UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2004

To: Public Information (MS 5034)

From: Plan Coordinator, FO, Plans Section (MS 5231)

Subject: Public Information copy of plan

Control #	-	N-08067
Type	-	Initial Exploration Plan
Lease(s)	-	OCS-G18265 Block - 617 Mississippi Canyon Area
Operator	-	Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Description	-	Subsea Well A
Rig Type	-	SEMISUBMERSIBLE

Attached is a copy of the subject plan.

It has been deemed submitted as of this date and is under review for approval.

Karen Dunlap

Karen Dunlap
Plan Coordinator

Site Type/Name	Botm Lse/Area/Blk	Surface Location	Surf Lse/Area/Blk
WELL/A	G18265/MC/617	3450 FSL, 2520 FWL	G18265/MC/617

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NOTED-SCHEXNAILDRE

N-80607
RI

DESCRIPTION OF HYDROCARBON TRAPPING ELEMENTS
(Proprietary Data)

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES

Following a successful completion, Spinnaker will install a trash cap and leave the well temporarily abandoned.

DESCRIPTION OF VESSELS

Work Boat Length – 180'; 3500 HP; Fuel Capacity – 80,000 gallons (API Gravity 38.0)

Crew Boat Length – 120'; 2000 HP; Fuel Capacity – 45,000 gallons (API Gravity 38.0)

Semi-submersible Rig

Fuel – 100,000-150,000 gallons (API Gravity 50.0)
Engine Oil – 650-850 Gallons (API Gravity 40.0)
Hydraulic Oil – 400-500 Gallons (API Gravity 32.0)
Gear Oil – 200-300 Gallons (API Gravity 90.0)

1 ea. 500 Gallon used oil tank

SECTION F

OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CHEMICAL

The Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Bi-Annual Update was approved by MMS April 28, 2003. Activities proposed in this DOCD will be covered by the Regional OSRP.

Spinnaker's primary equipment provider is Clean Gulf Associates (CGA). The Marine Spill Response Corporation's (MSRC) STARS network will provide closest available personnel, as well as an MSRC supervisor to operate the equipment.

In the event of a spill, mechanical response equipment located at CGA's base in Lake Charles, Louisiana would be transported to a staging area in **Fourchon, Louisiana.**

The worst-case discharge (WCD) proposed in this EP is 1001 barrels but does not supercede the WCD as approved in our Regional OSRP. If our evaluation reveals that this WCD does in fact have the potential of having a more adverse impact than our currently identified WCD in our existing Regional OSRP, then Spinnaker will amend the Regional OSRP as required.

Activities proposed in this EP are considered far-shore (>10 miles from the shoreline). The Worst Case Discharge (WCD) scenario from the proposed activities in this EP and the WCD in the Regional OSRP on file with the MMS are compared below:

Comparison of WCD's in OSRP to Proposed Operations

	Regional OSRP	**EP**
Category	**WCD**	**WCD**
Type of Activity	Production	Drilling
Spill Loc. (Area/Block)	HI197	MC617
Facility Designation	Platform A	Semi-submersible
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (miles)	**28**	**52**
Volume (bbls)	**2270**	**1001**
Type of Oil (crude, cond., diesel)	Condensate	Condensate
API Gravity	**46.0°**	**50.0°**

Worst-Case Discharge

The Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Bi-Annual Update was approved by MMS April 28, 2003.

Since **Spinnaker** has the capability to respond to the worst case spill scenario included in its approved (**May 27, 1999**) regional OSRP **as amended November 18, 2002**, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our **EP** does not replace the worst case scenario in our regional OSRP, I hereby certify that **Spinnaker** has the capability to respond, to a worst case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in our **EP**.

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. is the only company covered by our OSRP.

EXPLORATION PLAN (EP)
AIR QUALITY SCREENING CHECKLIST

OMB Control No. XXX-XXX
Expiration Date: Pending

COMPANY	Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
AREA	Mississippi Canyon
BLOCK	617
LEASE	G 18265
PLATFORM	Semisubmersible
WELL (S)	A
COMPANY CONTACT	Tom Becnel
TELEPHONE NO.	713/356-7534
REMARKS	Drill & suspend one well.

"Yes"	"No"	Air Quality Screening Questions
	X	1. Are the proposed activities east of 87.5° W latitude?
	X	2. Are H_2S concentrations greater than 20 ppm expected?
	X	3. Is gas flaring proposed for greater than 48 continuous hours per well?
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If ALL questions are answered "No":
Submit only this coversheet with your plan; a full set of spreadsheets is not needed.

If ANY of questions 1 through 7 is answered "Yes":
Prepare and submit a full set of EP spreadsheets with your plan.

If question number 8 is answered "Yes":
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ATTACHMENT G-1

SUMMARY

OMB Control No. xxxx-xxxx
Expiration Date: Pending

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL
Spinnaker Explo	Mississippi Canyon	617	G 18265	Semisubmersible	A

Year	Emitted Substance				
	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
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2005	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2007	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2008	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2009	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Allowable	1731.60	1731.60	1731.60	1731.60	47367.57

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617

LEASE OCS-G 18265

Issues identified in the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program include the following: general coastal use guidelines, levees, linear facilities (pipelines); dredged soil deposition; shoreline modification, surface alterations, hydrologic and sediment transport modifications; waste disposal; uses that result in the alteration of waters draining into coastal waters; oil, gas or other mineral activities; and air and water quality.

The proposed activities described in this Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Lessee or Operator

Thomas A. Bensel
Certifying Official

April 12, 2004
Date

ATTACHMENT I-1

N-80607
RI

DESCRIPTION OF HYDROCARBON TRAPPING ELEMENTS
(Proprietary Data)

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WC201\EP\EpMC617.DOC

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MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
RECEIVED
APR 12 2004
FIELD OPERATIONS
Plans Section, GOM OCS Region, New Orleans, LA

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INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617

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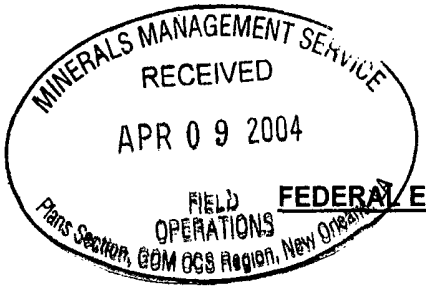
Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Lessee or Operator

Thomas A. Blend
Certifying Official

April 12, 2004
Date

ATTACHMENT I-1

SPINNAKER EXPLORATION



FEDERAL EXPRESS

April 5, 2004

Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico - OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

Attention: Mr. Don Howard, MS 5200

Re: **MISSISSIPPI CANYON AREA**
BLOCK 617, 0CS-G 18265
EXPLORATION PLAN

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the guidelines set forth in 30-CFR 250.203, Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. is submitting for your favorable review and approval a proposed Initial Exploration Plan (EP) for Mississippi Canyon Block 617.

Enclosed you will find nine (9) copies of the subject plan; five (5) of which contain "Proprietary Data" that are exempt from disclosure under the privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2 Subpart D). Four (4) copies are considered "Public Information."

Drilling operations are expected to commence on or before **April 25, 2004**.

Our $3,000,000 Area-wide Development Bond number is RLB-0001151 and our $300,000 OCS Right-Of-Way Grant Bond number is B-7748. Spinnaker Exploration Co., L.L.C. acquired these bonds June 25, 1999 and September 25, 1998, respectively.

Spinnaker is requesting that this plan be expedited to allow us to drill the G 18265 No.1 well on or before **April 25, 2004**. The lease is currently held by a Suspension of Operations and will terminate at the end of the month. Review and approval of our EP at your earliest convenience is greatly appreciated.

Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact Tom Becnel at 713/356-7534.

Sincerely,

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.

Scott Broussard TGB

Scott Broussard
Vice President Drilling & Production

tgb

enclosures

PUBLIC INFORMATION

SPINNAKER EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C.

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN
LEASE OCS-G 18265
MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617

SECTION A

CONTENTS OF PLAN

LEASE DESCRIPTION/ACTIVITY

Lease OCS-G **18265** was acquired by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (Anadarko) at the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale No. **182** held **March, 1997**. The subject lease was issued with an effective date of **August 1, 1997**, and primary term ending date of **July 31, 2002**.

Spinnaker is the designated operator of the subject oil and gas lease.

The lease is currently held by a Suspension of Production until April 30, 2004.

OBJECTIVE

This Initial Exploration Plan provides for drilling and temporarily abandoning **one** exploratory well from a surface location in **Mississippi Canyon** Block **617** to test the target sand(s) as detailed in **Section C** of this plan.

SCHEDULE

The following schedule details the proposed drilling and temporary abandonment of the location provided for in this plan:

Activity	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
Drill and Suspend Well A	04-25-04	06-23-04

This schedule is tentative in the meaning of Title 30 CFR 250.203-1. Additional exploratory drilling must be predicated upon the need to further define the structures and/or reservoir limitations.

WELL LOCATIONS

The approximate location of the subject well in this Initial Exploration Plan are shown on Attachment J-1 and plat (Attachment J-2) included in **Section J** of this Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF DRILLING UNIT

Offshore exploratory activities are carried out from mobile drilling rigs. The five most common types of mobile rigs employed for exploratory drilling offshore are submersible drilling rig, semi-submersible drilling rigs, jack-up drilling rig, drillships, and drill barges.

The proposed wells will be drilled and completed with a typical semisubmersible rig. Rig specifications will be made a part of the appropriate Application for Permit to Drill.

Safety features on the MODU will include well control, pollution prevention, welding procedures, and blowout prevention equipment as described in Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subparts C, D, E, G and O; and as invoked by the MMS, Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard. The appropriate life rafts, life jackets, ring buoys, etc., as prescribed by the U.S. Coast guard, will be maintained on the facility at all times.

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart O, an operator is to ensure that Well Control Training is provided for lessee and contractor personnel engaged in oil and gas operations in the OCS Gulf of Mexico.

Supervisory and certain designated personnel on-board the facility are familiar with the effluent limitations and guidelines for overboard discharges into the receiving waters, as outlined in the NPDES General Permit GMG290000.

The operator is charged with the responsibility to not create conditions that will pose unreasonable risk to the public health, life, property, aquatic life, wildlife, recreation, navigation, commercial fishing, or other uses of the ocean. Some of these measures include installation of curbs, gutters, drip pans, and drains on drilling deck areas to collect all contaminants and debris.

