

Commodity: Oil and Gas

SEA No. N-4242

United States Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
New Orleans, Louisiana

OCS SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

February 1992

Operator: Amoco Production Company
Plan Type: Exploration Plan
Area: DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133
Lease: OCS-G 10444 ✓
Date Submitted: February 11, 1992
Commencement Date: April 19, 1992

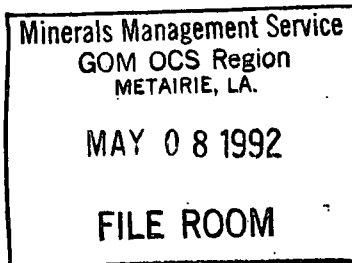
Prepared by Gary J Rutherford

RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

FEIS's for OCS Lease Sale No. 116

SEA Nos. N-3450 and S-2692

Area-Wide Environmental Assessment for Exploration Activities in
the Northwest Section of the Eastern Planning Area



INTRODUCTION

This Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been submitted for the initial exploration activity proposed in Desoto Canyon Area Block 133. SEA N-4242 contains site-specific information for proposed activities in Block 133 and that is not contained in the Area-Wide Environmental Assessment (AEA). The SEA was prepared using the AEA dated May 1984, entitled "Area-Wide Environmental Assessment for Exploration Activities in the Northwest Section of the Eastern Planning Area" as a base document. Both this AEA and SEA N-4242 can be obtained through the Public Information Records Office of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Region, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Office.

The AEA/SEA process is designed to simplify and reduce the size of environmental assessment documents by eliminating repetitive discussions of the same issue. By using SEA N-4242 and the AEA as base documents, this SEA concentrates on the issues specific to the proposed action. By directly referencing information presented in the AEA dated May 1984, this SEA conforms to MMS and other appropriate guidelines for preparing environmental assessments.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. GENERAL

The area of the initial exploratory activity is located approximately 115 km (72 mi) southeast of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana (Figure 1). The water depth at the proposed well sites are about 1550 to 1990 meters (5080 to 6530 feet).

The objective of the proposed operation is to evaluate the hydrocarbon potential of Desoto Canyon Area Block 133. The surface location for the proposed wells are shown in Figure 2. The operator plans to commence drilling of the first well in April 1992.

B. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Amoco plans to use the dynamically positioned drillship rig similar to Sonat's Discoverer 534. Specifications for the actual drilling vessel and safety equipment to be used would be submitted along with the application for permit to drill. During drilling operations, appropriate requirements of 30 CFR Part 250.56 for gas detecting equipment to monitor mud returns and for blowout prevention equipment to maintain well control will be met. The rig will be equipped with curbing and drip pans around equipment as necessary to prevent pollution. All discharges will be in compliance with an approved U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

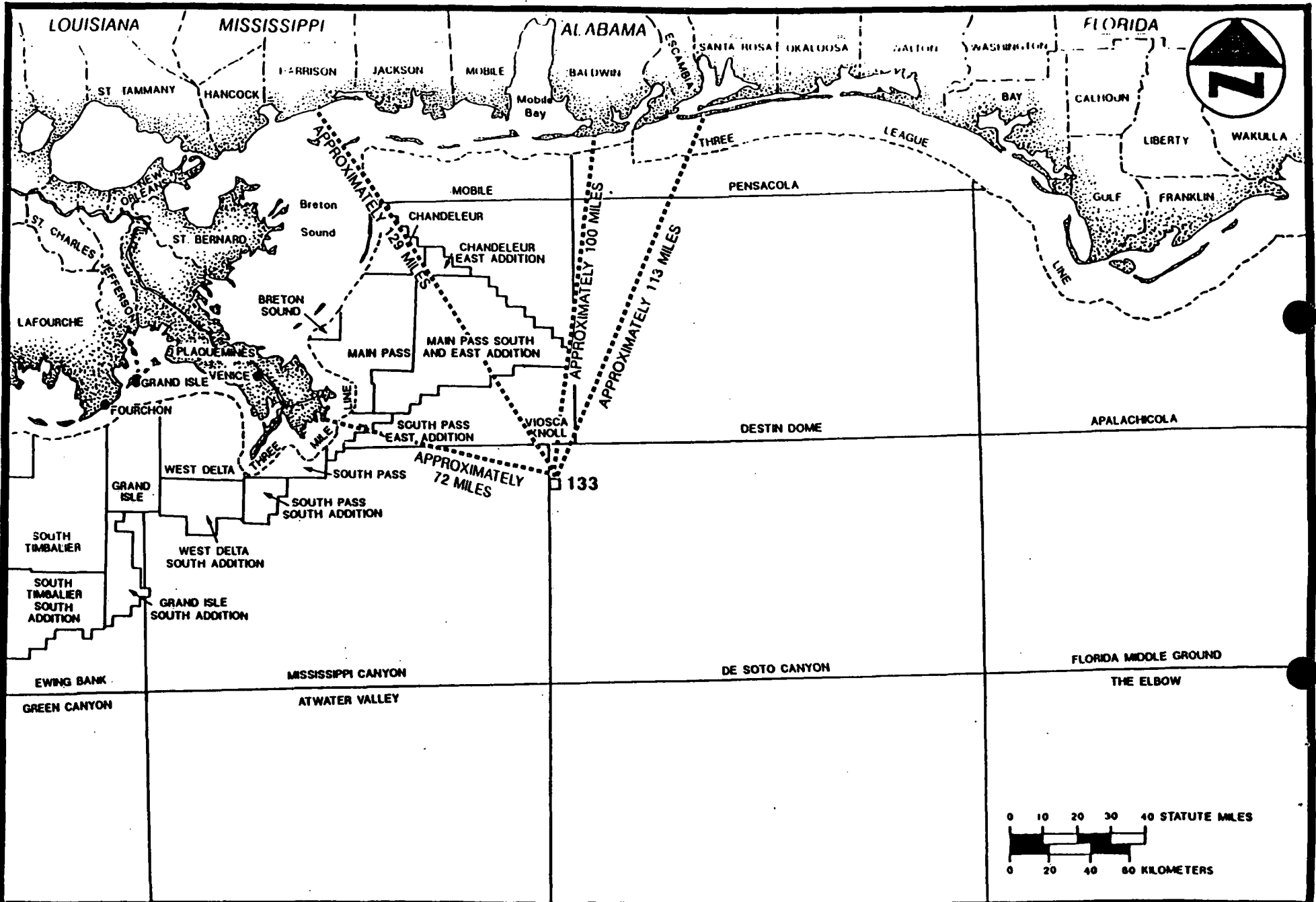
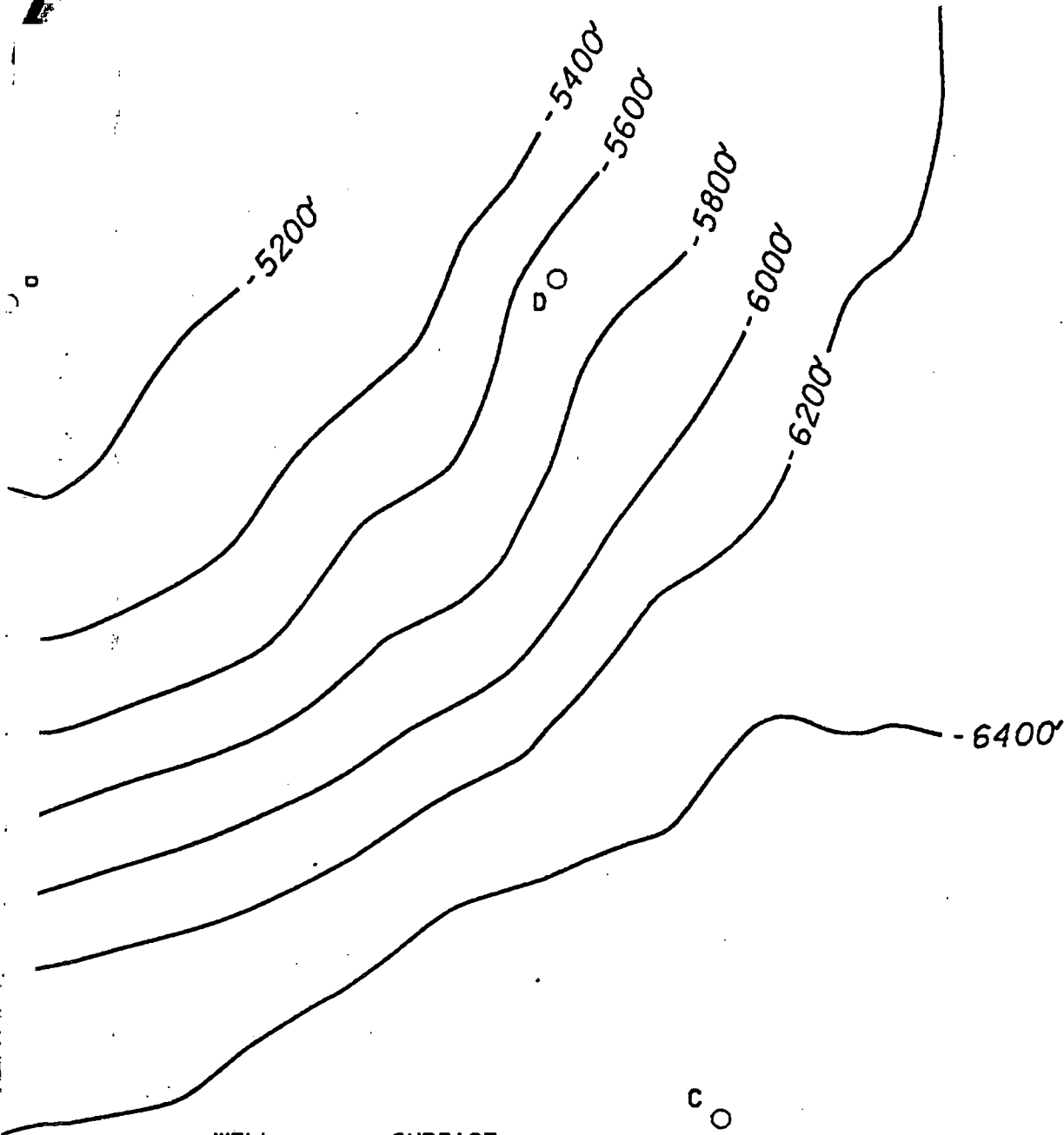


