UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2005

To: Public Information (MS 5030)

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

Subject: Public Information copy of plan

Control #	-	S-06801
Type	-	Supplemental Development Operations Coordinations Document
Lease(s)	-	OCS-G05611 Block - 197 South Timbalier Area
Operator	-	Noble Energy, Inc.
Description	-	Well A-5
Rig Type	-	JACKUP

Attached is a copy of the subject plan.

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

Robert Stringfellow
Plan Coordinator

Site Type/Name	Botm Lse/Area/Blk	Surface Location	Surf Lse/Area/Blk
WELL/A-5	G05611/ST/197	1576 FNL, 5100 FEL	G05611/ST/197

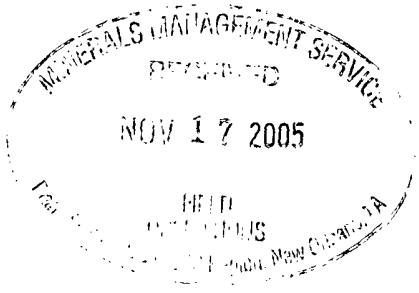
NOV 21 2005
PIRS

100 Glenborough Drive
Suite 100
Houston, TX 77067-3610

Tel: 281.872.3100
Fax: 281.876.6208
www.nobleenergyinc.com

Offshore Division

noble energy



November 16, 2005

Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123

Attention: Plans Section

Re: Noble Energy Inc., Block 197, OCS-G-05611, South Timbalier Area

Dear Sir or Madame,

Attached are five proprietary and four public information copies of a Supplemental Development Coordination Operations Document (DOCD) addressing our proposed activity in South Timbalier Area Block 197. Should additional information be required to process this plan, please contact Joe Morton, Tim Morton & Associates, Inc., at 337/234-5124 or by email at jmorton@mortoninc.com.

Sincerely,

NOBLE ENERGY, INC.

for Roger Souders
Landman/Eastern Shell Business Unit

jm
Attachments

PUBLIC
INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT

NOBLE ENERGY, INC.

SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA BLOCK 197

OCS-G-05611

OFFSHORE LOUISIANA

November 14, 2005

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Plan Information Forms

B. Vicinity Plat and Location Plat

C. Geologic Structure Map and Cross-Section Map

D. Air Quality Report

E. Environmental Impact Analysis

F. Platform Screening Questions

SUPPLEMENTAL

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT

SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA BLOCK 197

OFFSHORE LOUISIANA

Pursuant to the requirements of 30 CFR 250 Subpart B, Noble Energy, Inc. (Noble) submits the following Supplemental Development Operations Coordination Document for South Timbalier Area Block 197.

I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Noble proposes to utilize a jack-up rig to drill one well in South Timbalier Area Block 197 from their existing "A" platform. The anticipated spud date for Well A-5 is April 1, 2006. It is expected to take approximately 32 days to drill and complete the well. If the well is successful, Noble proposes to produce the well at the existing "A" platform. Hydrocarbons would be transported from the ST197 "A" platform to shore via an existing pipeline gathering system. Specific information regarding the well can be found in the Plan Information forms included as Attachment A.

Attachment B contains a vicinity map that depicts the relationship of South Timbalier Area Block 197 to the Louisiana Coast and a location plat that depicts the proposed well location in relation to the lease lines. The estimated time to complete the proposed development and production activity is approximately 4 years.

II. PRODUCTION RATES AND LIFE OF RESERVES

Type	Average Production Rate	Peak Production Rate	Life of Reserves
Oil	120 BPD	200 BPD	4 Years
Gas	6 MMCFD	12 MMCFD	4 Years

III. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The proposed schedule for the development is:

April 1, 2006 - May 2, 2006	Drill and complete Well A-5
May 3, 2006	Produce Well A-5
May 2009	P&A well and remove equipment

IV. DRILLING RIG, PLATFORMS AND PIPELINES

Noble proposes to utilize a jack-up rig to drill the proposed well. The actual rig specifications for the rig to be used will be submitted with the application for Permit to Drill for the well.

Safety and pollution prevention will be accomplished during drilling operations through the use of adequately designed casing programs; blowout preventers, diverters, and other associated well equipment of adequate pressure rating to control anticipated pressures; mud monitoring equipment and sufficient mud volumes to ensure well control; and properly trained supervisory personnel. Pursuant to Coast Guard regulations, fire drills and abandon ship drills will be conducted, and navigational aids, lifesaving equipment, and all other shipboard safety equipment will be installed and maintained.

Noble proposes to drill the proposed well, and if successful, produce the well at their existing "A" platform. All production operations will be conducted in accordance with Minerals Management Service Operating Regulations and API RP 14C.

V. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL DATA

A geologic structure map, a cross-section map are provided with the confidential copies of this document in Attachment C. The water depth at the "A" platform is approximately 129 feet.

VI. OIL SPILL INFORMATION

Noble is a member of Clean Gulf Associates (CGA), and would utilize CGA equipment in the event of an oil spill at South Timbalier Area Block 197. CGA is an oil spill cooperative which owns a large inventory of oil spill clean-up equipment which is supported by Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC). MSRC is responsible for storing, inspecting, maintaining and dispatching CGA's equipment. An inventory of spill response equipment suitable for spills in the Gulf of Mexico is identified in Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) which was approved on February 18, 2005. Noble requests that the activities proposed in this DOCD be covered by the OSRP.

In the event of a spill, the primary location for the procurement of clean-up equipment would be the CGA stockpile at Houma, Louisiana. Additional cleanup equipment could be mobilized from the Fort Jackson and Lake Charles, Louisiana, Pascagoula, Mississippi, and the Galveston and Ingleside, Texas CGA stockpile areas. The Houma, Louisiana stockpile area is located approximately 77 miles from the block.