The MMS is required to conduct onsite inspections of offshore facilities to confirm operators are complying with lease stipulations, operating regulations, approved plans, and other conditions as well as to assure safety and pollution prevention requirements are being met. The National Potential Incident of Noncompliance (PINC) List serves as the baseline for these inspections. The MMS also inspects the stockpiles of equipment listed in the operator's approved Oil Spill Response Plan that would be used for the containment and cleanup of hydrocarbon spills.

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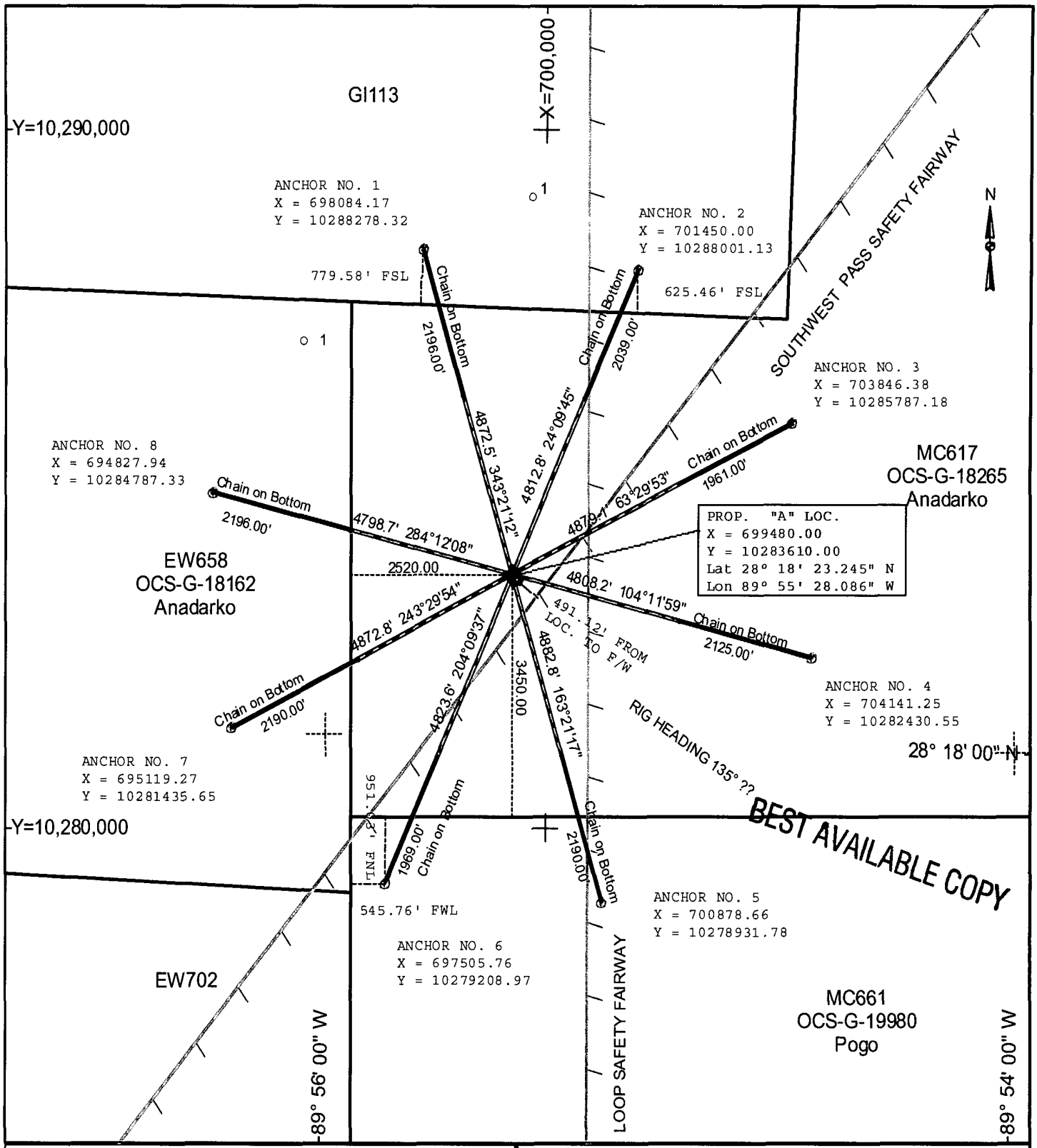
PUBLIC INFORMATION



SPINNAKER EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C.

FUGRO CHANCE INC.

A MEMBER OF THE FUGRO GROUP OF COMPANIES

0 2000 Feet

GEODETIC DATUM: NAD 1927
ELLIPSOID: CLARKE 1866
PROJECTION: TM
ZONE: UTM ZONE 16
GRID UNITS: US SURVEY FEET

ANCHOR PLANNING MAP
PROP. "A" LOC.
BLOCK 617
MISSISSIPPI CANYON AREA

Job No.: 041201	File: 041201.apr (Layout1)	SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
By: GENE CARRIERE	PRINT: April 7, 2004	

SECTION B

GENERAL

CONTACT

Inquiries may be made to the following authorized representative:

Thomas G. Becnel
Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
1200 Smith Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002
713/356-7534

NEW OR UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGY

Spinnaker does not propose utilizing any new or unusual technology during the proposed drilling and temporary abandonment or completion operations.

BONDING

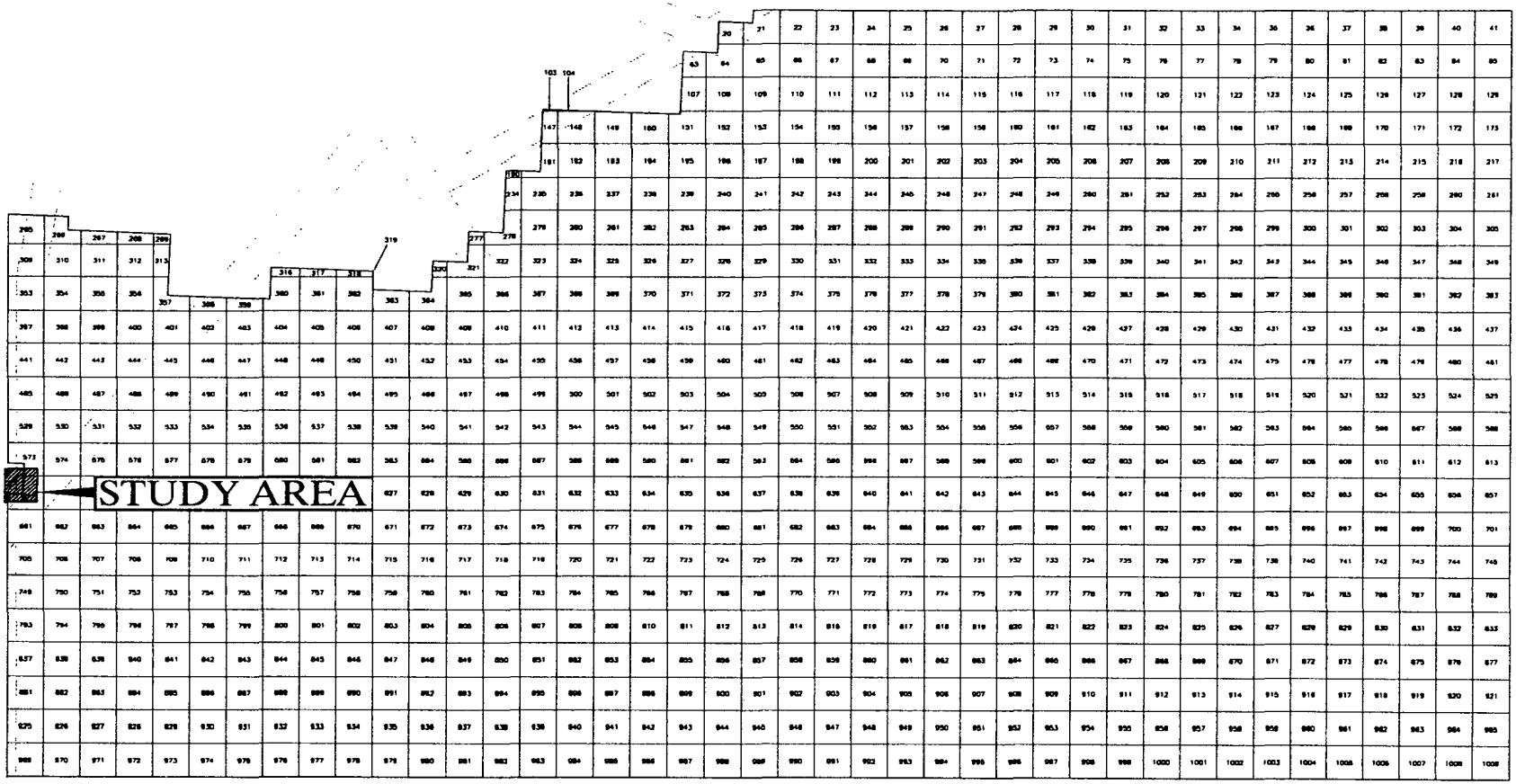
In accordance with Notice to Lessees (NTL) 99-G04 which implements the requirements for general lease surety bonds contained in 30 CRR 256, Subpart I, Spinnaker has a $3,000,000 Area Wide Development Bond on file with the Minerals Management Service.

Additionally, NTL 98-18N addresses how MMS has the authority to require additional security to cover full plugging, site clearance and other associated lease liabilities which may be in excess of the general lease surety bonds. These activities are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and if deemed warranted, Minerals Management Service will provide such notification to Spinnaker.

ONSHORE SUPPORT BASE

Mississippi Canyon Block **617** is located approximately **52** miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline and approximately **57.** miles from the onshore support base located in **Fourchon, Louisiana**. A Vicinity Plat showing the location of **Mississippi Canyon** Block **617** relative to the shoreline and onshore base is included as **Attachment B-1**.

