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January 15, 1985

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Texaco U.S.A.
 Attention: Mr. J. J. Ziober
 3350 Wilshire Blvd.
 Los Angeles, California 90010

Re: Development and Production Plan
 OCS-P 0315, Platform Harvest

Gentlemen:

Texaco U.S.A.'s Point Arguello Field Development and Production Plan, which provides for the installation of Platform Harvest on OCS-P 0315, with associated oil and gas pipelines leading to Chevron U.S.A. Inc.'s separately proposed platform on OCS-P 0315, was deemed submitted pursuant to 30 CFR 250.34 on September 21, 1983. An in-depth environmental review of Texaco's Plan was performed, with the Minerals Management Service and State of California jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement covering development activities in the southern Santa Maria Basin, including this project. An in-depth technical review of the Plan was also undertaken, resulting in our conclusion that the Plan is based on sound engineering and scientific principles. On February 23, 1984, the California Coastal Commission concurred with Texaco's consistency certification which states that the proposed activities will be conducted in a manner consistent with California's Coastal Management Program.

Accordingly, since the Plan is technically and environmentally sound, Texaco's Development and Production Plan is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:

- Texaco shall meet the requirements detailed in our October 6, 1983 letter, subject: Requirements for Platform Installation and Commencement of Operations.
- Texaco shall submit a pipeline right-of-way application and any additional corresponding information specified by the MMS.

The remaining conditions of approval are based on various environmental impact mitigation measures identified in the aforementioned EIR/EIS and adopted by the MMS after a feasibility review.

1.a. With respect to installation procedures, Texaco shall:

i. Submit an Operations Curtailment Plan which lists conditions (weather and other constraints) under which pipe-laying operations will not proceed.

ii. Submit detailed anchoring plans; the corridors for anchors placement during installation procedures shall be selected to minimize impacts to hard bottom features and cultural resources to the maximum extent possible.

iii. Conduct post-installation geophysical surveying over the area of operation and submit a side scan sonar mosaic with survey results.

b. Texaco shall propose permanent mooring locations intended for consolidated use by supply and crew boats servicing the platform over the life of the project. Mooring sites shall be selected to minimize impacts to hard bottom features.

2. Texaco shall use a white color scheme for the platform.

3. Texaco shall install mechanical interlocks and associated instrumentation on the platform to reduce the probability of a pig launcher/receiver-related oil spill. Platform personnel shall be trained with respect to correct operating procedures and instrumentation monitoring in connection with the pig launchers/receivers.

4. Texaco shall give the MMS-approved Fisheries Training Program, developed in connection with Lease Sale No. 53, to all offshore personnel associated with this project.

This decision takes into account the two recent amendments to the Plan which reflect the platform site relocation to X = 664,619 feet, Y = 866,180 feet (LGZ 6), 405 feet west and 55 feet south of the originally proposed site.

We commend Texaco for its willingness to work closely with us during review of the Point Arguello Field project and its efforts leading to prompt and efficient development of this vital national resource in a manner which takes into consideration the Nation's energy needs while assuring protection of the environment.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Dunaway

Thomas W. Dunaway
Regional Supervisor
Office of Field Operations

Texaco U.S.A.

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bcc: File: ~~Pt.~~ Arguello Field, OCS-P 0315, DPP Corres.
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