FACILITY TANKS/PRODUCTION VESSELS

Type of Storage Tank	Type of Facility	Tank Capacity (bbls)	No. of Tanks	Total Capacity (bbls)	Fluid Gravity (API)
Fuel Oil	Jackup Rig	1,058	2	2,116	No. 2 Diesel

DIESEL OIL SUPPLY VESSELS

Size of Fuel Supply Vessel	Capacity of Fuel Supply Vessel	Frequency of Fuel Transfers	Route Fuel Supply Vessel Will Take
180'	1,500 bbls	Weekly	Fourchon to South Timbalier Area Block 197

SUPPORT VESSELS FUEL STORAGE

Type of Vessel	No. in Field Simultaneously	Estimated Max Fuel Tank Storage Capacity (bbls)
Tug Boats	3	3000
Supply Vessels	2	1000
Crew Vessels	1	500

WORST-CASE SCENARIO COMPARISON

Category	Regional OSRP	DOCD
Type of Activity	Exploratory	Development
Facility Location (area/block)	Green Canyon Area Block 199	South Timbalier Area Block 197
Facility Designation		Well A-5
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (miles)	87 miles	38 miles
Volume Storage tanks (total) Flowlines (on facility) Lease term pipelines Uncontrolled blowout (volume per day) Total Volume	 28,100 barrels 28,100 barrels	 5 barrels 15 barrels 500 barrels 520 barrels
Type of oil(s) - (crude oil, condensate, diesel)	condensate	condensate
API Gravity(s)		

Since Noble Energy, Inc. has the capability to respond to the worst-case spill scenario included in its regional Oil Spill Response Plan approved on February 18, 2005, and since the worst-case scenario determined for their DOCD does not replace the worst-case scenario in their regional OSRP, Noble Energy, Inc. hereby certifies that they have the capability to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst-case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in their DOCD.

VII. LEASE STIPULATIONS

There are no operational lease stipulations.

VIII. WASTES AND DISCHARGES INFORMATION

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount	Rate per Day	Name/Location of Disposal Facility	Treatment and/or Storage, Transport and Discharge Method
Trash and debris	96 ft^3	3 ft^3	Lafourche Parish Landfill	Storage bins transported by boat to Fourchon, thence transported to municipal landfill by waste hauler

IX. H_2S AREA CLASSIFICATION

This area is not known to contain any H_2S. Noble, therefore, requests that South Timbalier Area Block 197 be classified as a "Zone where the absence of H_2S has been confirmed".

X. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Activities proposed in this DOCD will not impact any deepwater chemosynthetic communities as the water depth at the "A" platform is approximately 129 feet. All proposed bottom-disturbing activities are outside the 3-mile zone of any identified topographic feature, and these activities are not within 100 feet of any pinnacle trend feature; therefore, no impacts to these features are anticipated.

XI. NEW OR UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGY

Exploration and development activities in South Timbalier Area Block 197 will not warrant utilizing any new or unusual technology that may affect coastal waters.

XII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

An Environmental Impact Analysis has been prepared for the proposed activity and is included as Attachment E.

XIII. CALCULATION OF AIR EMISSIONS

An Air Quality Report has been prepared for the proposed activity and is included as Attachment D.

XIV. SUPPORT BASE

South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from the coast of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. An existing facility in Fourchon, Louisiana will serve as the onshore support base for the South Timbalier Area Block 197 development activities. This shore base is located approximately 54 miles from South Timbalier Area Block 197. Noble anticipates using one helicopter, one supply boat, and one crew boat to support the activities in this block. The helicopter will travel to the location on an as needed basis. The supply boat and crew boat will travel to location a total of three times per week and five times per week, respectively. The shore base will serve the following functions: loading point for tools, equipment and machinery to be delivered to the well site, transportation base, and temporary storage area for materials and equipment. The base is equipped with cranes and loading docks necessary for safe operations. The existing onshore facilities and support personnel are sufficient to support the proposed operations without modification or expansion.

XV. SURETY BOND REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the amendment of 30 CFR Part 256 surety bond requirements applicable to OCS lessees and operators, Noble Energy, Inc. submitted an area-wide bond in the amount of $3,000,000.00 to the Minerals Management Service, New Orleans, Louisiana.

XVI. COMPANY CONTACT

Any inquiries regarding this plan may be addressed to Mr. Roger Souders, Noble Energy, Inc., 100 Glenborough, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77067-3299, telephone number 281/876-6286.

ATTACHMENT A

PLAN INFORMATION FORMS

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:		Exploration Plan (EP)	X Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD)
Company Name: Noble Energy, Inc.			MMS Operator Number: 2237
Address: 100 Glenborough, Suite 100			Contact Person: Roger Souders
Houston, Texas 77067			Phone Number: 281/876-6286
			E-Mail Address: rsouders@nobleenergyinc.com

Lease(s): OCS-G-05611	Area: South Timbalier	Block(s): 197	Project Name (If Applicable):

Objective(s):	X	Oil	X	Gas		Sulphur		Salt	Onshore Base: Fourchon	Distance to Closest Land (Miles): 38

Description of Proposed Activities (Mark all that apply)

	Exploration drilling	X	Development drilling
X	Well completion		Installation of production platform
	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
	Installation of subsea wellheads and/or manifolds	X	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?	X	Yes		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 and complete Well A-5	4/1/06	5/2/06	32
Produce Well A-5	5/3/06		

Description of Drilling Rig

X	Jackup		Drillship		Caisson		Tension leg platform
	Gorilla Jackup		Platform rig		Well protector		Compliant tower
	Semisubmersible		Submersible		Fixed platform		Guyed tower
	DP Semisubmersible		Other (Attach Description)		Subsea manifold		Floating production system
Drilling Rig Name (If Known):					Spar		Other (Attach Description)

Description of Lease Term Pipelines

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

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): Well A-5	Subsea Completion: Yes [ ] No [X]
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:	

	Surface Location	Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)
Lease No.	OCS-G-05611	
Area Name	South Timbalier Area	
Block No.	197	
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure: 1576' F_N_ L	N/S Departure: F____ L
	E/W Departure: 5100' F_E_ L	E/W Departure: F____ L
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 2,196,946'	X:
	Y: -69,446'	Y:
Latitude/ Longitude	Latitude 28* 28' 27.4"	Latitude
	Longitude 90* 43' 13.9"	Longitude
	TVD (Feet):	MD (Feet): / Water Depth (Feet): 129'