MISSISSIPPI CANYON AREA



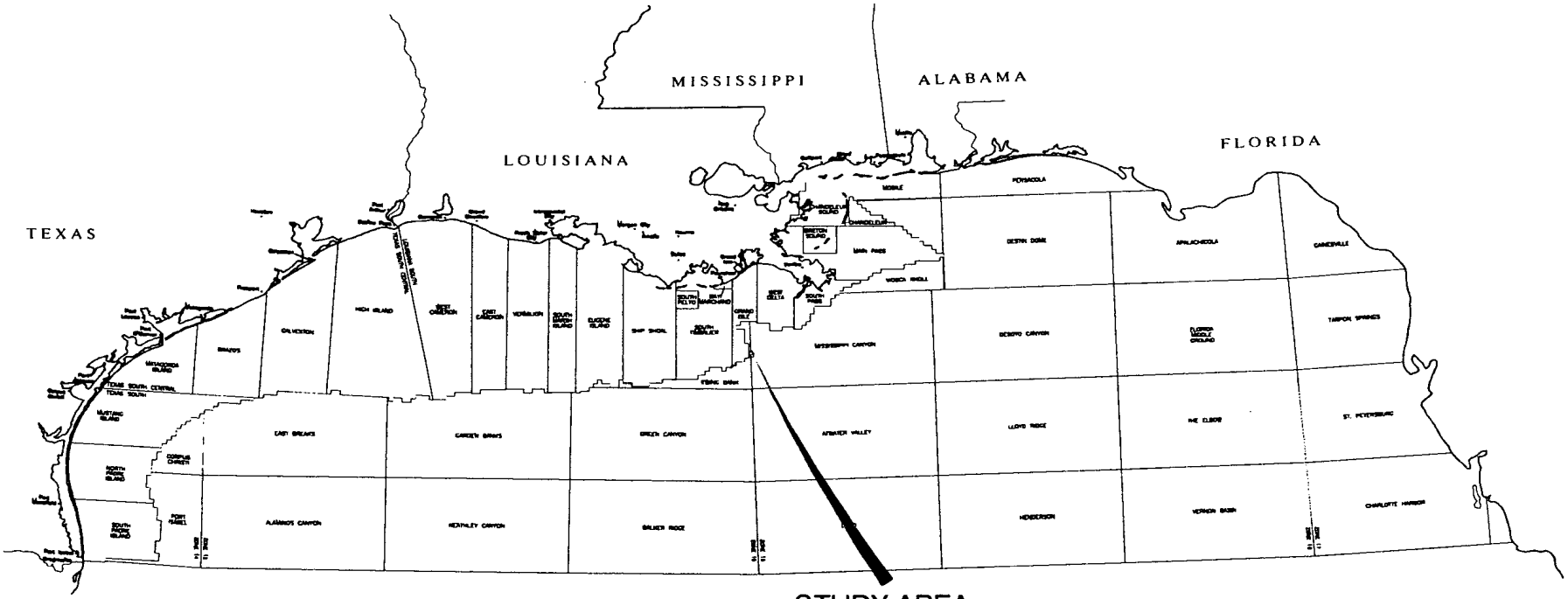
52 miles to Louisiana Shoreline

57 miles to Fourchon, LA

VICINITY MAP

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ATTACHMENT B-1



REGIONAL MAP

FUGRO

Spinnaker will utilize onshore facilities located in **Fourchon**, Louisiana, which will serve as a port of debarkation for supplies and crews. No onshore expansion or construction is anticipated with respect to the proposed activities.

This base is capable of providing the services necessary for the proposed activities. It has 24-hour service, a radio tower with a phone patch, dock space, equipment, and supply storage base, drinking and drill water, etc. This base will also serve as a loading point for tools, equipment and machinery to be delivered to the MODU, crew change and transportation base, and temporary storage for materials and equipment. These facilities typically include outdoor storage, forklift and crane service, dock, trailer facilities and parking, as well as 24-hour service.

Support vessels and travel frequency during drilling and completion activities are as follows:

Support Vessel & Aircraft	**Drilling & TA Operations Trips Per Week**
Crew Boat	5
Supply Boat	3
Helicopter	1

Personal vehicles will be the main means of transportation to carry rig personnel form various locations to the staging areas. They will then be transported to the MODU by the crew boat. A helicopter will be used to transport small supplies and, on occasion, personnel in emergency situations. The most practical, direct route permitted by the weather and traffic conditions will be utilized.

NEW ONSHORE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION OF SUPPORT FACILITIES

The proposed operations do not mandate any immediate measures for land acquisition or expansion of the existing onshore base facilities.

Dredging and filling operations will not be required for the operations, nor will any new construction or expansion of onshore facilities be involved for the operations proposed in this Initial Exploration Plan.

LEASE STIPULATIONS

Oil and gas exploration activities on the OCS are subject to stipulations developed before the lease sale; these are attached to the lease instrument, as necessary, in the form of mitigating measures. The MMS is responsible for ensuring full compliance with lease stipulations.

None of the current stipulations apply to the operations proposed for Mississippi Canyon Block 617.

SECTION C

G & G INFORMATION

STRUCTURE CONTOUR MAPS

Current structure maps drawn to the top of the prospective hydrocarbon accumulations showing the surface and bottom hole location of well "B" are included in this section as **Attachment C-1 and C-2**.

INTERPRETED SEISMIC LINES

Included as **Attachment C-3** is a copy of the letter being submitted under separate cover this date depicting the migrated and annotated deep seismic lines within 500 feet of the surface locations being proposed in this plan.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE CROSS SECTION

Interpreted geological cross section depicting the proposed well location and the geologic name and age of the anticipated structures are included as **Attachment C-4**. This cross section corresponds to the 3-D seismic data being submitted under separate cover.

SHALLOW HAZARDS REPORT

Gardline Surveys prepared a well site shallow hazard analysis based on the interpretation of high resolution shallow hazards seismic data from Fugro Services's shallow hazards survey conducted for Anadarko Petroleum Corporation over Mississippi Canyon Block 617 (Lease OCS-G 18265). Gardline evaluated the shallow hazards within a 1500' radius at our proposed surface location. The purpose of the analysis was to evaluate the geologic conditions and inspect for potential hazards or constraints to lease development.

Two (2) copies of the shallow hazards report are being submitted under separate cover to the Minerals Management Service.

SHALLOW HAZARDS ANALYSIS

A shallow hazards analysis has been prepared for the proposed surface location, evaluating seafloor and subsurface geologic and manmade features and conditions, and is included as **Attachment C-6**.

HIGH RESOLUTION SEISMIC LINES

Included as **Attachment C-3** is a copy of the letter being submitted under separate cover this date depicting the annotated shallow hazards lines within 500 feet of the surface location being proposed in this Plan.

STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN

A generalized biostratigraphic/lithostratigraphic column from the seafloor to the total depth of the proposed well is included as **Attachment C-5**.

TIME VERSUS DEPTH TABLE(S)

See the migrated and annotated deep seismic section in depth submitted with **Attachment C-3**.

DESCRIPTION OF HYDROCARBON TRAPPING ELEMENTS

ESTIMATED DEPTH OF GEOPRESSURE

A 12.5 ppg geopressure occurred in ARCO's GI113 G 5666 No.1 well at SS - 2620' TVD. This well was drilled to a TD of 10622' MD, 10100' TVD.

HYDROGEN SULFIDE

In accordance with Title 30 CFR 250.417, Spinnaker requests that Mississippi Canyon Block 617 be classified by the Minerals Management Service as an area where the absence of hydrogen sulfide has been confirmed.

The basis for this determination is through the evaluation of BHP's Grand Isle block 106 G 15359 No.1 well, which was drilled on to the stratigraphic equivalents of the Target Sands proposed in this Plan. This well was drilled to a TD of 19204' TVD

SPINNAKER EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C.
MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617
OCS-G 18265

SHALLOW HAZARDS ANALYSIS

HIGH Resolution Shallow Hazards Survey. Spinnaker Exploration provided a copy of Fugro's Shallow Hazards Report No.2402-1209, dated October 2002 to Gardline in Analog format for the preparation of their Well Site Clearance Letter.

Seafloor Morphology and Man Made Features:
The proposed MC617-A well location occurs in the southwest of the block. At the proposed well location the seabed is generally smooth and featureless, and consistent soft slightly sandy clays and silts are predicted. Occasional minor pockmarks are the only feature on note within 1,500ft of the proposed well location.

A shipping fairway is observed within the study area. The nearest approach from the MC617-A Location is approximately 500ft to the southeast.

No seabed features that could affect well emplacement are observed within a 1,500ft radius.

Shallow Sub-seabed Geology:
Shallow sub-seabed geology was assessed using a pinger. Uppermost, slightly sandy clays and silts are predicted at the proposed well location. These appear to form a blanket deposit over the region, and anchors are predicted to contact such sediments also. These slightly sandy clays and silts persist to around 65ft below seabed at the proposed well location.

Below, presumed clays with occasional silts are predicted, deposited in a slightly lower energy environment, and persist to around 210ft below seabed, passing into presumed clays.

No hazards are predicted in the shallow soil section and conditions are expected to be conducive to the piling or jetting of casing, and the emplacement of anchors.

Deeper Sub-Seabed Geology:
Deeper sub-seabed geology was assessed using a single channel analogue airgun system. The deepest clay prone unit seen in the shallow section is expected to persist to around 375ft below seabed. At this point a well-defined change in acoustic character is observed on the data, to a much more variable and discontinuous reflector character. This is interpreted as representing a change in lithology to clays and silts with occasional coarser interbeds and lenses deposited in a higher energy debris flow/turbidite environment. This character and sediment type is then expected to persist to the limit of analogue records at around 2,360ft below seabed.

No anomalies or hazards are predicted at the proposed well location in this interval.

Shallow Gas Assessment:
No shallow gas anomalies are predicted at the proposed MC617-A well location.

Conclusions and Recommendations:
No problems or hazards are predicted with drilling a well through the shallow section at the proposed MC617-A well location.

Thomas G. Becnel
Regulatory Affairs Manager

PUBLIC INFORMATION

SECTION D

BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL INFORMATION

The seafloor disturbing activities proposed in this Plan will be at a water depth of **570** feet at the **A** surface location. The water depth ranges from **500-770** feet across the block.

MAPS

Submitted under separate cover are the maps prepared using high resolution seismic information and/or 3-D seismic data to depict bathymetry, seafloor and shallow geological features and the surface location of each proposed well and structure.

ANALYSIS

Submitted under separate cover is the analysis of seafloor features and areas that could be disturbed by the activities proposed in this Plan. There do not appear to be any seabed mounds or anomalous structural seabed features indicative of chemosynthetic community development. The seabed within the proposed anchor pattern exhibits little change and is relatively smooth, with a gentle dip to the southeast. Anchor No.6 crosses a fault plane that exhibits <5 feet relief change at the intersection. No evidence of fluid seep at this fault is observed. Differential GPS will be utilized to position the rig and the anchors.

TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

MMS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (MNFS) have entered into a programmatic consultation agreement for Essential Fish Habitat that requires that no bottom disturbing activities, including anchors or cables from a semi-submersible drilling rig, may occur within 500 feet of the no-activity zone of a topographic feature. If such proposed bottom disturbings are within 500 feet of a no activity zone, the MMS is required to consult with the NMFS.

The activities proposed in this Plan are not affected by a topographic feature.

PINNACLE REEF TRENDS

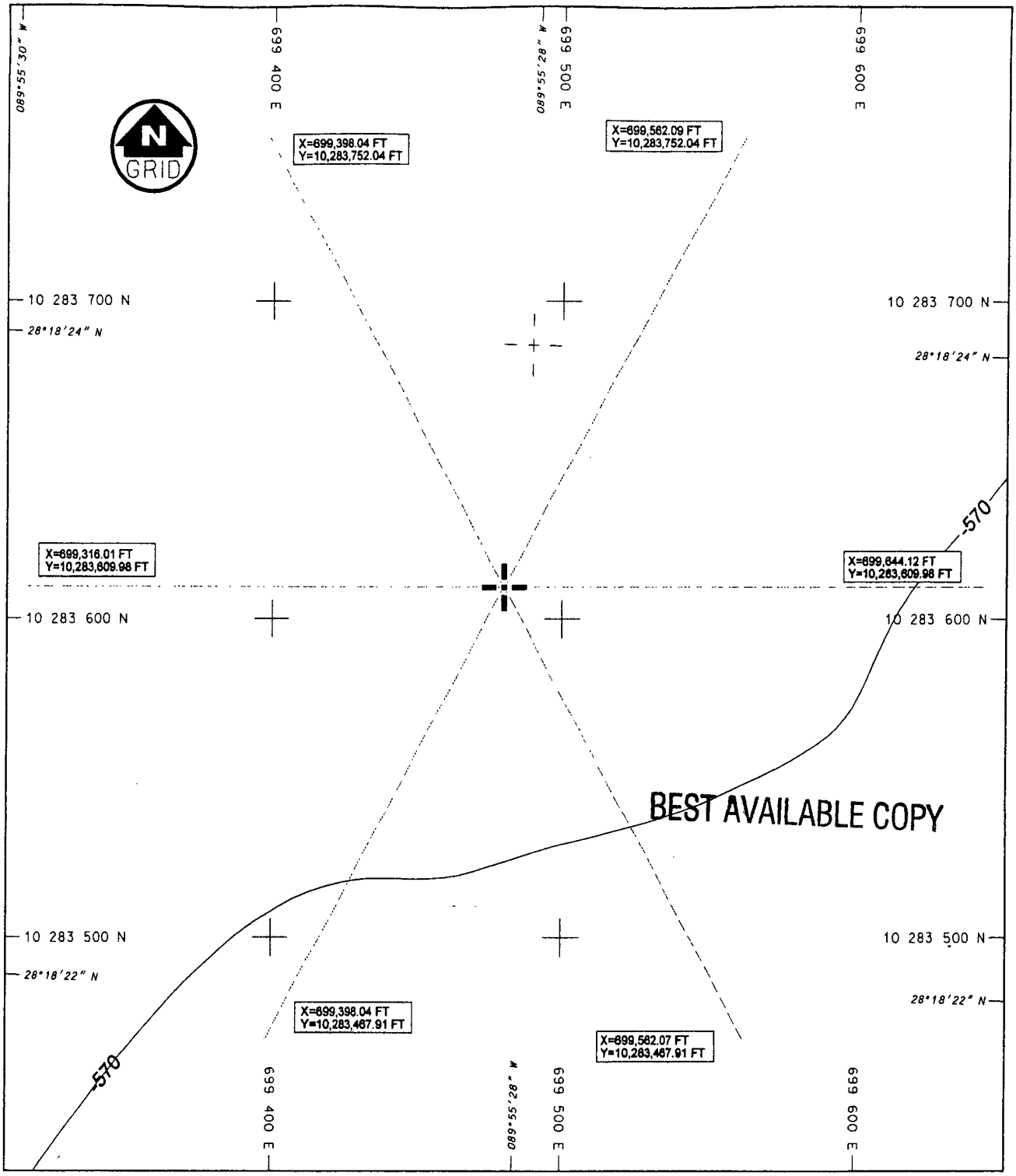
Mississippi Canyon Block 617 is not a Pinnacle Trend Block; therefore the Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Lease Stipulation does not apply.

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Mississippi Canyon Block 617
OCS-G 18265
ROV SURVEY

1. Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. is familiar with the ROV survey and reporting provisions of NTL 2001-G04.

2. Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. will, if required, conduct surveys immediately prior to commencing drilling operations at the Well No.1 ("A") location, approximately April 25, 2004, 2004 and following the completion of drilling operations at the Well No.1 approximately 60 days later. Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. will use the Transocean Marianas rig based ROV equipped with video imaging capabilities. The survey pattern will consist of six transects centered on the well location with tracks extending approximately 100 meters away from the well on bearings of 30 degrees, 90 degrees, 150 degrees, 210 degrees, 270 degrees, and 330 degrees. The seafloor will be videotaped continuously along each track. Our plat depicting the survey pattern is attached.

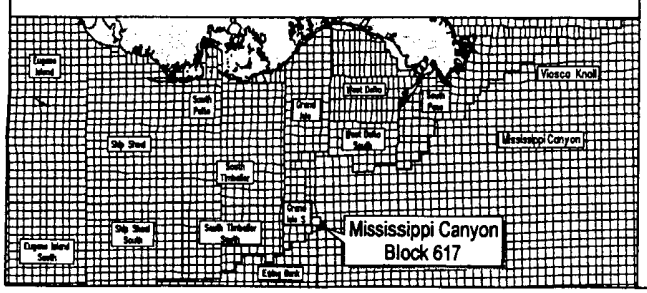
3. Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. will make biological and physical observations as described in NTL 2001 – G04 and Form MMS – 141 prior to commencing drilling operations and also following the completion of drilling operations but prior to moving the rig off location. The observations will be documented using Form MMS – 141 or a facsimile and submitted to the MMS within 60 days after the second survey is completed.



LEGEND

PROPOSED SURFACE LOCATION MC617-A (699 480 E, 10 283 610 N)

-500 CONTOUR INTERVAL = 10 FEET



SURVEY CONTRACTOR

GARDLINE SURVEYS

8566 KATY FREEWAY, SUITE 104, HOUSTON TX 77024, USA
TELEPHONE :1 713 973 2855 FAX :1 713 464 8275 EMAIL: GEOPHYSICS@GARDLINESURVEYS.COM

CLIENT

SPINNAKER EXPLORATION

PROJECT TITLE

REGIONAL 3D GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT
MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617
GULF OF MEXICO
SEABED DEPTH MAP WITH MC617-A & ROV PLAT

ELLIPSOID	CLARKE (1866)
PROJECTION	UTM GRID ZONE 16(N)
	CENTRAL MERIDIAN 87° W
	NAD 1927 (NADCON CONUS)

Scale 1 Inch : 50ft.

Job No: 6171	Date: 07-02-2003	Compiled: MCB	Plat 2 (MC617-A)

SECTION E
Wastes and Discharge Information

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate the overboard discharge and/or disposal of operational waste associated with drilling, completing, testing and/or production operations from oil and gas exploration and production activities.

Minerals Management Service regulations contained in Title 30 CFR 250.300 require operators to "prevent the unauthorized discharge of pollutants into offshore waters". These same regulations prohibit the intentional disposal of "equipment, cables, chains, containers, or other materials" offshore. Small items must be stored and transported in clearly marked containers and large objects must be individually marked. Additionally, items lost overboard must be recorded in the facility's daily log and reported to MMS as appropriate.

U. S. Coast Guard regulations implement the Marine Pollution Research and Control Act (MARPOL) of 1987 requiring manned offshore rigs, platforms and associated vessels prohibit the dumping of all forms of solid waste at sea with the single exception of ground food wastes, which can be discharged if the facility is beyond 12 nautical miles from the nearest shore. This disposal ban covers all forms of solid waste including plastics, packing material, paper, glass, metal, and other refuse. These regulations also require preparation, monitoring and record keeping requirements for garbage generated on board these facilities. The drilling contractor must maintain a Waste Management Plan, in addition to preparation of a Daily Garbage Log for the handling of these types of waste. MODU's are equipped with bins for temporary storage of certain garbage. Other types of waste, such as food, may be discharged overboard if the discharge can pass through 25-millimeter type mesh screen. Prior to off loading and/or overboard disposal, an entry will be made in the Daily Garbage Log stating the approximate volume, the date of action, name of the vessel, and destination point.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations address the disposal of oil and gas operational wastes under three Federal Acts. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) which provides a framework for the safe disposal of discarded materials, regulating the management of solid and hazardous wastes. The direct disposal of operational wastes into offshore waters is limited under the authority of the Clean Water Act. And, when injected underground, oil and gas operational wastes are regulated by the Underground Injection Control program. If any wastes are classified as hazardous, they are to

be properly transported using a uniform hazardous waste manifest, documented, and disposed at an approved hazardous waste facility.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, based on effluent limitation guidelines, is required for any discharges into offshore waters. The major discharges from offshore oil and gas exploration and production activities include produced water, drilling fluids and cuttings, ballast water, and uncontaminated seawater. Minor discharges from the offshore oil and gas industry include drilling-waste chemicals, fracturing and acidifying fluids, and well completion and workover fluids; and from production operations, deck drainage, and miscellaneous well fluids (cement, BOP fluid); and other sanitary and domestic wastes, gas and oil processing wastes, and miscellaneous discharges.

Spinnaker has requested coverage under the Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 for discharges associated with exploration and development activities **Mississippi Canyon Block 617** and will take applicable steps to ensure all offshore discharges associated with the proposed operations will be conducted in accordance with the permit.

Composition of Solid and Liquid Wastes

The major operational solid waste in the largest quantities generated from the proposed operations will be the drill cuttings, drilling and/or completion fluids. Other associated wastes include waste chemicals, cement wastes, sanitary and domestic waste, trash and debris, ballast water, storage displacement water, rig wash and deck drainage, hydraulic fluids, used oil, oily water and filters, and other miscellaneous minor discharges.