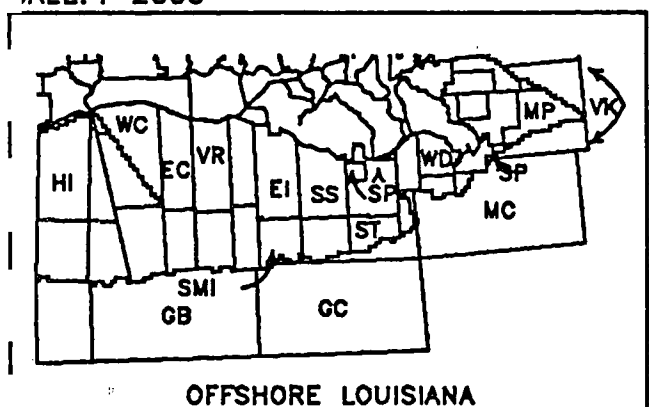
Figure 2.1. Location of De Soto Canyon Area Block 133 with approximate distances to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.





| WELL | SURFACE |
|------|-----------------------|
| A | 800' FNL & 3900' FWL |
| B | 4600' FNL & 100' FWL |
| C | 1500' FSL & 7400' FEL |
| D | 4300' FNL & 6500' FWL |

SCALE: 1"=2000'



OFFSHORE LOUISIANA

ATTACHMENT # 4

Amoco Production Company
 NEW ORLEANS OFFSHORE BUSINESS UNIT
 BLOCK: DC 133
 OCS-G-10444
 BATHYMETRY MAP

permit. Operations will be conducted under an approved Critical Operations and Curtailment Plan. The rig has adequate fire-fighting equipment and will be bound by contract to operate in compliance with appropriate U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Details regarding the safety and pollution prevention systems available on the drillship are contained in the initial POE (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

The onshore support base for the proposed activities is located in Venice, Louisiana. No new families are expected to move into the vicinity of the shorebase area. No new facilities will be required and no new land acquisition or construction is anticipated. Additional information on these facilities and the proposed activities expected to originate from them is included in Sections III.C.1 and IV.C.1 of this SEA.

C. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Amoco proposes to drill wells A,B,C, and D with each requiring about 100 days to complete (Figure 2). The proposed drilling is scheduled to begin with the first well in April 1992 with drilling of the remaining three wells to end approximately April 1993.

D. TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

Two cargo boats (180 feet in length) and one crew boat would operate out of existing dock facilities located in Venice, Louisiana. After departing the shorebase at Venice, the vessels will follow South Pass to the sea buoy then head southeast to the lease block. It is anticipated that the cargo boat will make one trip per day and the crew boat will make four trips per week.

One contracted helicopter will be based at Milpark's facility in Venice, Louisiana. About two helicopter trips per day are anticipated. Helicopter traffic will follow the most direct route to the lease block, traffic and weather conditions permitting.

E. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

Contract rig personnel would total about 55, among which there will be ten service support persons, 8 catering people and 2 Amoco supervisors. No new families will move into the area and no housing will be required.

Further information regarding personnel requirements, including rig crews, boat crews, dispatchers, pilots, and other employees is contained in the environmental report (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

F. TECHNOLOGY

No new or unusual technologies will be employed during this drilling operation (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

G. CONTINGENCY PLANS

Pollution spill prevention will be accomplished primarily by compliance with the design, equipment, and operation requirements of 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart C. Procedures and guidelines for spill regulations in accordance with applicable regulations are provided in Amoco Production Company's Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP), an Oil Spill Trajectory Analysis and response plan for the DeSoto Canyon area (Amoco Production Company, 1992), and a Site-Specific OSCP (Amoco Production Company, 1992,) which satisfies all requirements of 30 CFR Part 250.42. Both plans provide for advance preparation and action procedures for a Divisional Task Force and an Operational Response Team. Response time from Venice, Louisiana, where the equipment specified in Lease Sale 131,135 and 137 is 16.5 hours. Details can be found in the Site-Specific OSCP. Additional information on specific resources availability, response time, oil spill trajectories, and site-specific response plan can be found in the POE (Amoco Production Company, 1992), the Oil Spill Trajectory Analysis and Response Plan for the DeSoto Canyon Area (Amoco Production Company, 1992), and in Amoco's Regional OSCP.