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

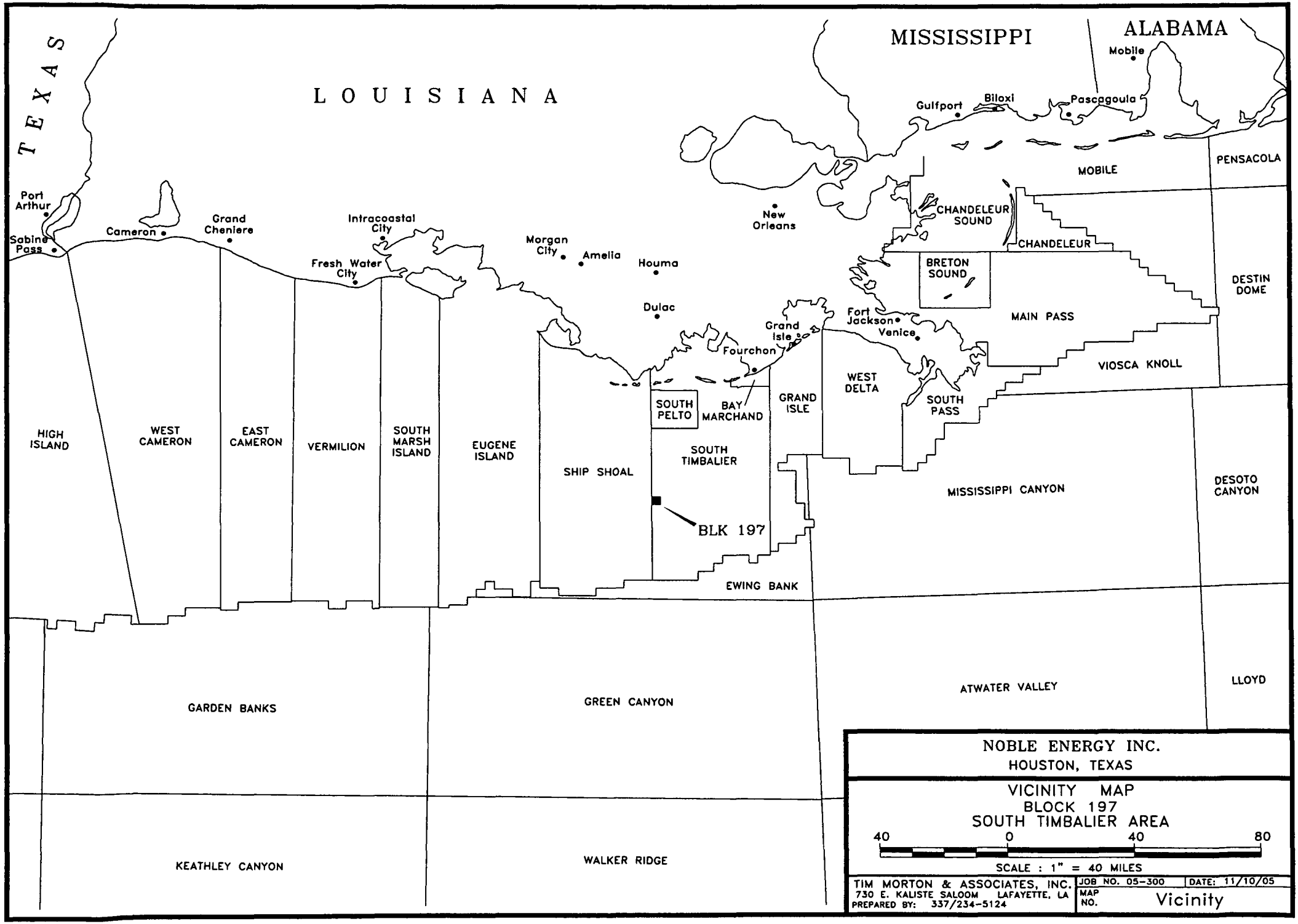
Anchor Name or No.	Area	Block	X Coordinate	Y Coordinate	Length of Anchor Chain on Seafloor
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	
			X =	Y =	

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.

