

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
631 Howard Street, San Francisco 94105 — (415) 543-8555

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File
DONALD
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FILE: Santa Clara Unit
POE

Commission meeting
Tuesday Dec. 12th
Airport Marriott Hotel
per attached meeting notes
December 1, 1978
Late on day.

CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION SUMMARY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consistency Certification No. CC-2-78
(Chevron USA)

NOTED: SCHAMBERG

3 Month Period Ends: Feb. 20, 1979

6 Month Period Ends: May 20, 1979

APPLICANT FOR FEDERAL PERMITS:

Chevron USA, Inc.

FEDERAL PERMITS FOR WHICH COMMISSION CONCURRENCE WITH APPLICANT'S CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED:

U.S. Geological Survey Exploratory Well Drilling Permits; OCS Exploration Plan

FEDERAL PERMIT ACTIVITY LOCATION:

In the Santa Barbara Channel on OCS Parcels 204, 208, and 209 about 11 miles southwest of Ventura and 7.5 miles from Anacapa Island. Also included is OCS Parcel 215 located within the Channel approximately 8 miles from the city of Ventura and 6 miles west of the Montalvo coast. (See Exhibits 1 & 2)

FEDERAL PERMIT ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Drilling four wells, P-0204-1, P-208-2, P-209-2 and P-0215-2, to explore for oil and gas from an anchored drillship, the Glomar Atlantic. (See Exhibit 3)

PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

Public hearing and possible action scheduled for the Commission's December 12-13 meeting in Los Angeles.

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS:

Chevron Environmental Report (Exploration) for proposed exploratory wells P-0204-1, P-0208-2, and P-0209-2

Chevron Environmental Report (Exploration) for proposed exploratory well P-0215-2

Chevron Exploration Plan for Santa Clara Unit

Staff Note: Consistency

Under regulations which implement the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the United States Geological Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Corps of Engineers cannot grant a permit for any activity described in an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Plan of Exploration until the Coastal Commission concurs with a certification by the oil company applicant that the activity is consistent with the California Coastal Management Program (CMP). The consistency provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act went into effect for California on August 31, 1978, and the first Commission action implementing those provisions was the October 17, 1978 concurrence with the Chevron consistency certification for exploratory wells No. P-0306-1 and P-0309-1 in the Gulf of Santa Catalina.

1. Project Description. The proposed project is the drilling of four exploratory wells in the Santa Barbara Channel from the drillship Glomar Atlantic (Exhibit 3) on Outer Continental Shelf Parcels P-0204-1, P-0208-2, P-0209-2, and P-0215-2.

- a) Well No. 1 on P-0204 will be drilled in 676 feet of water to a depth of 8000 feet below the sea floor.
- b) Well No. 2 on P-0208 will be drilled in 394 feet of water to a depth of 10,800 feet below the sea floor.
- c) Well No. 2 on P-0209 will be drilled in 711 feet of water to a depth of 13,000 feet below the sea floor.
- d) Well No. 2 on P-0215 will be drilled in 92 feet of water to a depth of 11,000 feet below the sea floor.

The proposed well on P-0209 is located within the buffer zone of the northbound lane of the Santa Barbara Channel Vessel Traffic Separation Scheme (Exhibit 2). The total operation will last approximately 60 to 90 days for each project, with active drilling lasting about 45 to 60 days, and evaluation and abandonment procedures adding an additional 15 to 25 days. The well drilling facility includes blowout prevention equipment, and the drillship carries oil spill containment and cleanup equipment.

2. Applicant's Consistency Certification and Findings

Chevron states that "The proposed activities described in detail in this OCS exploration plan do not significantly affect the coastal zone of the State of California. The proposed activities comply with the State of California's Coastal Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such program." Chevron states that the impact of drilling four exploratory wells is "negligible in magnitude and temporary in nature."

Chevron further finds that their Oil Spill and Emergency Contingency Plan protects against the spillage of crude oil, gas petroleum products, and hazardous substances and provides effective containment and cleanup facilities and procedures for any accidental spills which may occur. Chevron states that the Contingency Plan complies with U.S. Geological Survey Pacific Region OCS Order No. 7 regulating oil spill equipment and procedures for OCS operations. Chevron questions whether Section 30232 of the Coastal Act, cited in Chapter 3 of the CMP, addressing the spillage of crude oil, gas, petroleum products and hazardous substances, is applicable to exploratory well drilling, which Chevron contends does not have a significant effect on the coastal zone.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

I. Concurrence

The Commission hereby concurs with the Consistency Certification made by Chevron USA, Inc. for the proposed activities, because Chevron USA, Inc. has adopted the measures required from the previous Commission Outer Continental Shelf consistency action for exploratory drilling on lease parcels P-0306 and P-0309 in the Gulf of Santa Catalina. This compliance insures that the activities will be carried out in a manner consistent with the California Coastal Management Program.