H. DISCHARGES AND EMISSIONS

1. General

Solid and liquid discharges and gaseous emissions would be generated by offshore and onshore activities and transportation operations resulting from the POE. At the drill site in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133, all discharges to the ocean would be under a NPDES permit regulated by the USEPA. Amoco Production Company would maintain full compliance with the NPDES permit during all activities in the area (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

2. Solid Wastes

Solid waste discharges from the rig would consist of drill cuttings and small amounts of other solids. The cuttings, generated both at the bit and through erosion of the borehole walls, are brought to the surface by the drilling mud. These returns have their solids separated from their liquids through the use of solids control equipment (i.e., shale shakers, centrifuges, etc.). After separation, the cuttings are discharged overboard and the mud is recycled. A small amount of drilling fluid may adhere to the cuttings. Cuttings discharge rates and volumes with respect to drill depth would vary during the duration of the well drilling depending on hole size, rate of

penetration, magnitude of the hole erosion, and other factors. All cuttings discharge would be in compliance with the approved NPDES permit (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

For further information regarding solid wastes, refer to the ER (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

3. Liquid Wastes

Liquid wastes include sanitary wastes, domestic wastes, drilling fluids, and water from several sources (e.g., freshwater maker blowdown, deck drains, non-contact cooling water, produced water, and fire control system test water). Treatment of liquid waste effluents would be in compliance with the NPDES permit. Information concerning liquid wastes is contained in the ER (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

4. Gaseous Wastes

Exploratory activities in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 would consist of drilling, testing, completion, and/or abandonment operations. The distance to the nearest landfall is about 152 km (95 mi). Projected air emissions from offshore sources and exemption levels are presented in the ER (Amoco Production Company, 1992). The estimated actual emissions for the project are less than the exemption levels, thus exempting these activities from further air quality reviews [Federal Register, 45 CFR 47, Friday March 7, 1980 (Amoco Production Company, 1992)].

Onshore emission levels should be minor and temporary during helicopter takeoffs and landings, as well as when the work boat and crew boat are in transit in the harbor or at the dock when the generators are running (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

I. STATE CERTIFICATION

Amoco Production Company certifies that the AER's, ER, and POE indicate that each of the proposed activities, their associated facilities, and effects are all consistent with and comply with the provisions and guidelines of the Alabama, Florida and Louisiana approved coastal zone management (CZM) programs. The proposed activities will be conducted in a manner consistent with their CZM programs.

J. MEASURES FOR COMPLIANCE

During drilling operations in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133, Amoco Production Company and its contractors will maintain full compliance with the NPDES permit and regulations governing oil and gas lease operations in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), as well as with the applicable lease stipulations. The lease agreement for this Block contains no unusual operational lease stipulations.

Compliance with lease stipulations from OCS Sale No. 116 were described in the related AEA's and SER. Appendix E in the SER discusses three stipulations (Stipulations 1, 3A and 5) from OCS Sale No. 116.

Stipulation No. 1 of Sale No. 116, Part 1 concerns the protection of Archaeological lease areas. The Archaeology stipulation will not be invoked since DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 lies beyond the Cultural Resource Boundary.

Stipulation No. 3A of Sale No. 116, concerns regulating control of electromagnetic emissions and operations of boat and/or aircraft traffic into the designated Military Warning Area EWTA-1.

Stipulation No. 5 of Sale No. 116 states that the placement, location, and planned periods of surface structures on this lease during the exploratory stage are subject to the approval of the Regional Director.

DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 lies outside of Panhandle Area B. Amoco has submitted to the MMS a site-specific OSCP for DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133. The regional and site-specific OSCP's comply with present information required by 30 CFR 250.42. The OSCP's follow the format and address the guidelines contained in the 28 October 1991 Letter to Lessees (FO-2-1) from the MMS, GOM OCS Region.

The regional and site-specific OSCP's contain information that summarizes the most recent applicable trajectory analyses and discusses the response strategies to be used for the protection of the environmental resources that are shown to be potentially vulnerable. The site-specific OSCP identifies Venice, Louisiana as the shore base where the oil spill containment and clean-up equipment will be stockpiled. Amoco is a member of Clean Gulf Associates that provides oil containment and clean-up capabilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to the above, the combination of Amoco's regional and site-specific OSCP's addresses and provides information on the following other items required by 30 CFR 250.42: 1) identification of the primary location of containment and removal equipment, (2) an estimation of the time required for mobilization, transportation, and deployment onsite of the equipment and materials, and 3) a discussion which identifies the zones that appropriate and available trajectory analyses indicate may be impacted by an oil spill, the environmentally sensitive resources and areas within the impact zones, and the strategies used to protect these resources from oil spills. In the discussion, identify the specific source documents which were used to determine the impact zones, the environmentally sensitive

resources and areas that could be affected, and the oil spill response strategies.

K. NEARBY PENDING ACTIONS

The only operation in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 is the one addressed in the SER and POE submitted by Amoco Production Company in this SEA. Amoco Production Company is not aware of any mineral mining operations in adjacent blocks other than the proposed oil and gas exploration in Block 133. Potential economic deposits of phosphate and quartz sands are thought to be present on the west Florida shelf although no mining has occurred to date [U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI), 1987].

II. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSED ACTION

Alternatives to approval of the revised proposal as originally submitted are:

Non-approval of the proposal - Amoco Production Company would not be allowed to undertake the proposed Plan of Exploration activity in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133. This alternative could prevent discovery and development of much-needed hydrocarbon resources and would result in loss of royalty income for the United States. Considering this aspect and the fact that minimal impacts are anticipated, this alternative was not deemed appropriate.

Approval with additional mitigation - In the course of this evaluation process, the following protective measures were identified to further mitigate the environmental impacts associated with the proposal.

1. The lessee will ensure that all aircraft used in support of their OCS operations maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet over all national wildlife refuges and national park lands.

2. In compliance with the lease stipulation regarding control of electromagnetic emissions and operations of boat and/or aircraft traffic into the designated Military Warning Area EWTA-1, the operator must enter into an agreement with the Air Force Development Test Center, 3246th Test Wing/CCU, Attention: John Wilkinson/CCU or Mr. Vickory, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542, Telephone: (904)882-8963/9757.

3. The MMS analyses indicate there is a potential geologic hazard problem. Based on this finding, appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts will be brought to the lessee's attention.

4. Permits can not be issued until the state of Florida determines the proposal is consistent with their CZM program or concurrence can be conclusively presumed. This action will require further evaluation based upon the findings of the state's consistency determination.

In addition to these measures, appropriate OCS Orders, regulations, and procedures are believed sufficient to prevent significant adverse impacts. Measures which Amoco proposes to implement to limit pollution effects are discussed in the plan, SER, and AER's. Outer Continental Shelf Orders, Notices to Lessees and Operators, and lease stipulations have been identified in this assessment as existing mitigation for potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed POE (see also Section I.J.).

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Environmental Geology and Hazards

a. General Description of Geology

Water depth variations for DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 are indicated on the bathymetry map in the SER (Amoco Production Company, 1992). The water depth at the proposed location of Well "A" is about 1555 meters (5100 feet), 1550 meters (5080 feet) at proposed Well "B", 1990 meters (6530 feet) at proposed Well "C" and 1731 meters (5680 feet) at proposed Well "D". The major seafloor feature within the vicinity is a diapiric intrusion located across the western portion of Block 133. The seafloor is smooth, dipping to the southeast at 5 to 18 degrees along the flanks of the feature with the crest being relatively flat. Seafloor fault escarpments were observed on the crest of the diapiric feature with the majority showing less than 10 feet of seafloor displacement. Surficial sediments on the block consists of fine grained sand, silts and clays (John E. Chance & Associates, Inc., 1992).

Additional information on geology is included in the AEA and the operator's hazard study.

b. Potential Geologic Hazards

The MMS analyses indicate there is a potential geologic hazard problem. Based on this finding, appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts will be brought to the lessee's attention.

B. BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Offshore Habitats

a. Benthic Environment

Benthos are organisms associated with the ocean floor, either living within the sediments or upon the sediment surface. Megafauna are large enough to be collected in trawls. Macrofauna are organisms retained on a 1.0mm or 0.5mm sieve whereas meiofauna are organisms that pass through a 1.0mm or 0.5mm sieve. Recently, the Minerals Management Service funded a Northern Gulf of Mexico Continental Slope Study that included stations east and west of DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 (Galloway, 1988). Meiofaunal and macroinfaunal densities decreased with increasing water depth on the continental slope with meiofaunal densities about two orders of magnitude greater than macrofaunal densities in all depth ranges (Amoco Production Company, 1992). Shrimps, squid, crabs, fishes and stomatopods are the demersal biota associated with the near-bottom waters. The Northern Gulf of Mexico Survey noted that 432 species of invertebrates and 126 species of fishes were collected (Galloway, 1988). Generally, invertebrates were more abundant than fishes.

b. Sensitive Underwater Features

Chemosynthetic communities are associated with hydrocarbon seep areas in water depths of 400 to 1000m (1312 to 3281 feet). Lush growths of bivalves, tubeworms, etc. are often observed around vents. They derive nutrition from microorganisms that metabolize methane or sulfur.