ATTACHMENT B

VICINITY PLAT

LOCATION PLAT



NOBLE ENERGY INC.
HOUSTON, TEXAS

VICINITY MAP
BLOCK 197
SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA

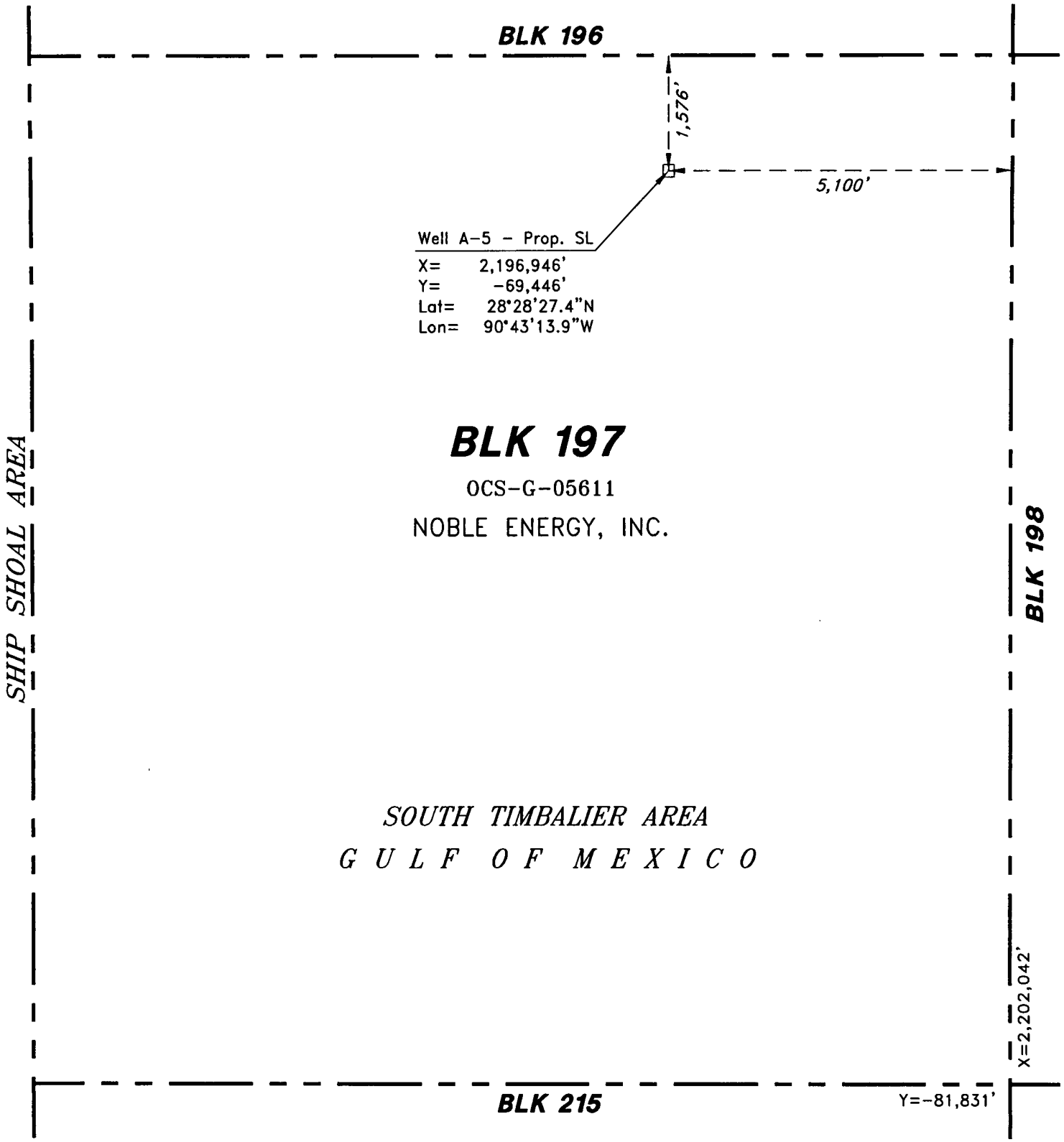
40 0 40 80

SCALE : 1" = 40 MILES

TIM MORTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
730 E. KALISTE SALOOM LAFAYETTE, LA
PREPARED BY: 337/234-5124

JOB NO. 05-300 DATE: 11/10/05

MAP NO. Vicinity



NOBLE ENERGY INC. 100 GLENBOROUGH, SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77067	*SUPPLEMENTAL DOCD* SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA BLOCK 197 2000' 0' 2000' 4000' SCALE IN FEET		
TIM MORTON & ASSOCIATES, INC. 730 E. KALISTE SALOOM RD. LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70508	JOB # 05-300 MAP NO. ST197	REVISED	DATE 11/9/05

ATTACHMENT C

GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE MAP

CROSS-SECTION MAP

GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE MAP

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

CROSS-SECTION MAP

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

ATTACHMENT D

AIR QUALITY REPORT

DOCD AIR QUALITY SCREENING CHECKLIST

OMB Control No. 1010-0049
OMB Approval Expires: September 30, 2003

COMPANY	Noble Energy, Inc.
AREA	South Timbalier
BLOCK	197
LEASE	OCS-G-05611
PLATFORM	"A" Platform
WELL	A-5
COMPANY CONTACT	Roger Souders
TELEPHONE NO.	281/876-6286
REMARKS	

"Yes"	"No"	**Air Quality Screening Questions**
	No	Is any calculated Complex Total (CT) Emission amount (in tons) associated with your proposed exploration activities more than 90% of the amounts calculated using the following formulas: CT = 3400D2/3 for CO, and CT = 33.3D for the other air pollutants (where D = distance to shore in miles)?
	No	Do your emission calculations include any emission reduction measures or modified emission factors?
	No	Does or will the facility complex associated with your proposed development and production activities process production from eight or more wells?
	No	Do you expect to encounter H2S at concentrations greater than 20 parts per million (ppm)?
	No	Do you propose to flare or vent natural gas in excess of the criteria set forth under 250.1105(a)(2) and (3)?
	No	Do you propose to burn produced hydrocarbon liquids?
	No	Are your proposed development and production activities located within 25 miles from shore?
	No	Are your proposed development and production activities located within 200 kilometers of the Breton Wilderness Area?

If ALL questions are answered "No":
Fill in the information below about your lease term pipelines and submit only this coversheet with your plan.

If ANY question is answered "Yes":
Prepare and submit a full set of spreadsheets with your plan.

LEASE TERM PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION:		
YEAR	NUMBER OF PIPELINES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION DAYS
2005		
2006		
2007		
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012		
2013		
2014		
2015		

NOBLE ENERGY, INC.
SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA BLOCK 197
OCS-G-05611

Air Pollutant	Plan Emission Amounts (tons)	Calculated Exemption Amounts (tons)	Calculated Complex Total Emission Amounts (tons)
Carbon monoxide (CO)	39.59	38429.79	39.59
Particulate matter (PM)	5.28	1265.40	5.28
Sulphur dioxide (SO2)	24.21	1265.40	24.21
Nitrogen oxides (NOx)	181.45	1265.40	181.45
Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	6.90	1265.40	6.90

Contact: Joe Morton, P.E., 337/234-5124, jmorton@mortoninc.com

ATTACHMENT E

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Environmental Impact Analysis

South Timbalier Area
Block 197
OCS-G-05611

November 10, 2005

Prepared for Noble Energy, Inc.
by Tim Morton & Associates, Inc.

Filename: C:\2005\Noble\South Timbalier\300-Block 197\EIAST197.wpd

Table of Contents

I. Description of the Proposed Activity

This environmental impact analysis addresses the activity proposed by Noble Energy, Inc. (Noble) for South Timbalier Area Block 197 (OCS-G-05611). The approximate location of the activity is presented on a general vicinity map of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease areas off the coast of Louisiana (Figure 1).

