI, MMS, 1987) which evaluates a broader spectrum of potential impacts resulting from the removal of structures, e.g., platforms/caissons across the Central and Western Planning Areas of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf. The PEA/SEA process is designed to simplify and reduce the size of environmental assessment documents by eliminating repetitive discussions of the same issues. This SEA conforms to MMS and other appropriate guidelines for preparing environmental assessments by utilizing data presented in the PEA to complete the assessment. It presents site-specific data regarding the proposed structure removal and evaluates the removal's potential impacts. Preparation of this SEA has allowed the determination of whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate or whether further assessment of the proposal is necessary.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSAL

A. Description of the Proposed Action

Gulfstream Resources, Inc., proposes to remove Structure CF in Eugene Island Area, Block 90 (Lease OCS-0229). The structure is located in a water depth of about 23 feet. Eugene Island Area Block 90 lies approximately 24 miles south of Iberia Parish, Louisiana. The operator plans to cut and remove all loading barge bumper pilings up to 16 feet below the mudline. The cuts are to be made with a mechanical cutter.

Since no explosives will be utilized during the proposed removal activities, MMS has determined that sea turtles and marine mammals will not be affected. A Section 7 Consultation under the Endangered Species Act will not be initiated.

Refer to Appendix A for structure specifications and additional information on the removal activities.

B. Need for the Proposed Action

A discussion of the legal and regulatory mandates to remove abandoned oil and gas structures from Federal waters can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). Gulfstream Resources, Inc., states that the facility is no longer of utility.
II. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Non-Removal of the Structures

The alternative to the proposed structure removal as originally submitted is non-removal. Non-removal of the structures would represent a conflict with Federal legal and regulatory requirements, which mandate the timely removal of obsolete or abandoned structures within a period of one year after termination of the lease, or upon termination of a right-of-use and easement. Therefore, non-removal does not appear to be a valid alternative.

B. Removal of the Structures as Proposed with Added Mitigation

The PEA referenced in the Introduction contains a description of the impacts of structure-removal activities on pipelines and cables. There is/are existing pipeline(s) within 150 meters (490 ft) of the proposed structure-removal activities. Since the operator must adhere to existing laws and regulations for abandonment of structures (including procedures required by Notice to Lessees and Operators No, 83-3), the proposed work will not pose a hazard to pipeline(s) and cable(s) in the area.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, SOCIOECONOMIC CONCERNS, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Environmental Geology and Geologic Hazards

A discussion of environmental geology and geologic hazards can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). The proposed structure-removal activity is not in an area of sediment instability (mud flows, slumps, or slides). Therefore, geologic conditions are not expected to have an impact on the proposed structure-removal activities.

2. Meteorological Conditions

No impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

3. Physical and Chemical Oceanography

a. Physical Oceanography

No impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.
b. Chemical Oceanography

Impacts are expected to be very low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

4. Water Quality

Impacts are expected to be low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

5. Air Quality

Impacts are expected to be very low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

B. BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Coastal Habitats

No impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

2. Protected, Endangered, and/or Threatened Species

a. Birds

The operator has indicated that they propose to use Amelia, Louisiana, as the shore base to support the proposed structure-removal activity. The PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987) delineates sensitive areas along the Texas coastline where whooping cranes and brown pelicans could be adversely impacted by structure-removal support activities. The shore base for the proposed activity lies outside of this sensitive area.

b. Marine Mammals

A discussion of marine mammals occurring across the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and an assessment of the potential impacts of structure-removal activities on marine mammals can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). Fritts et al. (1983) conducted aerial surveys across a 2,614 square mile area of waters lying in the central GOM. Results of these surveys indicate that the bottlenose dolphin is by far the most likely marine mammal to be encountered at the proposed structure removal. Since the proposed structure removal will utilize no explosives, no impacts are expected on marine mammals.
c. Sea Turtles

A discussion of sea turtles occurring across the central and western GOM and an assessment of the potential impacts of structure-removal activities on sea turtles can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). Studies by Fritts et al. (1983) and Fuller and Tappan (1986) as well as stranding data from the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (Teas, 1995) indicate that sea turtles occur in the vicinity of the proposed activities. Definitive information on the probability of encountering sea turtles at the removal site during removal operations is scarce. Since the proposed structure removal will utilize no explosives, no impacts are expected on sea turtles.