NTL No. 88-11 requires operators to delineate any areas that may contain seismic wipe-out zones, anomalous mounds, oil seeps, etc. that could support chemosynthetic organisms. The geophysical analysis of the area did not reveal any such features conducive to support these organisms (Appendix A).

2. Endangered or Threatened Species

Endangered or threatened species which may occur in the vicinity of DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 includes 2 whales and 5 sea turtles: Fin whale, Sperm whale, Green sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, Loggerhead sea turtle, Leatherback sea turtle and the Hawksbill sea turtle. Shoreward of the lease area of critical concern are the nesting and feeding grounds of the brown pelican and the nesting grounds of the sea turtle along the barrier islands of northwest Florida (USDOI, MMS, 1983a). The West Indian manatee have been found along the entire coast of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The numbers have been increasing north and west along the coast from the southern Big Bend coast of Florida in the past 20 years.

C. SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONCERNS

Socioeconomic conditions and concerns, including employment, population, and industry centers have been addressed in the AEA (USDOI, 1984) and AER's prepared in 1984 and 1985 (Racal Survey, Inc., 1984, 1985; CSA, Inc., 1985).

The initial OCS Socioeconomic Data Base Report will be developed after the MMS and the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida have identified the specific parameters to be addressed in these annual reports. No new personnel will be needed for the proposed activities.

1. Onshore Support Facilities

Amoco Production Company would use an existing onshore base facility located in Venice, Louisiana. This base would serve as a loading point for tools, equipment, and machinery to be delivered to the offshore locations; crew change and transportation base; and temporary storage for materials and equipment. Information regarding personnel and boats and aircraft that would utilize the shorebase is presented in Sections I.D. and E. of this SEA and in the SER (Amoco Production Company, 1992). Activities associated with DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 should not result in any increase in the size or number of onshore support and storage facilities or land and personnel requirements

2. Public Opinion

Private citizens and elected officials questioned why northwest Florida has not received the same degree of attention concerning drilling as South Florida. Over 98 percent of individual comments from residents of Florida and signatures on various petitions have voiced opposition to oil and gas leasing (USDOI, MMS, 1990a). The Governor of Florida also expressed cancellation of Sale 137.

3. Navigation

DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 is not within any navigational fairway.

4. Military Warning/Use Areas

DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 is located within Military Warning Area No. EWTA-1 (USDOI, MMS, 1986c,). Therefore, in accordance with Lease Stipulation No. 3A regarding control of electromagnetic emissions and operations of boat and/or aircraft traffic into the designated Military Warning Area EWTA-1, the operator must enter into an agreement with The Air Force

Development Test Center, 3246th Test Wing/CCU, Attention: John Wilkinson/CCU or Mr. Vickory, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542, Telephone: (904)882-8963/9757.

5. Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing of the DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 is likely to be sparse except for possible tuna longlining. Also sharks, swordfish and other pelagic species can be caught in the vicinity. Block 133 lies within the area for commercial and recreational fishing for yellow fin and bluefin tuna (USDOC, 1985).

6. Recreation

Very little recreational activity is expected at DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 due to the distance offshore. However, recreational offshore fishing may occur (USDOC, 1985).

7. Air Quality

Projected air emissions and exemption levels were presented in the ER (Amoco Production Company, 1992) and in Appendix A. The estimated actual emissions for the project area are less than the exemption levels, thus exempting these activities from further air quality reviews.

No Florida counties (e.g., Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla) in the vicinity of the SER area are classified as nonattainment areas for any of the airborne pollutants determined by monitoring schemes (40 CFR 50) (USDOJ, 1987). Mobile County, Alabama does not meet primary standards for ozone (O₃) (USDOJ, 1987).

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. OIL SPILLS

1. Vulnerability of Coastal Land Segments to Oil Spills

Information concerning the predicting and monitoring of oil spill movement and site-specific spill trajectory analyses for the DeSoto Canyon Area and potential impact areas can be found in the Oil Spill Trajectory Analysis and Response Plan for the DeSoto Canyon Area (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

Revisions to update Amoco's Site-Specific Oil Spill Trajectory Analysis and Response Plan in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 250.42 are contained in Amoco's POE (Amoco Production Company, 1992).

Amoco's Regional OSCP and its Site-Specific Oil Trajectory Analysis and Response Plan for the DeSoto Canyon Area both detail procedures and steps in place for the early detection and timely notification of an oil spill. Amoco's Regional OSCP also details the procedures for implementing Amoco's accidental discharge plan, notifying ADEPT Team Members, and mobilizing equipment and personnel in the event of a major accidental discharge.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

1. Impacts Concerning Geology

In order to identify potential geological hazards, the available geological and geophysical data for DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 were reviewed by the New Orleans District staff of MMS which resulted in a recommendation of approval (Appendix A). The analyses indicate that there is a potential geologic hazard problem. Appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts will be required of the lessee. Amoco requests that DeSoto Canyon Block 133 be approved by the Regional Supervisor as an area where the absence of H₂S has been confirmed since no previously drilled wells have encountered any in the area. In addition, MMS analyses indicate that there is a potential geologic hazard problem (shallow gas). Based on this finding, appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts will be brought to the lessee's attention.

2. Impacts on the Biological Environment

The lessee will ensure that all aircraft used in support of their OCS operations maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet over all national wildlife refuges and national park lands. Due to the distance of DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 from shore and the use of an established onshore support base requiring no new construction, dredging, or filling, impacts other than those from oil spills on the area's biological environment would be insignificant. Further site-specific discussion of potential impacts to the benthos and sensitive underwater features are included under their respective headings. Refer to Section IV.A of this SEA and the corresponding section of the AEA (USDOI, 1984a) for a discussion of oil spill impacts to the biological environment.

a. Impacts on Offshore Habitats

(1) Impacts on the Benthic Environment

Impacts to the benthic environment are generally discussed in Sections IV.B.4.b.2 and 3 of the AEA. Additional information regarding the benthic environment has been provided in the SER (Amoco Production Company, 1992). The following discussion is taken from that document.

Drilling muds and cuttings discharges could result in very minor benthic impacts. The only impacts will be the surface location which will be a few meters since the dynamically positioned drill ship will employ no anchors. Many of the fishes and marine animals will be attracted to the drillship which would provide shelter and food (Galloway and Lewbel, 1982).

Evidence from previous laboratory and field research indicates that most water-based drilling muds are relatively nontoxic [National Research Council, 1983; Neff, 1985]. Therefore, the major concern about onsite drilling discharges are increased sedimentation possibly resulting in burial or smothering.

(2) Impacts on Sensitive Underwater Features

The proposed well sites are located outside of the hard bottom/live bottom areas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have reviewed the proposal and do not recommend further protection measures (Appendix B).

b. Impacts on Endangered or Threatened Species and Critical Habitats

No impacts on endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated, except in the event of a major oil spill reaching shore.

C. IMPACTS ON SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONCERNS

1. Impacts from Construction of Onshore Support Facilities

The onshore support facility for marine operations would be at an existing site in Venice, Louisiana. No new construction, dredging, or filling would be involved.

2. Impacts of Public Opinion

No significant public opposition to the planned operation has surfaced to date.