Noble proposes to utilize a jack-up rig to drill one well in South Timbalier Area Block 197 from their existing "A" platform. If the well is successful, Noble proposes to process production from the proposed well at the "A" platform. Hydrocarbons would be transported from the "A" platform to shore via an existing pipeline gathering system. More specific information can be found in the attached Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD).

The proposed activities will be carried out by Noble with a guarantee of the following:

- The best available and safest technologies will be utilized throughout the projects. This includes meeting all applicable requirements for equipment types, general project layout, safety systems, equipment and monitoring systems.

- All operations will be covered by a Minerals Management Service (MMS) approved Oil Spill Response Plan.

- All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding air emissions, water quality, and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with.

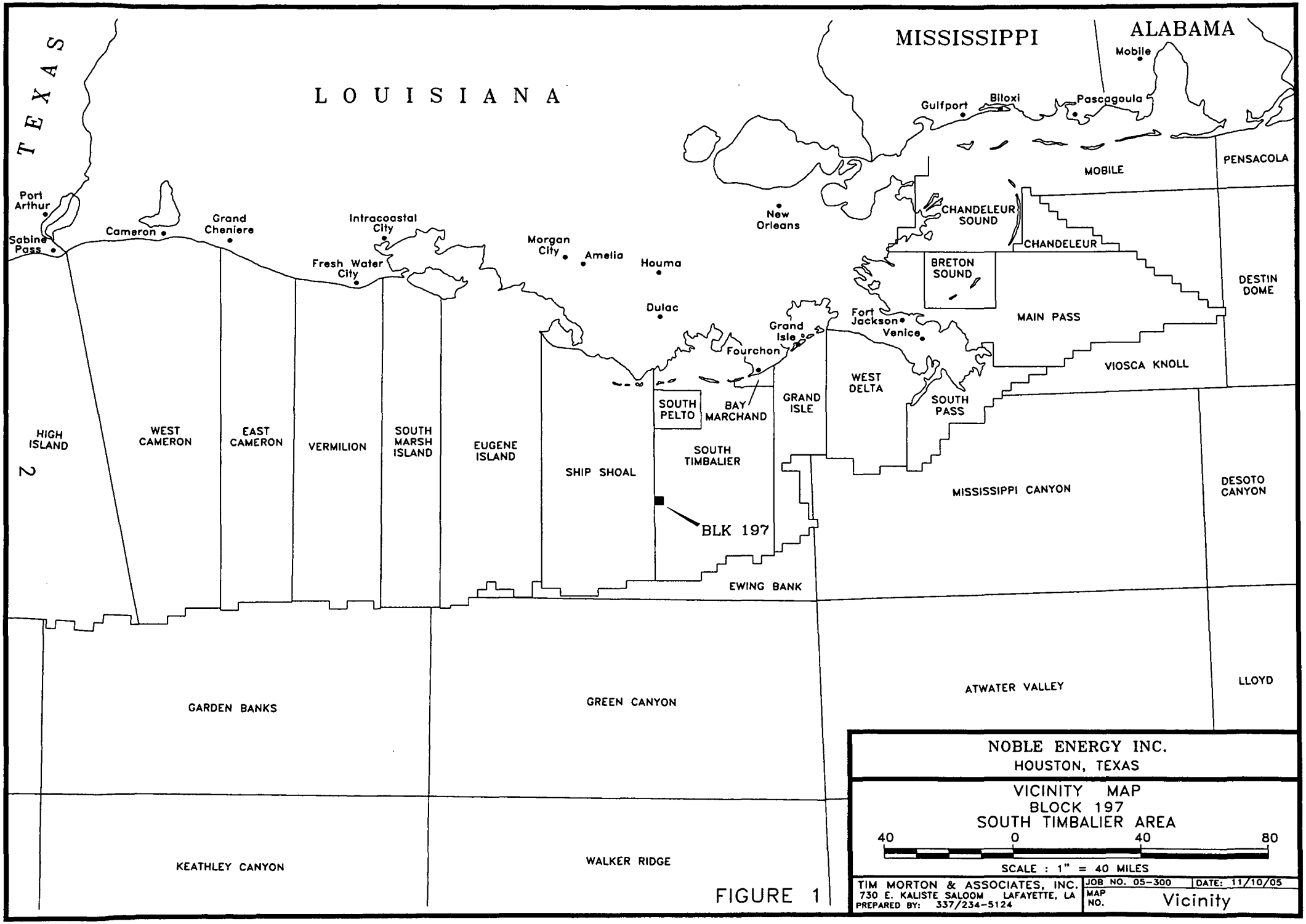


FIGURE 1

NOBLE ENERGY INC.
HOUSTON, TEXAS

VICINITY MAP
BLOCK 197
SOUTH TIMBALIER AREA

40 0 40 80

SCALE : 1" = 40 MILES

TIM MORTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
730 E. KALISTE SALOOM LAFAYETTE, LA
PREPARED BY: 337/234-5124

JOB NO. 05-300 | DATE: 11/10/05

MAP NO. Vicinity

II. Impact-Producing Factors

Environmental Resources	Impact Producing Factors (IPF's) Categories and Examples Refer to a recent GOM OCS Lease Sale EIS for a more complete list of IPF's					
	Emissions (air, noise, light, etc.)	Effluents (muds, cuttings, other discharges to the 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 IPF's you identify
Site-specific at Offshore Location						
Designated topographic features						
Pinnacle Trend area live-bottoms						
Eastern Gulf live bottoms						
Chemosynthetic communities			X			
Water quality		X			X	
Fisheries					X	
Marine mammals	X				X	
Sea turtles	X				X	
Air quality	X					
Shipwreck sites (known or potential)						
Prehistoric archaeological sites			X			
Vicinity of Offshore Location						
Essential fish habitat					X	
Marine and pelagic birds					X	
Public health and safety						
Coastal and Onshore						
Beaches					X	
Wetlands					X	
Shore birds and coastal nesting birds	X				X	
Coastal wildlife refuges					X	
Wilderness areas					X	
Other Resources You Identify						

III. Analysis of Impact-Producing Factors

A. Site-specific at Offshore Location

1. Designated Topographic Features

After a review of impact-producing factors (including effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to topographic features. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 24 miles north of Diaphus Bank, the nearest known topographic feature.