3. Birds

Impacts are expected to be very low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

4. Sensitive Marine Habitats

A discussion of sensitive marine habitats occurring in the central and western GOM and an assessment of the potential impacts of structure-removal activities on these areas can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). The proposed activities are not near any sensitive marine habitats. Therefore, the subject structure removal will not impact any sensitive marine habitats or their resident biota.

5. Offshore Habitats and Biota

Impacts are expected to be low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

C. SOCIOECONOMIC CONCERNS

1. Employment

Impacts are expected to be very low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

2. Economics

Impacts are expected to be very low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.
3. Onshore Support Facilities, Land Use, and Coastal Communities and Services

The operator has indicated that they propose to use Amelia, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana as the shore base to support the proposed structure removal activities. No impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

D. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

   a. Commercial Fisheries

   Impacts are expected to be low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

   b. Recreational Fisheries

   Impacts are expected to be low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

2. Archaeological Resources

   Impacts are expected to be low as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

3. Military Use/Warning Areas and Explosive Dumping Areas

   The proposed structure-removal activity will not take place in a military use/warning area or in an explosive dumping area. In addition, the shore base location chosen by the operator and/or his contractor(s) will not require support vessels or aircraft to traverse any of these areas. A description of these areas, their locations and potential impacts of structure-removal activities on these areas can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). The proposed activities will not impact or be impacted by any military use/warning areas or explosives dumping areas.

4. Navigation and Shipping

   The proposed structure-removal activities are not located adjacent to a vessel safety fairway or in an anchorage area. Structures located nearshore may serve as "landmarks" to vessels or helicopters operating in the area on a regular basis. The overall impacts of the proposed work on navigation and shipping is expected to be very low. More information on the impacts of structure removals on navigation and shipping can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987).
5. Pipelines

The PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987) contains a description of the impacts of structure removals on pipelines. The proposed work will take place within 150 meters (490 feet) of existing pipelines. Since the operator must adhere to existing laws and regulations for abandonment of structures (including procedures required by Notice to Lessees and Operators 83-3), the proposed work will not pose a hazard to pipelines or cables in the area.

6. Other Mineral Resources

No impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. For analysis information, see the PEA referenced in the Introduction.

7. Human Health and Safety

The PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987) describes the hazardous conditions for workers during structure-removal activities. The operator has proposed a nonexplosive method to remove the subject structure. Existing legal and regulatory safety requirements will keep the impacts of the proposed work on human health and safety at a very low level.

E. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

A discussion of unavoidable adverse impacts can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). One area of primary concern is the potential loss of habitat to the marine environment. This topic is discussed in the PEA and a low level of impact is expected. Other unavoidable adverse impacts are considered to be minor.

IV. PUBLIC OPINION

A discussion of public concerns regarding structure removals can be found in the PEA (USDI, MMS, 1987). The proposed structure removal has generated no comments from the public.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, this proposed structure removal does not require coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SPECIAL REFERENCES


VII. PREPARERS

Author
Dave Moran - Biologist
- Typist
VIII. APPENDIX

A. GULFSTREAM RESOURCES, INC., CORRESPONDENCE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

Feb 15, 1996

To: Environmental Operations Section (LE-5)

From: Office of Structural and Technical Support, Field Operations, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (OSTS)

Subject: Platform Removal

OPERATOR: Gulfstream

Control No: ES/SR 96-042

Platform CF

Area/Block EI 90

Lease OCS 0229

Shore Base: Amelia, LA

The attached application is forwarded to your office so that the Finding of No Significant Impact can be prepared. Since explosives will not be used in this removal operation, an Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Documentation is not required. There are existing pipeline(s) within 500 feet of the proposed removal location.

