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 235D

October 23, 2026

Mr. Paul Rodriguez
Walter Oil & Gas Corporation
1100 Louisiana, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	N-10274
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	August 25, 2026, amended September 1, 2026
Lease(s)	OCS-G 38008, Block 966, Ewing Bank Area (EW)

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of October 23, 2026, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.233(b)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Subsea Well A.

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 boemrmos@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 (H_2S) 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 "H_2S absent."

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

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 (504) 736-3246 or Leah.odonnell@boem.gov.

Sincerely,

MICHELLE PICOU

Digitally signed by MICHELLE PICOU
Date: 2026.10.23 15:21:46 -05'00'

for Bernadette Thomas
Regional Supervisor
Office of Leasing and Plans