



United States Department of the Interior

MARINE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

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



In Reply Refer To: GM 274E

September 17, 2026

Ms. Tracy Albert
Shell Offshore Inc.
P.O. Box 61933
New Orleans, Louisiana 70161

Dear Ms. Albert,

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	S-8237
Type	Supplemental Exploration Plan
Received	July 29, 2026
Lease(s)	OCS-G 08852, Block 764, Mississippi Canyon Area (MC)

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of September 17, 2026, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.233(b)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Subsea Wells 11 and 11-Alt1.

In accordance with 30 CFR 556.901(d), additional security may be required for your proposed activities. Prior to conducting activities in which you need to obtain approvals and/or permits described in 30 CFR 550.281(a) from the appropriate District Manager or BSEE Regional Supervisor, you must contact BOEM Risk Management Operations Section by email at boemrms@boem.gov to determine if additional security is required and comply with any demand for this security.

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."

Your proposed operations are located in an area which was used in the 1970's as an industrial waste dump site. Please be advised that precautions should therefore be taken while conducting operations that involve any disturbance of the sea floor in order to avoid the potential for possible hazards. If during normal operations you discover any potential hazard within 10 meters of your drill site, you must halt operations and immediately contact BSEE at waterqualitycompliance@bsee.gov and call (985) 722-7902 for additional guidance.

Exercise caution while drilling due to indications of shallow faulting and potential shallow water flow.

The projected NOx emissions amounts in your plan were calculated using fuel consumption rates. Maintain monthly records of the total annual fuel consumption for the drilling rig only with a limit of 8,924,250 gallons/year and provide the information to the BOEM Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Plans, Plans Section at boemgomrplans@boem.gov annually by February 1st of each year, beginning in the year 2028. If no activities were conducted during a calendar year, provide a statement to that effect in lieu of the required records. If at any time during your activities these records indicate that your NOx annual emissions may exceed the annual limit approved in your plan or the total annual fuel consumption limit, you must immediately prepare a revised plan pursuant to 30 CFR § 550.283 to include the recalculated emissions amounts. You shall not proceed with the actions that could cause the potential annual increase in emissions until the revised plan has been submitted to and approved by BOEM.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposed action under the 2025 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion includes robust avoidance or minimization measures (i.e., protocols), and those measures will continue to be implemented in the Gulf of America as project criteria under the 2026 Endangered Species Committee Order, as well as pursuant to the Bureaus' authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq.).

You must comply with the applicable protected species project criteria for all activities conducted pursuant to this plan. The current oil and gas protected species criteria are available on BOEM's website at: <https://www.boem.gov/regions/gulf-america-ocs-region/oil-and-gas-protected-species-project-criteria>. Activities conducted in association with this approval must adhere to all applicable project criteria, including any reporting requirements. BOEM and BSEE will continue to implement these project criteria, including any future amendments or clarifications, as deemed appropriate.

For activities approved prior to March 31, 2026, archived versions of the protocols are available at the above BOEM website link.

The following project criteria found in the link (<https://www.boem.gov/regions/gulf-america-ocs-region/protected-species-project-criteria062026>) are applicable for your proposed activities. The numbering below corresponds to the numbering found in the linked document entitled, *Protected Species Project Criteria for the Oil and Gas Program in the Gulf of America*:

- Attachment 2: The Bureaus' Marine Debris Project Criteria
- Attachment 3: The Bureaus' Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured and/or Dead Aquatic Protected Species Reporting Project Criteria
- Attachment 4: The Bureaus' Vessel Transit within the Rice's Whale Area as identified in the 2020 Biological Opinion's Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (2020 RWA)
- Attachment 5: The Bureaus' In-water Line Precaution Project Criteria
- Attachment 6: The Bureaus' Moon Pool Monitoring Project Criteria
- Attachment 10: The Bureaus' Sea Turtle Resuscitation Guidelines Project Criteria

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 Leah O'Donnell at leah.odonnell@boem.gov or (504)736-3246.

Sincerely,

for Bernadette Thomas
 Regional Supervisor
 Office of Leasing and Plans