3. Impacts on Navigation

The exploratory activities in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 lies outside of a shipping fairway. The impacts of the drilling rig on marine transportation (fishing and pleasure boating) could be both adverse and beneficial. Stationary structures could represent obstacles to navigation, but they also could serve as navigational aids. The operator is required to comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations related to the safety of personnel and the display of prescribed navigational lights and signals for the safety of navigation. Amoco Production Company is also required

to obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent obstructions to navigation. Additional information is included in the AEA (USDOI, 1984a).

4. Impacts Concerning Military Use

In compliance with the lease stipulation regarding control of electromagnetic emissions and operations of boat and/or aircraft traffic into the designated Eglin Water Test Area-1, the operator must enter into an agreement with Air Force Development Test Center, 3246th Test Wing/CCU, Attention: John Wilkinson/CCU or Mr. Vickory, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542, Telephone: (904)882-8963/9757. Conducting the exploratory operations in accordance with existing Stipulation No. 3A is expected to reduce potential impacts to a minimal level.

5. Impacts to Commercial Fishing

Direct impacts of exploratory operations in DeSoto Canyon Area Block 133 would be the removal of a limited area of seafloor and the temporary degradation of water quality in the immediate area of the drill site. Additional information regarding impacts to commercial fishing is included in Section IV.C.7 of the AEA. Refer to Section IV.A of the SEA and the AEA for a discussion of oil spill impacts on commercial fishing.

6. Impacts to Recreation/Tourism

Due to the distance offshore [152 km (95 mi)] and the temporary nature of the proposed activities, impacts to aesthetic and recreational resources in the coastal area would be insignificant. Refer to Section IV. A. of this SEA and the AEA for a discussion of oil spill impacts. Impacts to recreational fishing over the hard-bottom formation, as described in Section III.C.6, would be insignificant.

7. Impacts on Air Quality

The effects of the air emissions onshore would be negligible due to the distance of the drillsite to the coast. Additional information is included in the AEA. Projected air emissions and exemption levels were presented in the SER prepared by Amoco Production Company. The estimated actual emissions for the project are less than the exemption levels. No significant air quality impacts are expected.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

In accordance with the provisions of DM 655, copies of the plan were forwarded for review to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A copy of the plan was also forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Alabama CZM and

Governor's Offices for their review and comments. Copies of comments of the USFWS and NMFS are included in Appendix B. Florida's and Louisiana's CZM and Governor's Offices were also provided with copies of the plan. A copy of Louisiana's comments are provided in Appendix B.

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VIII. APPENDICES

A. REVIEWS FROM MMS

B. REVIEWS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

APPENDIX A
REVIEWS FROM MMS

MEMORANDUM

Date: 3-12-92

To: Unit Supervisor, (MS 5231)
From: Unit Supervisor, (MS 5222)
Subject: Review of Initial POE, Amoco Production, Control No. N-4242
Lease OCS-G 10444, Block 133, DeSoto Canyon Area

Classification of Area per 250.67(c):

- Zone(s) known to contain H2S
- Zone(s) where the presence of H2S is unknown
- Zone(s) where the absence of H2S has been confirmed



Recommendation/Comments:

- Approval recommended. Normal precautions will be adequate while conducting activities proposed in this POE.
- Approval is recommended with the following conditions: _____

Caution for shallow GAS

- Modification recommended as follows: _____

- Disapproval recommended for the following reason(s): _____

- Comments: _____

Attached are the following reviews as per your request:

- Hazards Review
- Geophysical
- Geological

Kayd Bryan
Unit Supervisor

Attachments

HAZARDS REVIEW

POE

Lease OCS-G 10444

Block 133

DeSoto Canyon Area

Plan Control No. N-4242

The subject proposal includes Wells A through D

Seafloor Hazards: NO SEAFLOOR HAZARDS.

Subsurface Hazards: POSSIBLE SHALLOW GAS.

Other Hazards (Pipelines, Sunken Ships, Cables, etc.): UNKNOWN

Preparer(s): A. Ahmed

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

To: Unit Supervisor, Plans Unit
From: Geophysicist, GOM OCS Region

Date: 03/12/92

Subject: Geophysical Review Purpose: POE

Control Number: N-424

OCS- G 10444 Area: DeSoto Canyon Block: 133 Operator: Amoco Production
Well/Plat. Name: Wells A through D
Depth:- 13000'/13000'/17500'/13500' TVD SS.
Surface Location: A=800N,3900W; B=4600N,100W; C=1500S,7400E; D=4300N,6500W;
Bottom Hole Loc.: A=6100N 8451W; B=4900N 9400W; C=SAME; D=SAME

SHALLOW HAZARDS EVALUATION

High Resolution Survey Report: JOHN E. CHANCE AND ASSOCIATE.
HRG Data: Echo[*] Mag[] Sss[] Sbp[*] Spkr[] CDP[*] Other[WATER GUN]
Proximity: 0-450' Line No. 10/11/15/13 Shot Pt. No. REPRES. Line Spacing: 1000'

Water depth: WATER DEPTH IS ABOUT 5200' TO 6000' SEAFLOOR SLOPES SE AT 80'/M

ALL FOUNDATION ARE STABLE WELL STRATIFIED SEDEMENTS EXCEPT LOC. D, IT HAVE
ACAUSTIC VOID DUE DEEPLY DIPPING STRATA.

LOC. A POSS. GAS AT 9670' SS. LOC. B POSS. GAS AT 9759'. LOC. D POSS. GAS
AT 9893'.

NO APPARENT SHALLOW FAULTS.

NO OTHER SHALLOW GEOHAZARDS.

DEEP SEISMIC EVALUATION

Seismic Data: AMOCO 2-D MIGRATION DEEP SEISMIC
Proximity: 200'-2000' Line No. LT1XXX,MVG-XXX Shot Pt. REPRES. Line Spacing: 2000'

STRATIGRAPHIC TRAP AGAINST THE SALT SILL.

LOC. A BRT SPOTS AT 10879' AND 15042' SS. SALT SILL AT 11150' SS. B LOC.
BRT SPOTS AT 11550', BETWEEN 12893' TO 13072' AND 19520'. C LOC BRT SPOTS AT
11908', 12132' AND 14371' AND VERY BRIGHT AT 16475'. D LOC BRT AT 13028 , 15938' SS.
B LOC. ENCOUNTER SALT SILL AT 11150' SS. C LOCATION ENCOUNTER A FAULT AT
17057' SS.

THE ONLY DOMAL MATTERIALS ARE THE SALT SILL MENTIONED ABOVE.
UNKNOWN

Recommendation: APPROVAL IS RECOMMENDED WITH REGULAR PRECAUTION AT SHALLOW GAS LOCATIONS.

