



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



In Reply Refer To: MS 5231

July 5, 2005

Ms. Debra K. Benoit
Murphy Exploration & Production Company - USA
131 South Robertson Street
Post Office Box 61780
New Orleans, Louisiana 70161-1780

Dear Ms. Benoit:

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	N-08396
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	April 21, 2005, amended May 20 and June 7, 2005
Lease(s)	OCS-G 24081, Block 494, Mississippi Canyon Area (MC)

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of June 27, 2005, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.203(i)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Wells A, B, C, and D.

Exercise caution while drilling due to indications of shallow gas, faulting, and possible water flow.

In response to the request accompanying your plan for a hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) classification, the area in which the proposed drilling operations are to be conducted is hereby classified, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.490(c), as "H₂S absent."

In accordance with Notice to Lessees and Operators No. 2003-G03, the Minerals Management Service has determined that you will not need to conduct the two Remotely Operated Vehicle surveys you proposed in your plan.

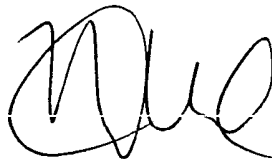
Our review indicates that there are pipelines in the vicinity of Wells A through D that may pose a hazard to your proposed operations. Therefore, take precautions in accordance with Notice to Lessees and Operators No. 98-20, Section IV.B, prior to performing operations.

Please be advised that exploration activities have been approved for Lease OCS-G 27281, MC 539, which could potentially interfere with your proposed activities. Therefore, you should contact Mr. Thomas Becnel, Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C., 1200 Smith Street, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77002 at (713) 356-7534, prior to commencement of your activities in order to avoid any potential conflicts.



If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval, please contact Karen Dunlap at (504) 736-2535.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Howard', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

✓ Donald C. Howard
Regional Supervisor
Field Operations