

Adams
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Lee
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Serwar
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Shackel
Toder
Van Arbat
Jones
Mr. GLE
Mr. GLE

January 15, 1985

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Chevron U.S.A. Inc.  
 Attention: Mr. Clair Ghylin  
 P.O. Box 8000  
 Concord, California 94524

Re: Development and Production Plan  
 OCS-P 0450, Platform Hidalgo

Gentlemen:

Chevron U.S.A. Inc.'s Point Arguello Field Development and Production Plan, which provides for the installation of Platform Hidalgo on OCS-P 0450, with associated oil and gas pipelines leading to a separately proposed platform on OCS-P 0316, was deemed submitted pursuant to 30 CFR 250.34 on June 28, 1984. An in-depth environmental review of Chevron'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 November 28, 1984, the California Coastal Commission concurred with Chevron'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, Chevron's Development and Production Plan is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:

- Chevron shall meet the requirements detailed in our May 27, 1983 letter, subject: Requirements for Platform Installation and Commencement of Operations, in connection with Platform Hidalgo, in addition to Platform Hermosa.
- Chevron shall submit a pipeline right-of-way application and any additional corresponding information specified by the MMS.
- Chevron shall promptly submit a total of 25 revised copies of the combined OCS-P 0316 and OCS-P 0450 Oil Spill Contingency Plan in accordance with our October 12, 1984 letter specifying needed modifications.

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, Chevron 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. Chevron 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. Chevron shall use a white color scheme for the platform.

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

We commend Chevron 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

Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

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