II. Findings and Declarations

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

A. Protection Against Spillage of Crude Oil. Regardless of the precautions taken against well blowouts and resulting spills of crude oil in the open ocean, there is always a risk of this occurring at a drill site. Such a spill may reach the coast of California and damage marine life, scenic areas, and recreational uses of the coast. Because of this risk, the proposed drilling operations must be consistent with Section 30232 of the Coastal Act, incorporated in Chapter 3 of the Coastal Management Program, which states:

Protection against the spillage of crude oil, gas, petroleum products or hazardous substances shall be provided in relation to any development or transportation of such materials. Effective containment and cleanup facilities and procedures shall be provided for accidental spills that do occur.

Early containment of oil spills is crucial to the cleanup effort. The oil spill cooperative Clean Seas, Inc. will need approximately seven hours to get heavy equipment to this portion of the channel. For this reason effective onsite spill containment equipment is important to protect against spills reaching shore. Chevron has included what the Commission considers to be state of the art oil spill equipment aboard the drillship Glomar Atlantic (Exhibit 4). This equipment includes 1500 feet of oil spill containment boom of appropriate width and an oil recovery device (skimmer) suitable for open ocean use.

Staff Note: No Commission Review of Navigational Safety Issue.

The proposed drill site in lease tract P-0209 is within the buffer zone of the northbound lane of the Santa Barbara Channel Vessel Traffic Separation Scheme and could pose a hazard to navigation at this location (Exhibit 2). A permit required to locate a drillship in navigable waters is issued by the Army Corps of Engineers and is subject to Coastal Commission consistency concurrence because of possible effects to coastal areas resulting from the placement of facilities in the OCS. Chevron applied to the Army Corps for a permit prior to August 31, 1978, the effective date of the consistency provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Because the application to the Corps was filed before consistency became effective, the navigation issue does not come under Coastal Commission consistency review.

III. Related Commission Actions

The first "consistency concurrence" was adopted by the Commission at the November 14, 1978 Commission meeting in Santa Barbara. The Commission concurred with the consistency certification by Chevron because Chevron committed in writing that open ocean oil spill containment and cleanup equipment will be provided on the drillship. The package included:

- a) 1500 feet of open ocean containment boom with a weighted skirt extending at least 23 inches into the water
- b) an oil recovery device ("skimmer") suitable for open ocean recovery

The current application submitted by Chevron for OCS lease parcels P-0204-1, P-0208-2, P-0209-2 and P-0215 includes the above package.