Arvind Shah (OSTS)
Extension 2894

Attachment

cc:

ASH: :LEXITYPE:Disk 5
February 13, 1996

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

Attention: Mr. Felix Dyhrkopp

RE: Platform Removal
OCS 0229
Eugene Island 90 Round Barge
CPXID 21339-01

Dear Sir:

Attached is our request for approval of the removal of the referenced structure. As shown on the attached sketches the Eugene Island 90 Round Barge Facility (CPXID 21339) consists of two structures; the Round Barge (CPXID 21339-01) and the Header Platform (CPXID 21339-02). The proposed operation entails the removal of the Round Barge while leaving the Header Platform in place and in service. The plan of removal is as follows:

1. Conduct extensive pre-job survey of vessel to ensure seaworthiness.
2. Thoroughly clean and flush the surface production equipment and underwater storage tanks.
3. Dismantle gangway connecting Round Barge to Header Platform.
4. Attach several guywires diagonally across the support structures from the top of the barge to the decks to enhance the stability of the vessel.
5. Attach tugs to the North, East and West sides of the barge.
6. Deballast the barge and allow it to float out. The tugs will keep tension in a northerly direction to ensure the barge maintains clearance from the Header Platform.
7. Tow the Round Barge intact to shore base for salvage.
8. Remove five loading barge bumpers (each is a single piling) by mechanically cutting them off 16' below the mudline.
9. Conduct scrapping operations with divers to clean the bottom around the location.

As the Header Platform is to be left in place, we request permission to postpone the site clearance survey and trawling operations until such time that the Header Platform is removed.
The proposed operations are planned for April, 1996. However, Step No. 1 above will be performed immediately and, given a suitable weather window, the remaining operations may be commenced prior to April. Therefore, we request approval of this application by March 15, 1996.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Should you require any additional information regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

GULFSTREAM RESOURCES, INC.

J. C. Garrett
Vice President - Engineering

Attachments
I. Responsible Party

A. Lease operator name: Gulfstream Resources, Inc.

B. Address: 3850 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 830
   Metairie, Louisiana 70002

C. Contact person and telephone number: J.C. Garrett
   (504) 837-1715

D. Shore base: Amelia, Louisiana

II. Identification of Structure to be Removed

A. Platform name: Eugene Island 90 Round Barge (CPXID 21339-01)

B. Location (lease, area, block, and block coordinates): OCS-0229
   Eugene Island Block 90; 1460' FSL & 1640' FEL Eugene Island Block 90

C. Date installed (year): 1960

D. Proposed date of removal (Month/Year): 03/96

E. Water depth: 23'

III. Description of Structure to be Removed

A. Configuration (attach a photograph or a diagram)

B. Size: Barge 208' 10" x 88'

C. Number of legs/casings/pilings: 14 legs from top of barge supporting platforms

014
D. Diameter and wall thickness of legs/casings/pillings

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
16", & 4", & 60" \\
10 - 16", & 2 - 3", & 2 - 60"
\end{array}
\]

E. Are piles grouted? NA  Inside or outside? NA

F. Brief description of soil composition and condition

Soft mud bottom

IV. Purpose

Lease expiration date and reason for removing the structure HBP.

Facility no longer of utility

V. Removal Method

A. Brief description of the method to be used The barge will be
deballasted and the entire facility floated out intact.

B. If explosives are to be used, provide the following:

1. Kind of explosives

2. Number and sizes of charges

   a. Single shot or multiple shots?

   b. If multiple shots, sequence and timing of detonations
3. Bulk or shaped charge?

a. Depth of detonation below mud line

b. Inside or outside piling?

C. Pre-removal monitoring techniques

1. Is the use of scare charges or acoustic devices proposed?
   If yes, provide the following:

   a. Number and kind

   b. Size of charges

   c. Brief description of how, where, and when scare charges or acoustic devices will be used

2. Will divers or acoustic devices be used to conduct a pre-removal survey to detect presence of turtles and marine mammals?
   If yes, briefly describe the proposed detection method

D. Post-removal monitoring techniques

1. Will transducers be used to measure the pressure and impulse of the detonations?
2. Will divers be used to survey the area after removal to determine and effects on marine life?

VI. Biological Information

If available, provide the results of any recent biological surveys conducted in the vicinity of the structure. If available, describe any recent observations of turtles or marine mammals at the structure site.

PLEASE SEND THREE COPIES OF THE APPLICATION TO:

Regional Supervisor, Field Operations (OSTS)
Minerals Management Service
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123
EUGENE ISLAND 90 ROUND BARGE FACILITY
CPXID 21339

CPXID 21339-02 ———> CPXID 21339-01 (TO BE REMOVED)

Header Platform

Separators, Process Equipment Section

Quarters, Generator Room, Heliport & Crane Section

Heater-Treater & Skimmer Section

Gangway