These wastes are generated into categories, being solid waste (trash and debris), non-hazardous oilfield waste (drilling fluids, non-hazardous waste including cement and oil filters), and hazardous wastes (waste paint or thinners).

The type of discharges included in this permit application allow for the following effluents to be discharged overboard, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and record keeping requirements.

> ***Drilling Fluids*** - Generally is discharged overboard at a volume and rate dependent upon hole size intervals and downhole conditions. Volume is estimated from both pump rate and length of time, or from tank capacity if a bulk discharge occurs. The discharge of drilling fluids is classified as an intermittent discharge, with an estimated average flow of 250 barrels a day, but no more than 1000 bbls. per hour based on permit limitations.

SECTION E
Wastes and Discharge Information

Drill Cuttings - The drill cuttings are separated from the drilling fluid through the use of solids control equipment. Cuttings discharge rates and volumes will vary during the duration of the well, and are measured by estimating the volume of hole drilled. Constituents of drill cuttings include sand, shale and limestone from the wellbore. The discharge of drilling cuttings is classified as an intermittent discharge, with an estimated average flow of 100 barrels a day.

Excess Cement - Occasionally, excess slurry will be generated while cementing casing strings and/or setting of wellbore plugs and annulus jobs. The volume of cement discharges is calculated by subtracting the volume inside the well from the total volume pumped down hole.

Well Treatment, Completion or Work-Over Fluids - These fluids are circulated down the wellbore, and sometimes discharged overboard or captured in tanks for disposal at a onshore site. The discharge of these fluids is classified as an intermittent discharge, with an estimated average flow of 300 barrels a day. The volume of cement discharges is calculated by subtracting the volume inside the wellbore from the total volume pumped down hole.

Sanitary and Domestic Waste - The discharge of sanitary and domestic waste is classified as an intermittent discharge, with an estimated average flow of 40 barrels a day. An equal amount of domestic waste (from sinks, galleys, showers and laundries) is normally discharged.

Deck Drainage - Consisting of rainwater and wash water with no free oil, the volume of deck drainage is calculated by multiplying average rainfall by exposed deck area.

Uncontaminated Water - This included non-contact cooling water, discharges from the firewater system, and freshwater maker blow-down. Ballast water, which is sometimes used to maintain the stability of a drilling rig, might also be discharges. These discharges are classified as miscellaneous discharges in the NPDES permit application.

SECTION E

Wastes and Discharge Information

Produced Water from Well Testing - This discharge would occur during the production test conducted after drilling and completing the wells. Much of the produced water would be vaporized as the gas is flared and/or burned. Excess water would be processed in a gravity separator and discharged in accordance with the limitations and conditions of the applicable NPDES General Permit.

In accordance with all Federal, State and Local rules and regulations, wastes which cannot be discharged overboard, will be transported to an appropriate treatment or disposal site.

Overboard Discharges

The wastes detailed in ***Attachments E-1, E-3*** *and* ***E-6*** are those wastes generated by our proposed activities and are released into the receiving waters of the Gulf of Mexico at the lease site.

Disposed Wastes

The wastes detailed in ***Attachment E-2*** are those wastes generated by our proposed activities that are disposed of by means of offsite release, injection, encapsulation, or placement at either onshore or offshore permitted locations for the purpose of returning them back to the environment.

Water Base and Oil Base Mud System Components and Additives are listed in ***Attachments E-4*** *and* ***E-5***.

Synthetic base mud System Components and Additives are listed in **Attachment E-6**.

Wastes and Discharges Information

The information provided in Table 1 and Table 2 are estimates only and are based on information and plans known at the time this plan was prepared. The type of waste, amount and rate to be discharged, recycled, or disposed of and the recycle and disposal locations may change from time to time during the project life.

Table 1—Discharges

All discharges will be in accordance with EPA's general NPDES permit GMG 290000

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount to be Discharged (volume or rate)	Maximum Discharge Rate	Treatment and/or Storage, Discharge Location and Discharge Method
Water-based drilling fluids	1,000 bbls/well	Bulk discharge of mud in casing & riser following TA	MC617 Discharge overboard
Drill cuttings associated with water-based fluids	2,200 bbls/well	Bulk discharge of mud in casing & riser following TA	MC617 Discharge overboard
Drill cuttings associated with synthetic drilling fluids	5,500 bbls/well (cuttings only)	1000 bbls/hr Max	MC617 Discharge overboard
Muds, cuttings and cement at the seafloor	5,500 bbls/well	1000 bbls/hr Max	MC617 Discharge overboard
Produced water	40,000 bbl/day (maximum)	40,000 bbl/day	MC617 Treat for oil and grease and discharge overboard
Sanitary wastes	20 gals/person/day	Not applicable	MC617 Chlorinate and Discharge overboard
Domestic wastes	30 gal/person/day	Not applicable	MC617 Remove floating solids and discharge overboard

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount to be Discharged (volume or rate)	Maximum Discharge Rate	Treatment and/or Storage, Discharge Location and Discharge Method
Deck drainage	0-4,000 bbl/day Dependant upon rainfall	Not applicable	MC617 Remove oil and grease and discharge overboard
Well treatment, workover or completion fluids	300 bbls/day	300 bbls/day during these types of operations	MC617 Remove oil and grease and discharge overboard
Uncontaminated fresh or seawater	Varied	Not applicable	MC617 Discharge overboard
Desalinization Unit water	700 bbl/day	Not applicable	MC617 Discharged Overboard
Uncontaminated bilge water	None	None	None
Uncontaminated ballast water	10,000 bbls	400 gal/min (pump capacity)	MC617 Discharged overboard
Misc discharges to which treatment chemicals have been added	Varied	Not applicable	MC617 Discharged Overboard
Other misc discharges	Varied	Not applicable	MC617 Discharged Overboard

Table 2
Disposal Table—Wastes Not Discharged

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount	Rate per Day	Name/Location of Disposal Facility	Treatment and/or Storage, Transport and Disposal Method[4]
Spent oil-based drilling fluids and cuttings	NA	NA	NA	NA
Spent synthetic-based drilling fluids	5,500	None (bulk at EOW)	Newpark or ETT [1] (or vendor)	Store in cuttings box and/or boat mud tanks transport by boat to shorebase
Oil-contaminated produced sand	200 lbs/yr	0.6 bbl/day	Newpark or ETT [1]	Store in cuttings box and transport by boat to shorebase
Waste Oil	NA	NA	NA	NA
Norm-contaminated wastes	1 ton	Not applicable	Newpark or ETT [1]	Transport to a transfer station via dedicated barge
Trash and debris	1,000 ft^3	3 ft^3	Newpark Drilling Fluids dock Fourchon	Transport in storage bins on boats to shorebase
Chemical product wastes	100 bbls	2 bbl/day	Envirosolutions[2] or Total Recycling Technologies Inc.[3]	Transport in barrels on boat to shorebase
Workover fluids-Not Discharged	150 bbls	2 bbl/day	Vendor Newpark[1] or ETT	Transport in barrels on boats or barge to shorebase

[1] Newpark Transfer Stations to be utilized are located in Fourchon LA and Venice La
[2] Envirosolutions is located in Baytown, TX.
[3] Total Recycling Technologies is located in Mexia, TX.
[4] Waste to be disposed of or recycled is normally brought to the shorebase by work boats. From the shorebase, it is usually transported to the disposal or recycling center by truck.

SECTION E

QUANTITIES AND RATES OF DISCHARGES

WELL	DEPTH	HOLE SIZE	QUANTITY (BBLS)	MAX. DISCHARGE RATE
A	925	36	1200	Maximum 1000 bbls/hour
	2500	24	850	Maximum 1000 bbls/hour
	9000	16	1650	Maximum 1000 bbls/hour
	19670	12-1/4	1600	Maximum 1000 bbls/hour

TOTAL BARRELS - 5300 bbls

DRILLING MUD COMPONENTS

COMMON CHEMICAL OR CHEMICAL TRADE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL
Aluminum Stearate	Aluminum Stearate
"AKTAFLO-S"	Nonionic Surfactant
Barite	Barium Sulfate (BaSO4)
Calcium Carbonate	Aragonite (CaCO3)
Calcium Chloride	Hydrophilite (CaC12)
Calcium Oxide	Lime (Quick)
Calcium Sulfate	Anhydrite (CaSO4)
Carboxymethyl Cellulose	Carboxymethyl Cellulose
Caustic Potash	Potassium Hydrate
Caustic Soda	Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH)
Chrome Lignite	Chrome Lignite
Chrome Lignosulfonate	Chrome Lignosulfonate
Drilling Detergent	Soap
"E-Pal"	No-toxic, biodegradable defoamer
Ferrochrome Lignosulfonate	Derived from wood pulp
Gel	Sodium montmorillonite, bentonite, attapulgite
Gypsum	CaSO4.2H2O
Lignite	Lignite
Lignosulfonate	Lignosulfonate
"Mud-Sweep"	Cement Pre-Flush
"MOR-REX"	Hydrolyzed Cereal Solid
"Shale-Trol"	Organo-aluminum complex
Sapp	Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate
Soda Ash	Sodium Carbonate
Sodium Bicarbonate	NaHCO3
Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose	Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose
Sodium Chloride	NaC1
Sodium Chromate	NaCr04.10H2O
Starch	Corn Starch
"TX-9010"	Biodegradable drilling lubricant
"TORO-Trim"	Biodegradable drilling lubricant

MUD ADDITIVES

COMMON CHEMICAL OR CHEMICAL TRADE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL
"Black Magic"	Oil base mud conc.
"Black Magic Supermix"	Sacked concentrated oil base mud
Diesel pills	Used to mix certain loss-circulation
"Jelflake"	Plastic foil, shredded cellophane
MICA	Loss-circulation material
"Pipe-Lax"	Surfactant mixed with diesel
"Wall-nut"	Ground walnut shells

SPINNAKER EXPLORATION
MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617
OCS-G 18265

SBM PRODUCT LIST

NovaPlus SBM component parts

NovaplusB	IO 1618 Compliant Fluid	Base Fluid
Water	fresh H2O	Volume Builder
Salt	calcium chloride	Salinity Control
VG-Plus	organophilic clay	Viscosifier
NovaMod	organic liq'd rheology modifier	Viscosifier
NovaWet	organic surfactant	Wetting agent/Secondary Emulsifier
Nova Mul	organic surfactant	Primary Emulsifier
Safe-Carb	ground marble	Bridging & Weighting Agent
MIX II	cellulose fiber	Bridging Agent
Barite	barium sulfate	Weighting Agent
Lime	calcium hydroxide	pH Control
G-Seal	graphite	Bridging Agent

SECTION F

OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CHEMICAL

The Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Bi-Annual Update was approved by MMS April 28, 2003.