The following discussion of topographic features is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). The Topographic Lease Stipulation has been used on leases since 1973, and this experience shows conclusively that the stipulation effectively prevents damage to the biota of these banks from routine oil and gas activities. In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, concentrated oil is not expected to impact sessile biota on topographic features. Crests of designated topographic features in the northern Gulf of Mexico are found below 10 meters; therefore, concentrated oil from a surface spill is not likely to reach sessile biota. Subsurface spills could result in the formation and settling of oil-saturated material, and oil-sediment particles could come into contact with living coral tissue; however, a subsurface spill should rise to the surface, and any oil remaining at depth would probably be swept clear of the banks by currents moving around the banks (Rezak et al., 1983). Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

2. Pinnacle Trend Area Live Bottoms

After a review of impact-producing factors (including effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to pinnacle trend live bottoms. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 144 miles southwest of Main Pass Area Block 290, the nearest block protected by the pinnacle trend live bottom stipulation.

The following discussion of pinnacle trend area live bottoms is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). By identifying the individual pinnacles present at the activity site, the lessee would be directed to avoid placement of the drilling rig and anchors on the sensitive areas. Thus, mechanical damage to the pinnacles is eliminated when measures required by the stipulation are imposed. The stipulation does not address the discharge of effluents near the pinnacles because the pinnacle trend is subjected to heavy natural sedimentation and is at considerable depths. The rapid dilution of drill cuttings and muds will minimize the potential of significant concentration of effluents on the pinnacles.

In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, concentrated oil is not expected to impact biota of the pinnacle trend. Any surface oil spill resulting from a proposed action would likely have no impact on the biota of the pinnacle trend because the crests of these features are much deeper than 20 meters. All evidence to date indicates that accidental oil discharges that occur at the seafloor from a pipeline or blowout would rise in the water column, surfacing almost directly over the source location, and thus not impact pinnacles. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

3. Eastern Gulf Live Bottoms

After a review of impact-producing factors (including effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to eastern gulf live bottoms. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 179 miles west of the nearest block protected by the eastern gulf live bottom stipulation.

The following discussion of eastern gulf live bottoms is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2000-077). Through detection and avoidance, the eastern gulf live bottom lease stipulation minimizes the likelihood of mechanical damage from OCS activities associated with rig and anchor emplacement to the sessile and pelagic communities associated with the crest and flanks of such features. Since this area is subject to heavy natural sedimentation, this stipulation does not include and specific measures to protect the pinnacles from the discharge of effluents.

In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, concentrated oil is not expected to impact eastern gulf live bottoms because of the depth of the features and dilution of spills by currents and/or quickly rising oil. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

4. Chemosynthetic Communities

After a review of impact-producing factors (including effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to chemosynthetic communities. Bottom-disturbing activities proposed in this DOCD will not impact any deepwater chemosynthetic communities as the water depth at the existing "A" platform is approximately 129 feet.

The following discussion of chemosynthetic communities is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Impacts to chemosynthetic communities from any oil released would be a remote possibility. Release of hydrocarbons associated with a blowout should not present a possibility for impact to chemosynthetic communities located a minimum of 457 meters (1,500 feet) from well sites. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 35 miles north-northwest of Ewing Bank Area Block 1001, the nearest block with a known chemosynthetic community. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

5. Water Quality

After a review of impact-producing factors (including effluents and accidents) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to water quality. The discharges generated as a result of drilling and production activities associated with this DOCD will be discharged upon successful bioassay test as per NPDES discharge guidelines. Solids wastes; typically paper, plastic, cloth, and metal, will be collected and transported to shore for disposal at an approved disposal facility. Solid wastes generated from the transportation vessels, normally just garbage, will be collected and returned to shore for disposal with the drilling rig refuse. Scrap metal and other metal wastes will be recycled or sold as scrap and will not be shipped to a disposal facility with the other refuse. Sanitary wastes will be treated in approved marine sanitation devices as required by the Clean Water Act. All biodegradable wastes, such as kitchen food scraps, will be

comminuted or ground and discharged in accordance with Annex V of MARPOL 73/78. Hazardous wastes from the drilling rig, such as paint, or paint thinner, will be collected in sealed metal containers and transported to an approved disposal site in accordance with RCRA guidelines. All applicable Federal, State, and local requirements regarding water quality and discharge for the proposed activities, as well as any other permit conditions, will be complied with.

The following discussion of potential impacts to water quality is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, a variety of physical, chemical, and biological processes act to disperse the oil slick, such as spreading, evaporation of the more volatile constituents, dissolution into the water column, emulsification of small droplets, agglomeration sinking, microbial modification,. photochemical modification, and biological ingestion and excretion. The water quality would be temporarily affected by the dissolved components and small oil droplets that do not rise to the surface or are mixed down by surface turbulence. Dispersion by currents and microbial degradation would remove the oil from the water column or dilute the constituents to background levels. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

6. Fisheries

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to fisheries. In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, there is the potential for some detrimental effects to fisheries.

The following discussion of potential impacts to fisheries is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). The Gulf sturgeon (Ancipenser oxyrincus desotoi) is the only listed threatened fish species in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf sturgeon could be impacted by oil spills. Contact with spilled oil could cause irritation of gill epithelium and disturbance of liver function in Gulf sturgeon. The likelihood of spill occurrence and contact to the Gulf sturgeon is very low.

Should a spill occur in the area of mobile adult finfish or shellfish, the effects would likely be sublethal and the extent of the damage would be reduced to the capability of adult fish and shellfish to avoid a spill, to metabolize hydrocarbons, and to excrete both metabolites and parent compounds. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

7. Marine Mammals

After a review of impact-producing factors (including vessel traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, and loss of trash and debris) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to marine mammals. Endangered or threatened marine mammal species which might occur in the Gulf of Mexico are West Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus), northern right whale (Eubalaena glacialis), fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus), humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae), sei whale (B. borealis), sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus), and blue whale (B. musculus)(USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Several non-endangered and non-threatened mammal species of whales and dolphins also occur in the Gulf of Mexico.