Geophysicist: A. Ahmed

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

To: Supervisor, Exploration/Development Plans Unit Date: 03/12/92

From: Geological Operations Support Section, GOMR

Subject: Geological Review Purpose: POE Control No.: N-4242

OCS G 10444 Area: DeSoto Canyon Block(s): 133

Operator: Amoco Production Rig: DISCOVERER 532 Elev.: +100

| WELL: | SFC. LOC: | BHL: | TVD: | MD: | WD: |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| A | 800'FNL, 3900'FWL of DC 0133 | 6100'FNL, -8451'FWL of DC 0133 | 13000' | 16277' | 5100' |
| B | 4600'FNL, 100'FWL of DC 0133 | 4900'FNL, 9400'FWL of DC 0133 | 13000' | 18176' | 5080' |
| C | 1500'FSL, 7400'FEL of DC 0133 | 1500'FSL, 7400'FEL of DC 0133 | 17500' | 17500' | 6530' |
| D | 4300'FNL, 6500'FWL of DC 0133 | 4300'FNL, 6500'FWL of DC 0133 | 13500' | 13500' | 5680' |

ANTICIPATED DEPTHS AND THICKNESS OF:

- Potential Oil and/or Gas Bearing Horizons and Shallow Hazards:
 - Horizons: EXPLORATORY FOR PLIOCENE AND MIOCENE SANDS
 - Hazards: NONE KNOWN - EXPLORATORY
- Fresh Water Sands: NONE
- Domal Material (Cap Rock, False Cap Rock, Salt, Shale):
SALT POSSIBLE ABOVE TD
- Possible Lost Circulation Zones: NONE KNOWN
- Possible Abnormal Pressure Zones: ABOUT 11000'
- Horizons which may need Special Mud, Casing or Cementing Program (incl. H2S Depth/Class):
NONE; H2S KNOWN TO BE ABSENT FROM WELLS ON TREND

Distance from nearest well or platform:
OVER 5 MILES

Relationship of surface location to geological structures:
ON SALT STRUCTURE

Remarks:

Casing Elimination: NA

Other: NONE

Additional Data Needed: NONE

Data Reviewed: APPLICATION, REVIEWS

Recommendation (including cautions, if any):
APPROVAL

Geologist: Floyd. T. Bryan

Form MMS-340 (Feb. 1986)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM



February 14/92

To: Supervisor, Exploration/Development Plans Unit, Plans, Platform and Pipeline Section, Field Operations, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (FO-2-1)

From: Supervisor, Platform/Pipeline Unit, Plans, Platform and Pipeline Section, Field Operations, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (FO-2-2)

Subject: Plan of Exploration for Amoco Production,
Desoto Canyon Area, Block 133, Lease OCS-G 10444.
30 CFR 250.34 Control No. N-4242

Proposed Well/Platform:

| Identification and Location | Existing Pipelines Within 500 Feet |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <u>Well A - 800' FWL & 3900' FWL</u> | <u>None</u> |
| <u>Well B - 4600' FWL & 100' FWL</u> | <u>None</u> |
| <u>Well C - 1500' FWL & 7400' FWL</u> | <u>None</u> |
| <u>Well D - 4300' FWL & 6500' FWL</u> | <u>None</u> |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Remarks: _____

Frank Jan
Unit Supervisor

FTorres:jj:LEXITYPE Disk 7

AIR QUALITY REVIEW

CER/EA No. N-4242 Due Date 3/19/92 Lease(s) OCS-G 10444

Block(s) 133 Area DE SOTO CANYON

Onshore Emissions

Onshore Base: VENICE, LA. New or Revised: Yes No

Onshore Emissions Calculations (If onshore base is new or revised):

NO_x — tons/yr; CO — tons/yr; VOC — tons/yr;

TSP — tons/yr; SO₂ — tons/yr

Offshore Emissions

Major Sources - Offshore Emissions Calculations:

NO_x 2248.2 tons/yr; CO 54420.3 tons/yr; VOC 2248.2 tons/yr;

TSP 2248.2 tons/yr; SO₂ 2248.2 tons/yr

Minor Sources - Offshore Emissions Calculations:

NO_x 249.8 tons/yr; CO 6046.7 tons/yr; VOC 249.8 tons/yr;

TSP 249.8 tons/yr; SO₂ 249.8 tons/yr

Total Offshore Emissions:

NO_x 2498 tons/yr; CO 60467 tons/yr; VOC 2498 tons/yr;

TSP 2498 tons/yr; SO₂ 2498 tons/yr

Emissions Exemption Calculations

Distance to Nearest Land in Statute Miles: 75

Exemption: For CO; $E = 3400D^{2/3} = \underline{60,467} tons/yr$

For NO_x, VOC, TSP, SO₂; $E = 33.3D = \underline{2,498} tons/yr$

There will be significant effect on air quality from the proposed action:

Yes No

Information Source(s): PLAN, EIS, STAFF

Comments/Recommendations: WELLS WILL BE DRILLED WITH A DYNAMICALLY POSITIONED DRILLSHIP.

[Signature]
Meteorologist

2/19/92
Date

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

DO A
SEA for
EGOM Region

Rutherford

Date: 02/11/92

To: Environmental Operations Section (MS 5440)
From: Exploration/Development Plans Unit (MS 5231)
Subject: Initial POE, Amoco Production, Lease OCS-G 10444,
Block 133, De Soto Canyon Area, Wells A through D,
Contract No. A-4242

Attached are two copies of the subject plan and Environmental Report. Please
give us your cultural resource, biological, air quality, and off site
comments by 03/12/92.

Anticipated completeness date is 02/25/92

Date comments to be forwarded is 03/12/92

Proposed commence date is 04/01/92

NEPA review memorandum due date is 03/19/92

Other comments: _____

FEB 1 1992

Michael M. Tolbert
Leasing Section

Michael Tolbert
for Unit Supervisor

Attachment

| Bottom Lease/Structure | Surface Location |
|------------------------|--|
| OCS 10444, WELL A | -- 800 feet FNL & 3900 feet FWL of DC Block 0133, OCS 10444 |
| OCS 10444, WELL B | -- 4600 feet FNL & 100 feet FWL of DC Block 0133, OCS 10444 |
| OCS 10444, WELL C | -- 1500 feet FSL & 7400 feet FEL of DC Block 0133, OCS 10444 |
| OCS 10444, WELL D | -- 4800 feet FNL & 6500 feet FWL of DC Block 0133, OCS 10444 |

*** PROPRIETARY--FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT USE ONLY ***

PR PRIETARY COPY

Plan of Exploration for Desoto Canyon Block 133 OCS-G-10444
Air Quality

This attachment includes the information required under 30 CFR Part 250.45, to make the necessary findings under that section.

EXEMPTION FORMULA:

The distance to the proposed facility from the closest onshore area of a state is 75.0 statute miles.

The proposed facility is at: *800' FNL & 39000' FWL of
Desoto Canyon Block 133*

The closest onshore area is as follows: *Plaquemines Parish, La.*

This produces the exemption amount of item "A" shown below for particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, and the exempted amount shown in item "B" below for carbon monoxide:

A. *2,498 TPY*
B. *60,467 TPY*

PROJECTED EMISSIONS

DRILLING:

The well(s) proposed to be drilled on this plan is:

| <u>Proposed Well</u> | <u>Proposed Measured Depth (Feet)</u> | <u>Rig Type</u> | <u>Drill Year</u> |
|----------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>OCS-G-10444-A</i> | <i>16,277</i> | <i>Drillship</i> | <i>1992</i> |
| <i>OCS-G-10444-B</i> | <i>18,176</i> | <i>Drillship</i> | <i>1992</i> |
| <i>OCS-G-10444-C</i> | <i>17,500</i> | <i>Drillship</i> | <i>1992</i> |
| <i>OCS-G-10444-D</i> | <i>13,500</i> | <i>Drillship</i> | <i>1993</i> |
| | <i>-----</i> | | |
| | <i>65,453</i> | | |

The emission factors for diesel powered industrial equipment from Table 3.3-1 of EPA publication AP-42, 4th Edition, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, were used to calculate the emissions resulting from the drilling operations.

1. HP-HR assumed to drill one foot ----- *60*
2. Total HP-HR required in this plan ----- *3,927,180*
3. Duration of drilling operation (days) ----- *400*

*Atmospheric emissions from offshore oil and gas development and production (EPA 450/3-77-026, pg. 82-83, June, 1977).

PROPRIETARY COPY

In addition to the rig's emissions we estimate helicopter emissions each day at the drilling location for the period of drilling activity shown below. The emission factors per from Table 3.2.1-3 of EPA Publication AP-42, landing takeoff for helicopters from Table 3.2.1-3 of EPA 3rd Edition were used to calculate the emissions from helicopter flight operations.