Spinnaker's primary equipment provider is Clean Gulf Associates (CGA). The Marine Spill Response Corporation's (MSRC) STARS network will provide closest available personnel, as well as an MSRC supervisor to operate the equipment.

In the event of a spill, mechanical response equipment located at CGA's base in Lake Charles, Louisiana would be transported to a staging area in **Fourchon, Louisiana**.

The worst-case discharge (WCD) proposed in this EP is 1001 barrels but does not supercede the WCD as approved in our Regional OSRP. If our evaluation reveals that this WCD does in fact have the potential of having a more adverse impact than our currently identified WCD in our existing Regional OSRP, then Spinnaker will amend the Regional OSRP as required.

Activities proposed in this EP are considered far-shore (>10 miles from the shoreline). The Worst Case Discharge (WCD) scenario from the proposed activities in this EP and the WCD in the Regional OSRP on file with the MMS are compared below:

Comparison of WCD's in OSRP to Proposed Operations

Category	**Regional OSRP WCD**	**EP WCD**
Type of Activity	Production	Drilling
Spill Loc. (Area/Block)	HI197	MC617
Facility Designation	Platform A	Semi-submersible
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (miles)	**28**	**52**
Volume (bbls)	**2270**	**1001**
Type of Oil (crude, cond., diesel)	Condensate	Condensate
API Gravity	**46.0°**	**50.0°**

Worst-Case Discharge

Spinnaker submitted a new worst-case scenario to the GOMR **November 18, 2002** for inclusion in our regional OSRP, and was approved **December 12, 2002**.

Since **Spinnaker** has the capability to respond to the worst case spill scenario included in its approved (**May 27, 1999**) regional OSRP **as amended November 18, 2002**, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our **EP** does not replace the worst case scenario in our regional OSRP, I hereby certify that **Spinnaker** has the capability to respond, to a worst case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in our **EP**.

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C. is the only company covered by our OSRP.

SECTION G

AIR EMISSIONS

Offshore air emissions related to the proposed activities result mainly from the drilling rig operations, helicopters and service vessels. These emissions occur mainly from combustion or burning of fuels and natural gas, and from venting or evaporation of hydrocarbons. The combustion of fuels occurs primarily on diesel-powered generators, pumps or motors, and from lighter fuel motors. Other air emissions can result from catastrophic events such as oil spills or blowouts.

Primary air pollutants associated with OCS activities are nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulphur oxides, volatile organic compounds, and suspended particulates.

Included as **Attachment G-1** is the Projected Air Quality Emissions Report prepared in accordance with Appendix H of the Notice to Lessees NTL 2000-G10 addressing drilling operations.

EXPLORATION PLAN (EP)
AIR QUALITY SCREENING CHECKLIST

OMB Control No. XXX-XXX
Expiration Date: Pending

COMPANY	Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
AREA	Mississippi Canyon
BLOCK	617
LEASE	G 18265
PLATFORM	Transocean Marianas
WELL (S)	A
COMPANY CONTACT	Tom Becnel
TELEPHONE NO.	713/356-7534
REMARKS	Drill & suspend one well.

"Yes"	"No"	Air Quality Screening Questions
	X	1. Are the proposed activities east of 87.5° W latitude?
	X	2. Are H_2S concentrations greater than 20 ppm expected?
	X	3. Is gas flaring proposed for greater than 48 continuous hours per well?
	X	4. Is produced liquid burning proposed?
	X	5. Is the exploratory activity within 25 miles of shore?
	X	6. Are semi-submersible activities involved and is the facility within 50 miles of shore?
	X	7. Are drillship operations involved and is the facility within 120 miles of shore?
	X	8. Will the exploratory activity be collocated (same surface location) on a production facility?

If ALL questions are answered "No":
Submit only this coversheet with your plan; a full set of spreadsheets is not needed.

If ANY of questions 1 through 7 is answered "Yes":
Prepare and submit a full set of **EP** spreadsheets with your plan.

If question number 8 is answered "Yes":
Prepare and submit a full set of **DOCD** spreadsheets showing the cumulative emissions from both the proposed activities and the existing production platform.

SUMMARY

OMB Control No. xxxx-xxxx
Expiration Date: Pending

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL
Spinnaker Explo	Mississippi Canyon	617	G 18265	Transocean Marianas	A

Year	Emitted Substance				
	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
2004	12.48	58.48	426.25	13.07	94.81
2005	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2007	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2008	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2009	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Allowable	1731.60	1731.60	1731.60	1731.60	47367.57

SECTION H

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Included in this section, as **Attachment H-1** is the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS** prepared in accordance with Appendix H of Notice to Lessees NTL 2002-G08.

Environmental Impact Analysis
for
Initial Exploration Plan
Mississippi Canyon Area Block 617
OCS-G-18265

March 2004

(CEI 24012)

Environmental Impact Analysis
For
Initial Exploration Plan
Mississippi Canyon Area Block 617

Prepared by:

Richard N. Greig, B.S.
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Applied Science Division
1260 Main Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Prepared For:

Mr. Thomas Becnel
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
1200 Smith Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002

March 2004

(CEI 24012)

(A) Impact Producing Factors (IPFs)

The worksheet below was developed by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) and identifies IPFs that could theoretically impact the listed environmental resources. When it was determined that one of the resources may be prone to impact an "x" was placed in the corresponding IPF column and a descriptive explanation is provided. Footnotes detail the applicability of the IPF to the specific resource.

Environmental Resources	Impact Producing Factors (IPFs) Categories and Examples (Refer to a recent GOM OCS Lease Sales EIS for a more complete list of IPFs)					
	Emissions (air, light, noise, etc.)	Effluents (muds, cuttings, other discharges to water column or seafloor)	Physical Disturbances to the seafloor (rig or anchor emplacements, etc.)	Wastes sent to shore for treatment or disposal	Accidents (e.g., oil spills, chemical spills, H2S releases)	Other IPFs identified
Site Specific at Offshore Location						
Designated Topographic Features		(1)	(1)		(1)	
Pinnacle Trend Area Live Bottoms		(2)	(2)		(2)	
Eastern Gulf Live Bottoms		(3)	(3)		(3)	
Chemosynthetic Communities		X	X (4)		X	
Water Quality		X			X	
Fisheries		X			X	
Marine Mammals	X (8)	X		X	X (8)	
Sea Turtles	X (8)			X	X (8)	
Air Quality	X (9)					
Shipwreck Sites (known or potential)			X (7)			
Prehistoric Archaeological Sites			(7)			
Vicinity of Offshore Location						
Essential Fish Habitat		X			X (6)	
Marine and Pelagic Birds					X	
Public Health and Safety					(5)	
Coastal and Onshore						
Beaches					X (6)	
Wetlands					X (6)	
Shore Birds and Coastal Nesting Birds					X (6)	
Coastal Wildlife Refuges					X	
Wilderness Areas						
Other Resources Identified						

Footnotes for the Environmental Impact Analysis Matrix

1. *Activities that may affect a marine sanctuary or topographic feature. Specifically, if the well or platform site or any anchors will be on the seafloor within the:*
    a. *4-mile zone of the Flower Gardens Banks, or the 3-mile zone of Stetson Bank;*
    b. *1000-m, 1-mile or 3-mile zone of any topographic feature (submarine bank) protected by the Topographic Features Stipulation attached to an OCS lease;*
    c. *Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) criteria of 500 ft from any no-activity zone; or*
    d. *Proximity of any submarine bank (500 ft buffer zone) with relief greater than 2 meters that is not protected by the Topographic Features Stipulation attached to an OCS lease.*
2. *Activities with any bottom disturbance within an OCS lease block protected through the Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Stipulation attached to an OCS lease.*
3. *Activities within any Eastern Gulf OCS block where seafloor habitats are protected by the Live Bottom (Low-relief) Stipulation attached to an OCS lease.*
4. *Activities on blocks designated by the MMS as being in water depths 400 meters or greater.*
5. *Exploration or production activities where H2S concentrations greater than 500 ppm might be encountered.*
6. *All activities that could result in an accidental spill of produced liquid hydrocarbons or diesel fuel that is determined to impact these environmental resources. If the proposed action is located a sufficient distance from a resource that no impact would occur, the EIA will note that in a sentence or two.*
7. *All activities that involve seafloor disturbances, including anchor placement, in any OCS block designated by the MMS as having high-probability for the occurrence of shipwrecks or prehistoric sites, including such blocks that will be affected that are adjacent to the lease block in which the planned activity will occur. If the proposed activities are located at sufficient distance from a shipwreck or prehistoric site that no impact would occur, the EIA will note that in a sentence or two.*
8. *All activities that are determined to possibly have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened marine mammals or sea turtles or their critical habitats.*
9. *Production activities that involve transportation of produced fluids to shore using shuttle tankers or barges.*

(B) Analysis

Site Specific at Offshore Location

Designated Topographic Features

There are no impacts from any of the IPFs (including emissions, effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, shore bound wastes and accidents) expected on Designated Topographic Features due to site-specific activities. The nearest topographic feature is the Sackett Bank located within West Delta Block 147. There are also no submarine banks within Mississippi Canyon Block 617 that have relief greater than 2 meters.

It is unlikely that an oil spill (surface or sub-surface) would occur due to any of the activities proposed. However, if a spill were to occur it is unlikely that there would be any impact to the sessile biota on the seafloor due to the water depth in this block and the tendency for oil to rise in the water column and disperse. Any sub-sea leak also would not likely impact any banks as the hydrocarbons would be moved away and swept clear of the bank by the natural water flow around the bank. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Pinnacle Trend Area Live Bottoms

There are no impacts from any of the IPFs (including emissions, effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, shore bound wastes and accidents) expected on pinnacle trend area live bottoms due to site-specific activities. The nearest pinnacle trend live bottom stipulation occurs in the Viosca Knoll Area.

