



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

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

In Reply Refer To: GM 235D

September 9, 2016

Mr. Bradley Koskowich
Repsol E&P USA Inc.
2455 Technology Forest Blvd.
The Woodlands, Texas 77381

Dear Mr. Koskowich,

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	N-09951
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	May 27, 2016, amended June 6, 21, and 28, 2016, and modified August 25, 2016
Lease(s)	OCS-G 32661, Block 67, Walker Ridge Area (WR)

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of September 9, 2016, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.233(b)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Subsea Well A.

Our review indicates that the proposed operations have the potential to impact submerged archaeological resources that could be in the area of potential effect (APE), which encompasses all portions of the seafloor where bottom-disturbing activities are to occur. Before conducting any authorized, bottom disturbing activities, the company will follow the guidance provided at [http://www.boem.gov/uploadedFiles/BOEM/Environmental Stewardship/Archaeology/Guidance.pdf](http://www.boem.gov/uploadedFiles/BOEM/Environmental_Stewardship/Archaeology/Guidance.pdf), which includes minimum survey recommendations, requisite certification submittals, and post-activity reporting standards needed to ensure compliance with the regulations under 30 CFR 550.194.

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."

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

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

- Joint Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) No. 2012-G01, "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting" (available at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/2012/2012-JOINT-G01-pdf.aspx>);

- Joint NTL No. 2012-G02, "Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program" (available at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/2012/2012-JOINT-G02-pdf.aspx>); and
- BSEE NTL No. 2015-03, "Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination" (available at <https://www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/notices-to-lessees-ntl/alerts/ntl-2015-g03.pdf>).

These measures are designed to promote environmental protection, consistent environmental policy, compliance with environmental laws, and safety.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval, please contact Tommy Hoke at (504)736-2996.

Sincerely,

**Michelle
Uli Picou**

Digitally signed by Michelle Uli Picou
DN: cn=Michelle Uli Picou, o=U.S.
Government, ou=Bureau of Ocean
Energy Management,
email=michelle.picou@boem.gov, c=US
Date: 2016.09.09 15:35:01 -05'00'

for Jaron E. Ming
Regional Supervisor
Leasing and Plans