- 1. Est. helicopter LTO cycles/per day ----- 2
- 2. Duration of drilling operation (days) ----- 400

One workboat will support the drill rig 30.0% of the time (approximately). The fuel consumption while idling at the drilling location is shown below. The emission factors for CO, HC, and NOx were taken from the diesel vessel emission factors Table 3.2.3-3, AP-42, 3rd Edition. The factors for SOx and particulates were taken from Table 3.3-1, AP-42, 4th Edition. These combined factors were used to calculate the workboat emissions.

- 1. Fuel consumption, idling at the drill location ----- 15.4 gph.

The total emissions attributable to drilling are summarized below. The units are in tons per year (TPY).

| Year | Well Suffix | Carbon Monoxide | Nitrogen Oxide | Hydro-carbons | Sulfur Dioxide | Particulates |
|------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1992 | A | 5.10 | 17.49 | 1.43 | 1.21 | 1.31 |
| 1992 | B | 5.48 | 19.25 | 1.57 | 1.33 | 1.44 |
| 1992 | C | 5.35 | 18.63 | 1.52 | 1.28 | 1.39 |
| 1993 | D | 4.54 | 14.93 | 1.23 | 1.04 | 1.13 |
| | | 20.47 | 70.31 | 5.76 | 4.86 | 5.27 |

SUMMARY:

The attached Table 1a&b summarizes the estimated emissions at this location during drilling. All these emissions are anticipated to occur during the years shown.

Listed below are the calculated exempted emission rates. Since none of the calculated rates due to this installation exceed any of the exempted rates, we request that you determine under Section 250.57(d) that this plan be exempt from further air quality review.

| Carbon Monoxide | Nitrogen Oxide | Hydro-carbons | Sulfur Dioxide | Particulates |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 60,467 | 2,498 | 2,498 | 2,498 | 2,498 |

TABLE 1a:

EMISSIONS (TPY) FOR ---> OCS-G-10444

| 1992 YEAR | WELL SUFFIX --- A | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| POLLUTANT SOURCE | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| DRILLING | 5.10 | 17.49 | 1.43 | 1.21 | 1.31 |
| SUB TOTALS ---> | 5.10 | 17.49 | 1.43 | 1.21 | 1.31 |

| 1992 YEAR | WELL SUFFIX --- B | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| POLLUTANT SOURCE | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| DRILLING | 5.48 | 19.25 | 1.57 | 1.33 | 1.44 |
| SUB TOTALS ---> | 5.48 | 19.25 | 1.57 | 1.33 | 1.44 |

| 1992 YEAR | WELL SUFFIX --- C | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| POLLUTANT SOURCE | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| DRILLING | 5.35 | 18.63 | 1.52 | 1.28 | 1.39 |
| SUB TOTALS ---> | 5.35 | 18.63 | 1.52 | 1.28 | 1.39 |

| 1993 YEAR | WELL SUFFIX --- D | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| POLLUTANT SOURCE | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| DRILLING | 4.54 | 14.93 | 1.23 | 1.04 | 1.13 |
| SUB TOTALS ---> | 4.54 | 14.93 | 1.23 | 1.04 | 1.13 |

PROPRIETARY
COPY

TABLE 1b:

EMISSIONS (TPY) FOR ----> OCS-G-10444

| EMISSION SUBTOTALS BY WELL & YEAR: | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|
| YEAR | WELL | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| 1992 | A | 5.10 | 17.49 | 1.43 | 1.21 | 1.31 |
| 1992 | B | 5.48 | 19.25 | 1.57 | 1.33 | 1.44 |
| 1992 | C | 5.35 | 18.63 | 1.52 | 1.28 | 1.39 |
| 1993 | D | 4.54 | 14.93 | 1.23 | 1.04 | 1.13 |

| YEARLY GRAND TOTALS: | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| YEAR | | CO | NOx | HC | SOx | PART. |
| 1992 | | 15.92 | 55.38 | 4.53 | 3.82 | 4.14 |
| 1993 | | 4.94 | 16.78 | 1.38 | 1.16 | 1.26 |
| EXEMPTED LEVELS, | | 60,467.2 | 2,497.5 | 2,497.5 | 2,497.5 | 2,497.5 |
| MEETS EXEMPTION | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

PROPRIETARY
COPY

Chemosynthetic Community Review

March 5, 1992

DeSoto Canyon Blocks 89,133 and 137
Leases OCS-G 10441, 10444 and 10447
Plan of Exploration: N-4242
Survey- Pinger profiler, watergun
Geophysics: John E. Chance & Associates

Only the surface locations are to be examined since the wells are to be drilled with a dynamically positioned drillship. Water depths across the survey area range from 4925 feet in Block 89 to 6985 feet in Block 177 to the south. A large diapir located along the western region of Blocks 89 and 133 has influenced the bathymetry of the study area. The flanks of the diapir are steep (5-18 degrees) whereas the crest is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the southeast. Regional slope not influenced by the topographic high is to the south.

A seafloor gully is aligned along the north and northeast sides of the diapir. Formation of the gully may be related to the depletion of underlying sediments due to shallow salt tectonics. A seafloor disturbance zone within the northern region of the gully may result from the slow flowage of unconsolidated prodelta clays within the gully.

Two areas of seafloor fault escarpments are concentrated on the crest of the diapir and the northeast quadrant of Block 89. The faults generally strike to the northwest/southeast. Seafloor offsets are generally 2-10 feet on the crest but one fault shows 20-85 feet of displacement. The fault system along the northeast quadrant of Block 89 reveals scarps of 2-25 feet with one escarpment showing an offset of 60-240 feet. An acoustic void zone is probably related to the steeply dipping beds along the flanks of the topographic high but some gas migration may be possible at this location. The seafloor faults do not show any indication of migrating gas. Therefore, the area appears to be clear for the development of chemosynthetic communities.

10444.chm

Gary J. Rutherford
Gary J. Rutherford

UNITED STATES GOVERN.
MEMORANDUM

Date 2/14/92

To: Chief, Plans, Platform, and Pipeline Section, Offshore
Field Operations, GOM OCS Region (FO-2-1)

From: Chief, Environmental Operations Section, Leasing and
Environment, GOM OCS Region (LE-5)

Subject: Preliminary Review of Plan/Application No. N-4242

CULTURAL RESOURCES N/A

There is ___ is not a Cultural Resource problem requiring modification
of the proposed location(s).

The problem is _____

The problem can be resolved by _____

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

There is ___ is not a Biological Resource problem requiring modification of
the proposed locations(s).

The problem is _____

The problem can be resolved by _____

Oil Spill Information Review

There is ___ (see attached review) is not an oil spill information problem
requiring supplemental information.

Gary D. Rutherford
for Jerry Brashier

cc: CER File (LE-5)

OIL SPILL REVIEW

Company Name - Amoco

CER/EA No. - N-4242

Lease OCS-G 10444

Area and Block DESERT CANYON 133

Primary oil spill equipment base Venice

Response time 16.5 hours

Trajectory Analysis submitted: Yes No

The operator's response time/trajectory analysis is adequate
Yes No

Information Sources - Visuals, EIS, Staff, Plan

Comments/Recommendations NONE

Larry D. Ruthford
Reviewer

2/14/92
Date

via disc

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

2/28/92

To: Chief, Plans, Platforms, and Pipeline Section, Field Operations,
GOM OCS Region (FO-2-1)

From: Chief, Environmental Operations Section, Leasing and Environment,
GOM OCS Region (LE-5)

Subject: Environmental Supporting Information for Plan Control No. N-4242,
Lease OCS-G 10944,
Block(s) 133, Area DESOTO CANYON

Our review of the subject plan's environmental supporting information required pursuant to the LTL dated October 12, 1988, has determined that the information is complete. Therefore, your office may proceed with the distribution of the information.

for *Gary J. Rutherford*
Jerry Brechler

APPENDIX B
REVIEWS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

State of Louisiana



EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

JACK McCLANAHAN
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 23, 1992

United States Department
of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, La 70123-2394



RE: C920082, Coastal Zone Consistency
Proposed Initial Plan of Exploration
AMOCO PRODUCTION
OCS Number: OCSG 10444
Area: DESOTO CANYON Block(s): 133
Control Number: N-4242
Offshore Louisiana

Dear Mr. Stauffer:

The above referenced project has been received by this office and has been found to be consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program as required in Section 307(C)(3)(B) (Subpart E) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Mr. Bill Pittman of my staff at (504)342-7591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T.W. Howey".