The following discussion of potential impacts to marine mammals is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Small numbers of marine mammals could be killed or injured by chance collision with service vessels and by eating indigestible debris, particularly plastic items, lost from service vessels, drilling rigs, and fixed and floating platforms. Sperm whales are one of the 11 whale species that are hit commonly by ships (Laist et al., 2001). Collisions between OCS vessels and cetaceans within the project area are expected to be unusual events.

Deaths due to structure removals are not expected due to existing mitigation measures or those being developed for structures placed in oceanic waters. There is no conclusive evidence whether anthropogenic noise has or has not caused long-term displacements of, or reductions in, marine mammal populations. Contaminants in waste discharges and drilling muds might indirectly affect marine mammals through food-chain biomagnification, although the scope of effects and their magnitude are not known.

Chronic and sporadic sublethal effects could occur that may stress and/or weaken individuals of a local group or population and make them more susceptible to infection from natural or anthropogenic sources. Few lethal effects are expected from oil spills, chance collisions with service vessels and ingestion of plastic material. Oil spills of any size are estimated to be aperiodic events that may contact cetaceans. Disturbance (e.g. noise) may stress animals, weaken their immune systems, and make them more vulnerable to parasites and diseases that normally would not be fatal.

The net result of any disturbance would depend on the size and percentage of the population affected, ecological importance of the disturbed area, environmental and biological parameters that influence an animal's sensitivity to disturbance and stress, and the accommodation time in response to prolonged disturbance (Geraci and St. Aubin, 1980). Routine oil and gas activities are not expected to have long-term adverse effects on the size and productivity of any marine mammal species or population stock endemic to the northern Gulf of Mexico.

8. Sea Turtles

After a review of impact-producing factors (including vessel traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, and loss of trash and debris) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to sea turtles. Endangered or threatened sea turtle species which might occur in the Gulf of Mexico are Kemp's ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kempii), green turtle (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea), and loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) (USDOI, Region IV Endangered Species Notebook).

The following discussion of potential impacts to sea turtles is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Routine activities resulting from a proposed action have the potential to harm individual sea turtles. These animals could be impacted by the degradation of water quality resulting from operational discharges; noise generated by helicopter and vessel traffic, platforms, and drillships; brightly-lit platforms; explosive removals of offshore structures; vessel collisions; and jetsam and flotsam generated by service vessels and OCS facilities. Lethal effects are most likely to be from chance collisions with OCS service vessels and ingestion of plastic materials. "Takes" due to explosive removals are expected to be rare

due to mitigation measures already established (e.g. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Observer Program) and in development. Most OCS activities are expected to have sublethal effects. Contaminants in waste discharges and drilling muds might indirectly affect sea turtles through food-chain biomagnification; there is uncertainty concerning the possible effects. Chronic sublethal effects (e.g. stress) resulting in persistent physiological or behavioral changes and/or avoidance of impacted areas could cause declines in survival or fecundity, and result in either population declines, however, such declines are not expected. The routine activities of a proposed action are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the size and recovery of any sea turtle species or population in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, sea turtles could be adversely impacted. Oil spills and oil-spill-response activities are potential threats that could have lethal effects on turtles. Contact with oil, consumption of oil particles, and oil-contaminated prey could seriously affect individual sea turtles. Oil-spill-response planning and the habitat protection requirements of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 should mitigate these threats.

9. Air Quality

Estimated air emissions associated with the proposed activities have been calculated and are detailed in the Air Quality Report (AQR) included in the DOCD. The emissions were determined to be below the MMS exemption levels for particulates, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide. There would be a limited degree of air quality degradation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed activities; however, the emissions associated with the proposed activities are not projected to have significant effects on onshore air quality.

10. Shipwreck Sites (known or potential)

After a review of impact-producing factors (including physical disturbances to the seafloor) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to known or potential shipwreck sites. The area of proposed activities falls outside the zone designated as an area with a high probability of historic shipwrecks.

11. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

After a review of impact-producing factors (including physical disturbances to the seafloor) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to prehistoric archaeological sites. The area of proposed activities falls within the zone designated as an area with a high probability of pre-historic archeological resources; however, the proposed well will be drilled from the existing "A" platform. No impacts to prehistoric archaeological sites will be impacted.

B. Vicinity of Offshore Location

1. Essential Fish Habitat

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to essential fish habitat. In the unlikely event of an accidental surface or subsurface oil spill, there is the potential for some detrimental effects to essential fish habitat.

The following discussion of potential impacts to essential fish habitat is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Should a spill occur in the area of a mobile adult finfish or shellfish, the effects would likely be sublethal and the extent of the damage would be reduced to the capability of adult fish and shellfish to avoid a spill, to metabolize hydrocarbons, and to excrete both metabolites and parent compounds. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

2. Marine and Pelagic Birds

After a review of impact-producing factors (including vessel traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, and loss of trash and debris) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to marine and pelagic birds.

The following discussion of potential impacts to marine and pelagic birds is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). The majority of effects on endangered/threatened and non-endangered/non-threatened marine birds are expected to be sublethal: behavioral effects, sublethal exposure to or intake of OCS-related contaminants or discarded debris, temporary disturbances, and displacement of localized groups from impacted habitats. Chronic sublethal stress, however, is often undetectable in birds. As a result of stress, individuals may weaken, facilitating infection and disease; then migratory species may not have the strength to reach their destination. No significant habitat impacts are expected to occur directly from routine activities resulting from a proposed action.