CHEVRON LEASE NO. P 204, P 208, P 209, P 215
SANTA CLARA UNIT

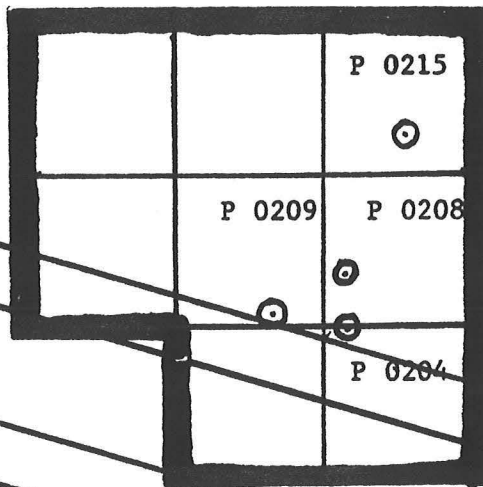
EXHIBIT 1

SANTA BARBARA

RINCON
POINT

VENTURA

SANTA CLARA UNIT



LIMIT OF STATE LANDS

Y = 760,320

X = 1,017,920

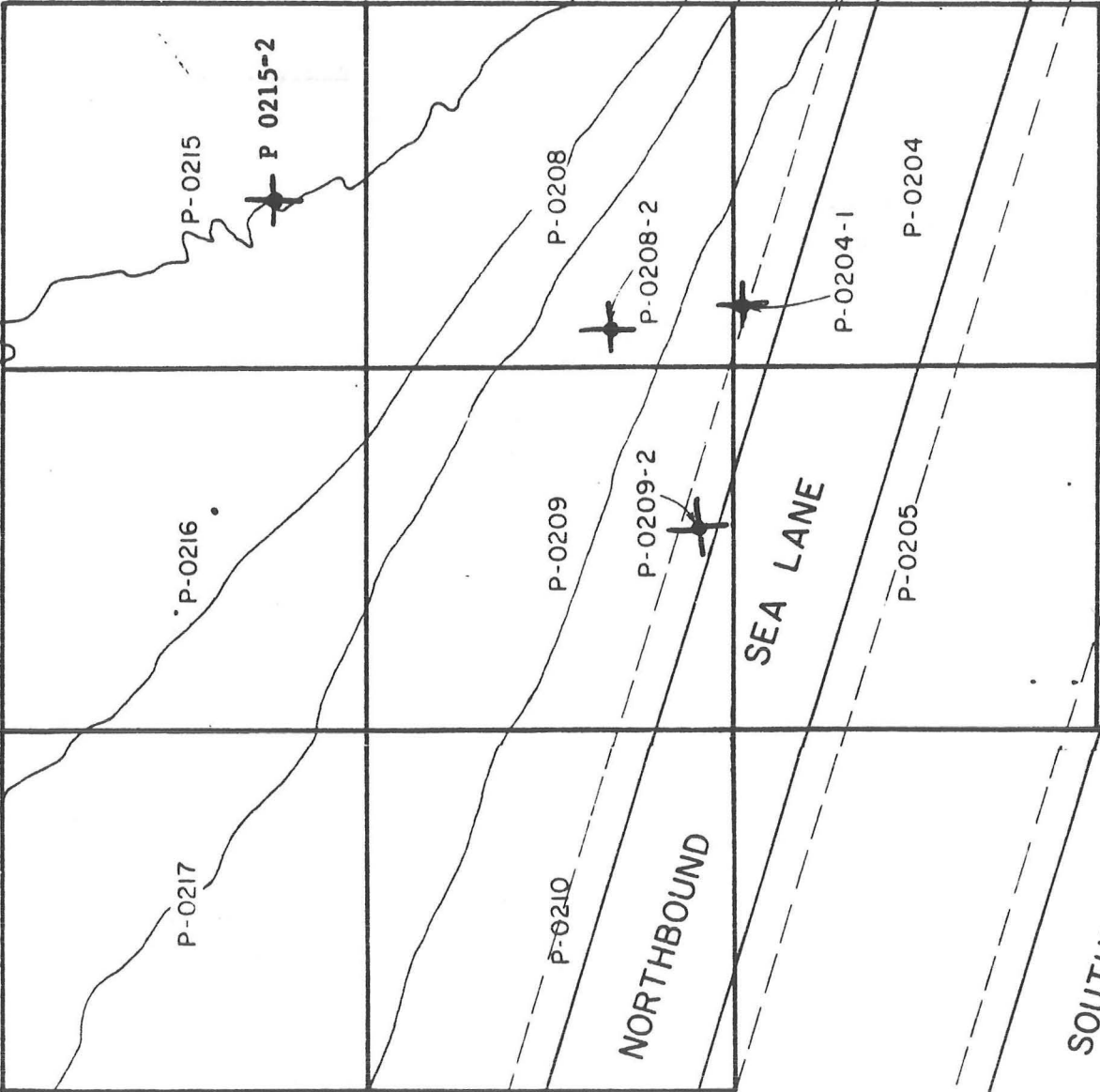
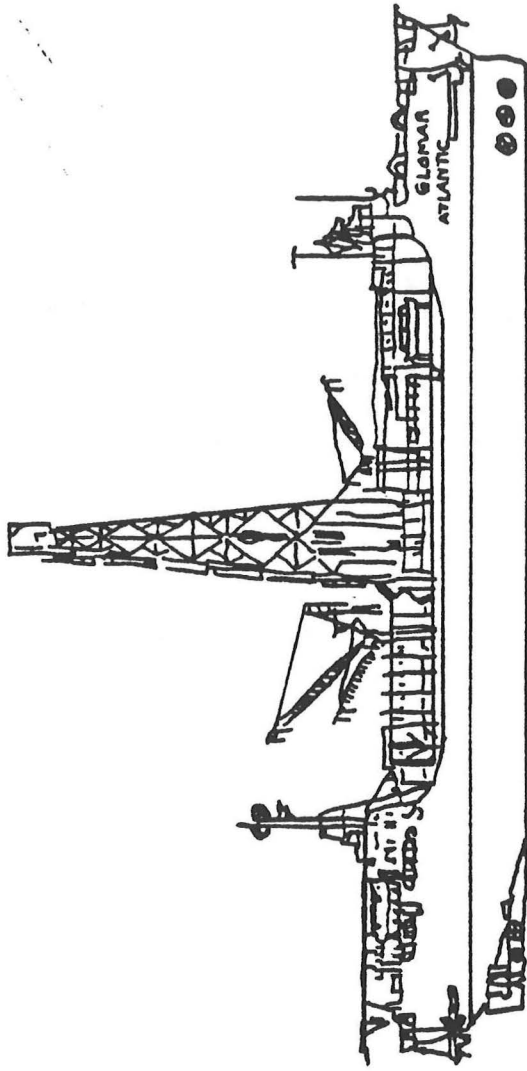


EXHIBIT 2.

LIMIT OF STATE LANDS



DRILLSHIP USED FOR EXPLORATORY WELLS

EXHIBIT 3.



EXHIBIT 4

CHEVRON U.S.A. - LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Oil Spill Equipment and Materials Inventory

- 1 Model 1011-OS Floating oil skimmer with 1-1/2 HP 115/230 volt Class 1 Group D explosion proof GE motor
- 1 Homelite Generator #176A 35-1 3,500 Watts w/spark arrester
- 1,500 Feet, #3-12.24 Floating Barrier as manufactured by Oil Spill Services w/12" fence and 23" skirt and 3/8" chain
- 6 Bales, Conwed Sorbent Booms (240 feet)
- 2 Bales, Conwed Sorbent Continuous Sweeps
- 2 Boxes, Conwed Sorbent Regular Sweeps
- 4 Hudson Ozark Sprayers
- 10 Drums, Corexit dispersant (Concentrated)
- 3 Drums, Shell "Herder"