

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

NTL No. 2015-N06

Effective Date: September 8, 2015

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS AND
SULPHUR LEASES AND RIGHTS-OF-USE AND EASEMENT HOLDERS
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)

**Procedures and Requirements for Right-of-Use and Easement Requests for Platforms,
Artificial Islands, Installations and Other Devices Attached to the Seabed**

Purpose

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) provides guidance and clarifies the policy related to the requirements for Right-of-Use and Easement (RUE) requests to construct and maintain platforms, artificial islands, installations and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed (collectively referred to herein as “installations”) pursuant to the regulations set forth in 30 CFR Part 550, subpart A.

Authority and Background

Under 30 CFR Part 550, subpart A, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) may grant a RUE on leased and unleased lands on the OCS. Pursuant to the regulations at 30 CFR 550.160(a) – (i), an RUE may be granted if certain requirements are met. One specific requirement, 30 CFR 550.160 (e), states that you must receive BOEM approval for all installations. BOEM approval is intended to ensure the proposed activities conform to sound conservation practices and are carried out in a safe and environmentally sound manner as to prevent harm or damage to any natural resource or human, marine, or coastal environment. This NTL clarifies that the requirement for BOEM approval for all installations occurs with the submittal, review and approval of an Exploration Plan (EP), a Development and Production Plan (DPP), or a Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD) [collectively, Plans]. Therefore, in order for BOEM to grant the RUE request for installations, the proposed activities by OCS lessees are also subject to the Plans approval process and the regulation requirements set forth in 30 CFR Part 550, subpart B.

Requirements for RUE Requests for Platforms, Artificial Islands, and Installations and Other Devices Attached to the Seabed

To ensure the requirements set forth in the regulations are met for RUE requests for installations, this NTL clarifies the requirements of the relevant governing regulations as follows:

1. You must submit and receive BOEM approval of an EP, DPP, or DOCD for the proposed activities at the subject installations before your RUE request may be granted.

2. Requests for exceptions to this requirement may be submitted to the Regional Director for consideration. The exception request must clearly demonstrate that RUE approval is needed before or without Plan Approval.
3. You must satisfy all other BOEM regulations at 30 CFR 550.160 in order for BOEM to grant your RUE on leased and unleased lands on the Outer Continental Shelf.
4. This NTL will not apply to RUE applications of State lessees under 30 CFR 550.163.
5. This NTL will not apply to Renewable Energy or Alternate Use RUEs under 30 CFR 585, Subparts C and J.

Guidance Document Statement

BOEM issues NTLs as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 550.103 to clarify and provide more detail about certain BOEM regulatory requirements and to outline the information you must provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on and an interpretation of a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternate method for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate BOEM office pursuant to 30 CFR 550.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement

The collection of information referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 550 subparts A and B. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements and assigned OMB control numbers 1010-0114 for subpart A and 1010-0151 for subpart B regulations. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this NTL, please contact the following:

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