It is unlikely that an oil spill (surface or sub-surface) would occur due to any of the activities proposed. However, if a spill were to occur it is unlikely that there would be any impact to any pinnacle trends due to the distance to the Viosca Knoll Area. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Eastern Gulf Live Bottoms

There are no impacts from any of the IPFs (including emissions, effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, shore bound wastes and accidents) expected on eastern gulf live bottoms due to site-specific activities. The nearest live bottom stipulation occurs in Viosca Knoll Area.

It is unlikely that an oil spill (surface or sub-surface) would occur due to any of the activities proposed. However, if a spill were to occur it is unlikely that there would be an impact to any eastern gulf live bottoms because the distance to Viosca Knoll Area is great enough to alleviate impact concerns. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Chemosynthetic Communities

The proposed activities for Mississippi Canyon Block 617 occur at a water depth averaging around 512 feet thereby having no possibility of Chemosynthetic Communities occurring since they require a water depth of at least 400 meters or 1312 feet. Therefore none of the IPFs (including emissions, effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, shore bound wastes and accidents) are expected to impact these communities.

Water Quality

Effluents and accidents could possibly impact the water quality due to the proposed activities for Mississippi Canyon Block 617. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), specifically Spinnaker Exploration Company's general permit under GMG 290000 issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will cover all discharges and the regulations coinciding with this permit will be followed. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any impact to the water quality due to operational discharges within Mississippi Canyon Block 617.

It is unlikely that an oil spill (surface or sub-surface) would occur due to any of the activities proposed. However, if a spill were to occur it is unlikely that there would be any long-term impact to water quality. The spill effects to water quality would be temporary as the spilled petroleum product would disperse and break down (organic and microbial degradation), which would remove the oil from the water column or at the very least dilute the constituents to background levels. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Fisheries

Mississippi Canyon Block 617 is within the royal red shrimp grounds and the limits of the fisheries conservation zone. It is unlikely that any of the following IPFs would have an impact on fisheries within Mississippi Canyon Block 617: emissions, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and shore bound wastes. However, an effluent discharge or an accidental spill has the possibility of causing some impact to the fisheries.

An accidental oil spill or effluent discharge that may occur due to the proposed activities for Mississippi Canyon Block 617 is unlikely. However, if either did occur it would most likely have a sub-lethal effect on the finfish or shellfish in the area because the hydrocarbons can be metabolized and increased exposure can be avoided. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Marine Mammals

There may be adverse impacts by several IPFs (including vessel traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, and loss of trash or debris) to marine mammals within Mississippi Canyon Block 617 due to the proposed activities. The only lethal effects would be due to ingestion of plastic materials, collision with a vessel or oil spills. These events, if occurring at all, would be very rare. There are also many sublethal effects of IPFs such as noise and effluent discharge that could have chronic and sporadic effects to

individuals within the population or to family groups by increasing stress levels which could cause a general weakening in individuals. This weakening would lead to increased possibilities for infection and make them more susceptible to parasitic infestation both of which might not normally be fatal. These sublethal events are not expected and are considered to be very rare occurrences.

Any disturbance could stress and possibly harm individual marine mammals but it is likely that they would travel to other areas within their home range. Both fatal and sub-fatal incidents are unlikely and are unexpected barring catastrophic events.

Sea Turtles

IPFs that could theoretically impact sea turtles include vessel traffic, noise, shore bound waste and trash losses, and accidental oil spills. These impacts could be as small as a slight stressor to an individual or as severe as to cause fatalities.

Oil spills could cause fatalities due to ingestion of oiled food, oil particles and contact with oil. The Oil Spill Pollution Act of 1990 has response planning techniques and protections in place to alleviate most of these issues. Chance collisions with vessels could occur, however, these are considered very uncommon events, as is the ingestion of plastic trash or waste material. Stress is also possible due to noise from drilling rigs and associated vessels, which could lead to increased susceptibility to disease.

The majority of the IPFs that could occur to sea turtles are not expected to be lethal however there is the possibility of gradual declines in survival and reproductive rates, which would detrimentally effect populations on a larger scale. These population effects are not typical and as stated above the Oil Spill Pollution Act of 1990 has some mitigative measures in place.

Air Quality

No IPFs at the site-specific location within Mississippi Canyon Block 617 are expected to impact air quality to a degree that would go above acceptable levels. Emissions will be kept within generally acceptable standards, and effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and shore bound wastes are not expected to impact the air quality. In the unlikely event of an accidental oil spill, the air quality may be impacted due to the spill and response activities, however even then the impacts would be kept to a minimum. Air quality analyses of the proposed activities indicate that the MMS exemption level is not and will not be exceeded.

Shipwreck Sites

There are no known shipwreck sites within Mississippi Canyon Block 617. Therefore, no IPFs, including physical disturbances to the seafloor, would cause any impacts to this environmental resource.

Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

There are no IPFs including physical disturbances to the seafloor from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to known or potential prehistoric archeological sites. Spinnaker will avoid any anomalies thereby eliminating the possibility of impacting these

sites which are most likely not is this deep of an area of the Gulf of Mexico. Effluents, emissions, shore bound wastes and accidents would not be expected to impact any archaeological sites if they were present.

Vicinity of Offshore Location

Essential Fish Habitat

Mississippi Canyon Block 617 is within the royal red shrimp grounds and the limits of the fisheries conservation zone. The oyster leases and blue crab fishing areas to the northwest, near the coast, would be at such a distance as to have no possibility for impact. It is unlikely that any of the following IPFs would have an impact on fisheries within Mississippi Canyon Block 617: emissions, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and shore bound wastes. However, an effluent discharge or an accidental spill has the possibility of causing some impact to fisheries and essential fish habitat.

An accidental oil spill or effluent discharge that may occur due to the proposed activities for Mississippi Canyon Block 617 is unlikely. If either did occur it would most likely have a sub-lethal effect on the finfish or shellfish in the area of impact because the hydrocarbons can be metabolized and increased exposure can be avoided. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Marine and Pelagic Birds

Most of the IPFs would have no effect on marine and pelagic bird species. Effluents, emissions, physical disturbances to the seafloor and shore bound wastes would not affect any avian species. An accidental oil spill could have a detrimental effect on individual birds that could become oiled and possibly ingest an oil product. It is unlikely that a spill would occur from the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617 and if one did occur the activities in this plan would be covered under Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08.) which would help to defray some of the possible impacts to marine and pelagic avian species.

Public Health and Safety

There are no IPFs (including emissions, effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, shore bound wastes and accidents) that would cause any harm to public health and safety. In accordance with 30 CFR 250.417(c) and NTL 2002 Appendix C Spinnaker Exploration Company has submitted sufficient information to justify their request that the proposed activities for Mississippi Canyon Block 617 be classified by the MMS as H2S absent.

Coastal and Onshore

Beaches

With the exception of an oil spill no IPFs are expected to impact any of the beaches in onshore locations. Upon review of OCS EIA/EA MMS 2002-02 publication the historical

spill data and trajectory / risk calculations show that there would be a small risk to Plaquemines Parish. If an oil spill were to occur there would be a 0/4/8 percent chance (3, 10, and 30 days, respectively) that the spill would impact any beaches on the shore of Plaquemines Parish.

Due to the distance from shore and the response capabilities that would be implemented it is highly unlikely that if an oil spill did occur it would impact any beaches along the shoreline. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Wetlands

With the exception of an oil spill no IPFs are expected to impact any of the wetlands in onshore locations. Upon review of OCS EIA/EA MMS 2002-02 publication the historical spill data and trajectory / risk calculations show that there would be a small risk to Plaquemines Parish. If an oil spill were to occur there would be a 0/4/8 percent chance (3, 10, and 30 days, respectively) that the spill would impact the wetlands of Plaquemines Parish.

Due to the distance from shore and the response capabilities that would be implemented it is highly unlikely that if an oil spill did occur it would impact any wetland areas along the shoreline. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Shore Birds and Coastal Nesting Birds

With the exception of an oil spill no IPFs are expected to impact any of the shore birds or coastal nesting birds in onshore locations. Upon review of OCS EIA/EA MMS 2002-02 publication the historical spill data and trajectory / risk calculations show that there would be a small risk to Plaquemines Parish bird colonies. If an oil spill were to occur there would be a 0/4/8 percent chance (3, 10, and 30 days, respectively) that the spill would impact shore birds, rookeries, or other coastal nesting birds in Plaquemines Parish.

Due to this distance from shore, the small impact possibility, and the response capabilities that would be implemented it is highly unlikely that if an oil spill did occur it would impact any shore or coastal nesting birds areas along the shoreline. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Coastal Wildlife Refuges

With the exception of an oil spill no IPFs are expected to impact any of the coastal wildlife refuges in onshore locations. Upon review of OCS EIA/EA MMS 2002-02 publication the historical spill data and trajectory / risk calculations show that there would be a small risk to National Wildlife Refuges and Wildlife Management Areas within Plaquemines Parish. If an oil spill were to occur there would be a 0/4/8 percent chance (3, 10, and 30 days, respectively) that the spill would impact this Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Breton National Wildlife Refuge, or Pass A-Loutre Wildlife Management Area.

Due to this distance from shore, the small impact possibility, and the response capabilities that would be implemented it is highly unlikely that if an oil spill did occur it would impact any coastal wildlife refuges along the shoreline. The activities proposed in this plan will be covered by Spinnaker Exploration Company's regional OSRP (refer to Section F which contains the information submitted in accordance with NTL 2002-G08).

Wilderness Areas

No IPFs associated with the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617 are expected to impact any wilderness areas in onshore locations. The wilderness areas in Louisiana, as designated by the U.S. Congress, are Kisatchie Hills, which is located in central Louisiana, hundreds of miles away and land locked and Breton Island National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is the only Wilderness area that might be impacted by offshore activities. It became part of the National Wilderness Preservation System on January 3, 1975 (Public Law 93-632). The Breton Island NWR will not be impacted by any IPFs.

Other Environmental Resources Identified

It is expected that the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617 will have no other environmental resources identified or impacted.

(C) Impacts on Mississippi Canyon Block 617 Proposed Activities

It is expected that the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617 will have no impacts on site specific, offshore vicinity or coastal and onshore environmental conditions. The conditions of the site have been analyzed in order to make this judgment.

(D) Alternatives

Due to the lack of environmental impacts no alternative was considered for the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617.

(E) Mitigation Measures

Aside from measures required by regulation no mitigative steps will be taken to avoid, diminish, or eliminate potential impacts on environmental resources.

(F) Consultation

Coastal Environments, Inc. scientists were consulted regarding potential for impacts to environmental resources due to the proposed activities in Mississippi Canyon Block 617.

(G) References

Although not necessarily cited the following were utilized in preparing the Environmental Impact Analysis:

Lowery, George H. 1974. The Mammals of Louisiana and its Adjacent Waters. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 565 pp.

Schmidly, D.J. 1981. Marine mammals of the southeastern United States Gulf Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. FWS/OBS-80/41. 163 pp.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1976. Endangered and threatened species of the southeastern United States. Region IV, Atlanta, Georgia (periodically updated).

U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service. Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2003-2007, Central Planning Area Sales 185, 190, 194, and 201; Western Planning Area Sales 187, 192, 196, and 200; Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume I: Chapters 1-10; Volume II Figures and Tables. OCS EIA/EA MMS 2002-052.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Visual No. 4-1, 1983. Offshore Fisheries. Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Metairie, Louisiana. Map.

SECTION I

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

Issues identified in the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program include the following: general coastal use guidelines, levees, linear facilities (pipelines); dredged soil deposition; shoreline modification, surface alterations, hydrologic and sediment transport modifications; waste disposal; uses that result in the alteration of waters draining into coastal waters; oil, gas or other mineral activities; and air and water quality.

The Certificate of Coastal Zone Management Consistency for the State of Louisiana is enclosed as **Attachment I-1.**

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 617

LEASE OCS-G 18265

The proposed activities described in this Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Lessee or Operator

Certifying Official

April 5, 2004
Date

ATTACHMENT I-1

SECTION J

PLAN INFORMATION FORM

Included in this section as **Attachment J-1** is the Plan Information Form prepared in accordance with Appendix J of the Notice of Lessees NTL 2000-G10.

Included as **Attachment J-2** is the Bathymetry Map.

Included as **Attachment J-3** is our Anchor Location Plat.

U. S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service

OMB Control Number: 1010-0049
OMB Approval Expires: August 31, 2006

OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM

General Information

Type of OCS Plan:	X Exploration Plan (EP)		Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD)
Company Name: **Spinnaker Exploration Company, L.L.C.**		MMS Operator Number: **02169**	
Address: **1200 smith Street, Suite 800**		Contact Person: **Tom Becnel**	
Houston, Texas 77002		Phone Number: **713-356-7534**	
		E-Mail Address: **tbecnel@spinexp.com**	

Lease(s): **G 18265**	Area: **MC**	Block(s): **617**	Project Name (If Applicable):
Objective(s): X Oil X Gas Sulphur Salt	Onshore Base: **Fourchon**		Distance to Closest Land (Miles): **52**

Description of Proposed Activities (Mark all that apply)

X	Exploration drilling		Development drilling
	Well completion		Installation of production platform
X	Well test flaring (for more than 48 hours)		Installation of production facilities
	Installation of caisson or platform as well protection structure		Installation of satellite structure
X	Installation of subsea wellheads and/or manifolds		Commence production
	Installation of lease term pipelines		Other (Specify and describe)

Have you submitted or do you plan to submit a Conservation Information Document to accompany this plan?		Yes	X	No
Do you propose to use new or unusual technology to conduct your activities?		Yes	X	No
Do you propose any facility that will serve as a host facility for deepwater subsea development?		Yes	X	No
Do you propose any activities that may disturb an MMS-designated high-probability archaeological area?		Yes	X	No
Have all of the surface locations of your proposed activities been previously reviewed and approved by MMS?		Yes	X	No

Tentative Schedule of Proposed Activities

Proposed Activity	Start Date	End Date	No. of Days
Drill & complete well 'A'.	**April 25, 2004**	**June 23, 2004**	**60**

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Description of Drilling Rig

	Jackup		Drillship
	Gorilla Jackup		Platform rig
X	Semisubmersible		Submersible
	DP Semisubmersible		Other (Attach Description)
Drilling Rig Name (If Known):			

Description of Production Platform

	Caisson		Tension leg platform
	Well protector		Compliant tower
	Fixed platform		Guyed tower
	Subsea manifold		Floating production system
	Spar		Other (Attach Description)

Description of Lease Term Pipelines

From (Facility/Area/Block)	To (Facility/Area/Block)	Diameter (Inches)	Length (Feet)
NA			

ATTACHMENT J-1

OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM (CONTINUED)

Include one copy of this page for each proposed well/structure

Proposed Well/Structure Location			
Well or Structure Name/Number (If renaming well or structure, reference previous name): A			Subsea Completion
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:			X Yes / No

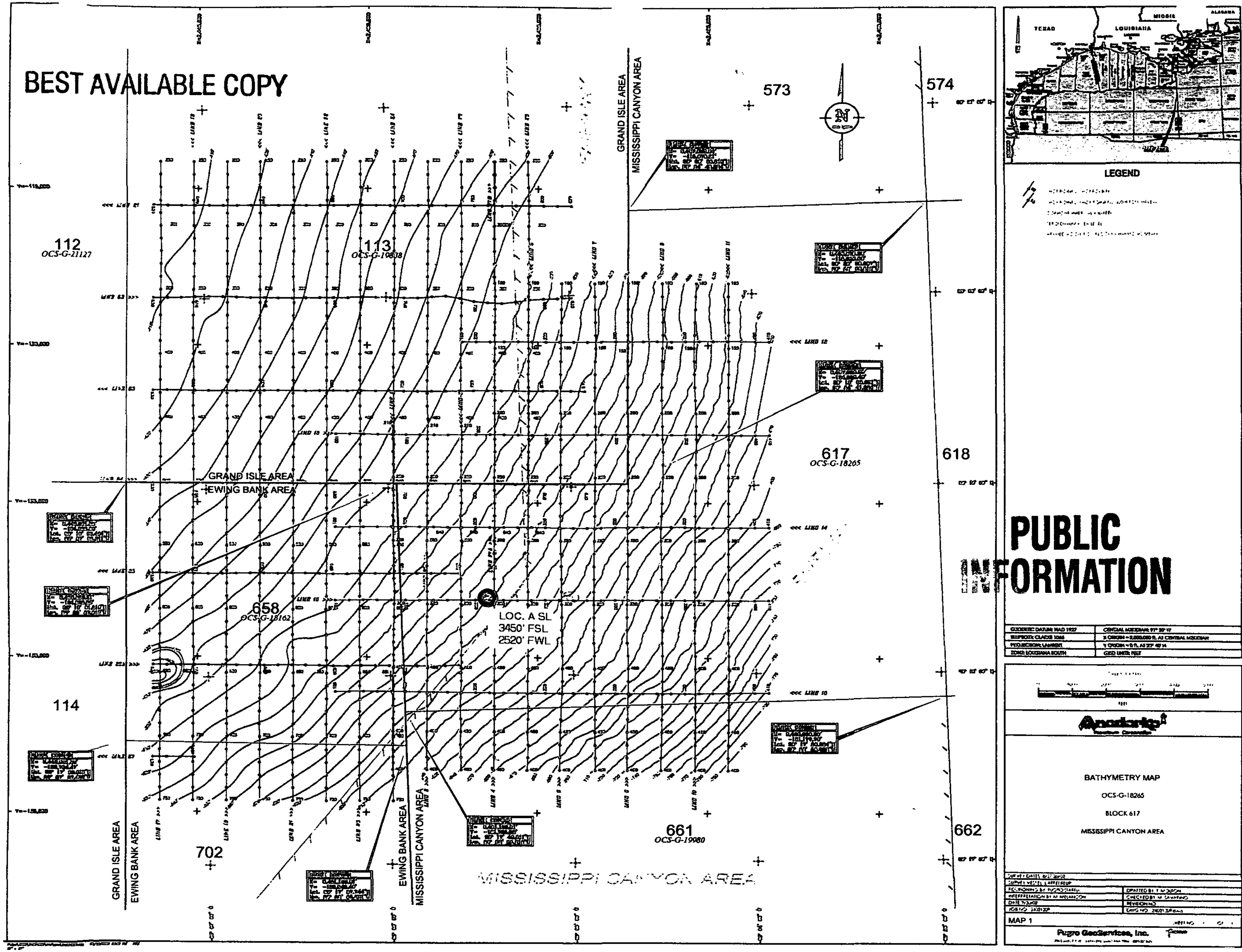
	Surface Location	Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)
Lease No.	OCS 18265	OCS 18265
Area Name	Mississippi Canyon	Mississippi Canyon
Block No.	617	617
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure 3450 FSL	N/S Departure: FSL
	E/W Departure: 2520 FWL	E/W Departure: FWL
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 699,480.00	X:
	Y: 10,283,610.00	Y:
Latitude/ Longitude	Latitude 28-18-23.245	Latitude
	Longitud 89-55-28.086	Longitude
	TVD (Feet):	MD (Feet): 19670 / Water Depth (Feet): 570

Anchor Locations for Drilling Rig or Construction Barge (If anchor radius supplied above, not necessary)

Anchor Name or No.	Area	Block	X Coordinate	Y Coordinate	Length of Anchor Chain on Seafloor
1	GI	113	X = 698,084.17	Y = 10,288,278.32	2196
2	GI	113	X = 701,450.00	Y = 10,288,001.13	2039
3	MC	617	X = 703,846.38	Y = 10,285,787.18	1961
4	MC	617	X = 704,141.25	Y = 10,282,430.55	2125
5	MC	661	X = 700,878.66	Y = 10,278,931.78	2190
6	MC	661	X = 697,505.76	Y = 10,279,208.97	1969
7	EW	658	X = 695,119.27	Y = 10,281,435.65	2190
8	EW	658	X = 694,827.94	Y = 10,284,787.33	2196

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires us to inform you that MMS collects this information as part of an applicant's Exploration Plan or Development Operations Coordination Document submitted for MMS approval. We use the information to facilitate our review and data entry for OCS plans. We will protect proprietary data according to the Freedom of Information Act and 30 CFR 250.196. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget Control Number. The use of this form is voluntary. The public reporting burden for this form is included in the burden for preparing Exploration Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents. We estimate that burden to average 580 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Mail Stop 4230, Minerals Management Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ATTACHMENT J-2