Oil spills pose the greatest potential direct and indirect impacts to marine birds. Birds that are heavily oiled are usually killed. If physical oiling of individuals or local groups of birds occurs, some degree of both acute and chronic physiological stress associated with direct and secondary uptake of oil would be expected. Lightly oiled birds can sustain tissue and organ damage from oil ingested during feeding and grooming or from oil that is inhaled. Stress and shock enhance the effects of exposure and poisoning. Low levels of oil could stress birds by interfering with food detection, feeding impulses, predator avoidance, territory definition, homing of migratory species, susceptibility to physiological disorders, disease resistance, growth rates, reproduction, and respiration. Reproductive success can be affected by the toxins in oil. Indirect effects occur by fouling of nesting habitat, and displacement of individuals, breeding pairs, or populations to less favorable habitats. Dispersants used in spill cleanup activity can have toxic effects similar to oil on the reproductive success of marine birds. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

3. Public Health and Safety

After a review of impact-producing factors (including an accidental H_2S release) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there will be no adverse impacts to public health and safety. Noble requests that South Timbalier Area Block 197 be classified as an area where the absence of H_2S has been confirmed.

C. Coastal and Onshore

1. Beaches

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to beaches. South

Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from the coast of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

The following discussion of potential impacts to beaches is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). It is unlikely that a spill would be a major threat to recreational beaches because any impacts would be short-term and localized. Should a spill contact a recreational beach, short-term displacement of recreational activity from the areas directly affected would occur. Beaches directly impacted would be expected to close for periods of 2-6 weeks, or until the cleanup operations were complete. Should a spill result in a large volume of oil contacting a beach or a large recreational area being contacted by an oil slick, visitation to the area could be reduced by as much as 5-15 percent for as long as one season, but such an event should have no long-term effect on tourism. Tarballs can lessen the enjoyment of the recreational beaches by should have no long-term effect on the overall use of beaches. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

2. Wetlands

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to wetlands. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from the coast of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

The following discussion of potential impacts to beaches is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). Offshore oil spills resulting from a proposed action are not expected to significantly damage inland wetlands. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

3. Shore Birds and Coastal Nesting Birds

After a review of impact-producing factors (including vessel traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, and loss of trash and debris) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from the coast of Isles Dernieres, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Due to the available oil spill response capabilities, no adverse impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds are anticipated as a result of the proposed activities.

The following discussion of potential impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds is summarized from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDOI, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2002-052). The majority of effects on endangered/threatened and non-endangered/non-threatened shore birds and coastal nesting birds are expected to be sublethal: behavioral effects, sublethal exposure to or intake of OCS-related contaminants or discarded debris, temporary disturbances, and displacement of localized groups from impacted habitats. Chronic sublethal stress, however, is often undetectable in birds. As a result of stress, individuals may weaken, facilitating infection and disease; then migratory species may not have the strength to reach their destination. No significant habitat impacts are expected to occur directly from routine activities resulting from a proposed action. Secondary impacts to coastal habitats will occur over the long-term and may ultimately displace species from traditional sites to alternative sites.

Oil spills pose the greatest potential direct and indirect impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds. Birds that are heavily oiled are usually killed. If physical oiling of individuals or local groups of birds occurs, some degree of both acute and chronic physiological stress associated with direct and secondary uptake of oil would be expected. Small coastal spills, pipeline spills, and spills from accidents in navigated waterways can contact and affect the different groups of coastal birds, most commonly marsh birds, waders, waterfowl, and certain shorebirds. Lightly oiled birds can sustain tissue and organ damage from oil ingested during feeding and grooming or from oil that is inhaled. Stress and shock enhance the effects of exposure and poisoning. Low levels of oil could stress birds by interfering with food detection, feeding impulses, predator avoidance, territory definition, homing of migratory species, susceptibility to physiological disorders, disease resistance, growth rates, reproduction, and respiration. Reproductive success can be affected by the toxins in oil. Indirect effects occur by fouling of nesting habitat, and displacement of individuals, breeding pairs, or populations to less favorable habitats. Dispersants used in spill cleanup activity can have toxic effects similar to oil on the reproductive success of marine birds. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

4. Coastal Wildlife Refuges

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to coastal wildlife refuges. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from Terrebonne Barrier Islands State Wildlife Refuge, the nearest coastal wildlife refuge. Due to the available oil spill response capabilities, no adverse impacts to coastal wildlife refuges are anticipated as a result of the proposed activities. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

5. Wilderness Areas

After a review of impact-producing factors (including accidental oil spills) resulting from activities proposed in the DOCD, there are potential impacts to wilderness areas. South Timbalier Area Block 197 is located approximately 38 miles from the coast of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Due to the available oil spill response capabilities, no adverse impacts to wilderness areas are anticipated as a result of the proposed activities. Activities proposed in the DOCD will be covered by Noble's Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).

D. Other Environmental Resources Identified

None

IV. Impacts on Proposed Activities

The proposed well location was evaluated for any seafloor and subsurface geological and manmade features and conditions that may adversely affect operations. No impacts are expected from site-specific environmental conditions.

V. Alternatives

No alternatives to the proposed activities were considered to reduce environmental impacts.

VI. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures other than those required by regulation will be employed to avoid, diminish, or eliminate potential impacts on environmental resources.

VII. Consultation

No agencies or persons were consulted regarding potential impacts associated with the proposed activities. Therefore, a list of such entities has not been provided.

VIII. References

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ATTACHMENT F

PLATFORM SCREENING QUESTIONS

PLATFORM SCREENING QUESTIONS

South Timbalier 197 - A

1. Was the structure installed within the last 5 years? If so, do your proposed activities require a structural modification that would increase loading on the structure beyond the original design?
2. Will the structure change from unmanned to manned?
3. Are you adding facilities to the structure that will result in 10% or greater change from original design parameters?
4. Will your proposed activities increase loading on structure resulting in 10% or greater change from original design parameters?
5. Is your deck height adequate according to API RP2A-WSD Section 17.2.4?
6. Has the structure undergone an annual topsides inspection? Was any damage discovered by this inspection?
7. Has the structure undergone an underwater inspection within the last 5 years? Was any damage discovered by this inspection

1. No – set in 1990 ; No
2. No
3. No
4. No
5. Yes
6. Yes – no damage
7. Yes – level 3 scheduled; level 2 after KATRINA per NTL – no damage.
8. No. of slots: 3, 4 wells drilled ; 3-pile ; prod flows to ST 196 - B
9. Current prod rate: .8 mmcfgpd + 350 bopd; anticipated rate 10 mmcfgpd + 2 bcpd