T.W. Howey, Director
Coastal Management Division

TWH/BP/dw
cc: AMOCO PRODUCTION

33



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Leigh Pegues, Director

March 26, 1992

RECEIVED

Guy Hunt
Governor

751 Cong. W. L.
Dickinson Drive
Montgomery, AL
36130
(205) 271-7700
FAX 271-7950
270-5612

Regional Supervisor
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico, OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

MAR 31 1992
Minerals Management Service
Leasing & Environment

Field Offices:

Re: Control No. /MMS-92-14

10 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL
35209
(205) 942-6168
AX 941-1603

Dear Sir:

P.O. Box 953
Decatur, AL
35602
(205) 353-1713
AX 340-9359

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has completed its review of the materials submitted by the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, in reference to the proposed exploratory operation in federal waters by Amoco Production, OCS-G-1044, Block 133, Desoto Canyon Area.

Based on the above and the materials submitted, the Department of Environmental Management concurs with the statement of coastal consistency included in the proposed plan, provided the applicant maintains continued compliance with the Management Program.

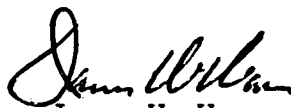
2204 Perimeter Road
Mobile, AL
36615
(205) 479-2336
FAX 479-2593

By copy of this letter, we are requesting that the applicant forward the following:

1. The applicant will notify the ADEM of the project starting date and termination date; and
2. The applicant will submit to the ADEM copies of periodic discharge monitoring reports, noncompliance reports, and other reports as required by EPA.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John Marshall at (205)479-2336.

Sincerely,


James W. Warr
Deputy Director

JWW/JEM/ct





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

February 21, 1992

Mr. Kent E. Stauffer
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-7394



Dear Mr. Stauffer:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has reviewed the Initial Plan of Exploration submitted by Amoco Production (MS 5231) for Lease OCS-G 10444, Block 133, De Soto Canyon. Your control number is N-4242.

Based on the information provided, we have no comment or recommendation regarding the proposed activities. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Edwin Keppner of our Panama City Branch Office at 904/234-5061.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Keppner
F. Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Director
Habitat Conservation Division





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Field Office
1612 June Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405-3721



March 2, 1992



Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf
Region, Minerals Management Service, New Orleans, LA
Attn: MS 5231

From: *fo* Project Leader, Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office,
Panama City, FL

Subject: Initial Plan of Exploration, Amoco Production Company,
Lease OCS-G 10444, Block 133, DeSoto Canyon, Control No. N-4242

The Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the subject document in accordance with 655 DM 1. The document covers the exploratory drilling of wells A, B, C, and D in block 133, DeSoto Canyon.

Review of the Plan indicates that the exploratory wells will be drilled from a dynamically positioned drillship. This type of drillship precludes the use of an extensive anchor and chain system which would minimize the impact to any chemosynthetic community that might occur near the proposed well site. Information presented in the Plan does not indicate the presence of those communities. Thus, we have no objection to the operations as proposed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

cc:
John de Mond, LA DNR, Baton Rouge, LA (attn: Bill Pittman)
Tucker, FLGOV, Tallahassee, FL
Lewis, MS Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Biloxi, MS
Carlton, ADEM, Mobile, AL
Mink, AL Geological Survey, Tuscaloosa, AL



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE DEVELOPMENT TEST CENTER (AFSC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32542-5000



Mr Kent E. Stauffer
Chief, Plans and Pipeline Section
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Dear Mr Stauffer

Reference your letter MS 5231, 2 Mar 92, Review of Initial
Plan of Exploration, Control No. 4242.

We have reviewed subject Initial Plan of Exploration and find
that a formal operating agreement will not be required. Mr H.
C. Van, Jr., Amoco Production Company, contacted us via
telephone on 14 Feb 92 concerning this subject. We have
advised Amoco of this determination and requested certain
information for use by our Range Schedulers. A copy of our
letter to Amoco is attached for your files.

Office of Primary Responsibility for oil and gas lease
activity has been reassigned from Mr John Wilkinson,
3246TESTW/CCU, to Mr Danny Pugh, AFDTX/XRI, (904) 882-3899,
Fax (904) 882-4739. All future correspondence should be
directed to Mr Pugh.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert J. Arnold".

ROBERT J. ARNOLD
Chief, Corporate Plans Office

1 Atch
AFDTX/XR Ltr to Amoco
Production Company



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
 HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE DEVELOPMENT TEST CENTER (AFDC)
 EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32542-6000



Mr Harty C. Van, Jr.
 Amoco Production Company
 Offshore Business Unit
 Amoco Building
 P.O. Box 50879
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70150

Dear Mr Van

Reference Amoco Production Oil and Gas Drilling Request, OCS No. OCS-G-10444, Block 133 (DeSoto Canyon) and your telephone conversation on 14 Feb 92 with Mr Danny F. Pugh, this office.

We have reviewed your request to begin drilling operations in Block 133, DeSoto Canyon, and determined that your operations lie sufficiently outside our warning areas as to make a formal operating agreement unnecessary at this time. Additionally, it is our understanding that boat and aircraft traffic servicing your Block 133, DeSoto Canyon, drilling operations will not transit any of our controlled warning areas during the time Amoco is exploring the area.

The following information will be required:

- a. Latitude and longitude of each drilling site.
- b. Estimated start and completion date of drilling operations.
- c. Description of drilling rig.
- d. Location of shore bases from which boat and aircraft will originate/terminate.
- e. Name(s) and telephone number(s) of drilling operation and shore base points of contact.
- f. Notification when all Block 133 operations are terminated.

Attached is a "sample" operating agreement. Should your operations change such that you must transit a designated warning area, a formal operating agreement will be required.

Our point of contact for offshore oil and gas issues is Mr Danny Pugh, (904) 882-3899, Fax (904) 882-4739.

Sincerely


ROBERT J. ARNOLD
 Chief, Corporate Plans Office

43

1 Atch
 Sample Operating

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have considered the Exploration Plan submitted by Amoco Production Company to drill exploratory Wells A through D in Desoto Canyon Area Block 133, (OCS-G 10444), SEA No. N-4242, and, based on the environmental analysis contained in this environmental assessment and the incorporation of any mitigation measures and resolution of information needs included therein, find that there is no evidence to indicate that the proposed action(s) will significantly (40 CFR 1508.27) affect the quality of the human environment, and the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.



Regional Supervisor
Leasing and Environment
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

4-1-92

Date

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FIGURES

1. Location of De Soto Canyon Area Block 133 w/approximate distances to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida
2. Bathymetry Map

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| AEA | Area-Wide Environmental Assessment |
| CSA | Continental Shelf Associates |
| CZM | Coastal Zone Management |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EP | Exploration Plan |
| ER | Environmental Report |
| GOM | Gulf of Mexico |
| H ₂ S | Hydrogen Sulfide |
| MMS | Minerals Management Service |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NRC | National Research Council |
| OCS | Outer Continental Shelf |
| OCSP | Oil Spill Contingency Plan |
| SEA | Site-Specific Environmental Assessment |
| SOSCP | Site-Specific Oil Spill Contingency Plan |
| USDOI | U.S. Department of the Interior |
| USEPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |