



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



In Reply Refer To: MS 5231

February 7, 2005

Ms. Debra K. Benoit
Murphy Exploration & Production Company - USA
131 South Robertson Street
Post Office Box 61780
New Orleans, Louisiana 70161-1780

Dear Ms. Benoit:

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	N-08271
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	November 15, 2004, amended December 13, 2004
Lease(s)	OCS-G 19985, Block 699, Mississippi Canyon Area

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of January 27, 2005, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.203(i)(1).

This approval includes the activities proposed for Wells A, B, and C.

Drilling permits cannot be issued for the proposed wells until concurrence with your coastal zone management consistency certification has been received by this office from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management or until concurrence with the certification has been conclusively presumed.

Exercise caution while drilling due to indications of shallow gas and possible water flow.

In response to the request accompanying your plan for a hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) classification, the area in which the proposed drilling operations are to be conducted is hereby classified, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.490(c), as "H₂S absent."

In accordance with Notice to Lessees and Operators No. 2003-G03, the Minerals Management Service has determined that you will not need to conduct the two Remotely Operated Vehicle surveys you proposed in your plan.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval, please contact Karen Dunlap at (504) 736-2535.

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Sincerely,

Donald C. Howard
Regional Supervisor
Field Operations

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