

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2005


To: Public Information (MS 5030)  
From: Plan Coordinator, FO, Plans Section (MS 5231)

Subject: Public Information copy of plan

Control # - N-08623  
Type - Initial Exploration Plan  
Lease(s) - OCS-G26001 Block - 79 South Marsh Island Area  
Operator - Energy Partners, Ltd.  
Description - Wells A through D  
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
WP/A		188 FNL, 1503 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WP/B		188 FNL, 1503 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WP/C		2646 FSL, 1576 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WP/D		285 FNL, 4329 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WELL/A	G26001/SM/79	118 FNL, 1503 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WELL/B	G26001/SM/79	118 FNL, 1503 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WELL/C	G26001/SM/79	2646 FSL, 1576 FWL	G26001/SM/79
WELL/D	G26001/SM/79	285 FNL, 4329 FWL	G26001/SM/79

PIRS  
NOV 22 2005



CONTROL No. 168623  
REVIEWER: Robert Stringfellow  
PHONE: (504) 736-2437

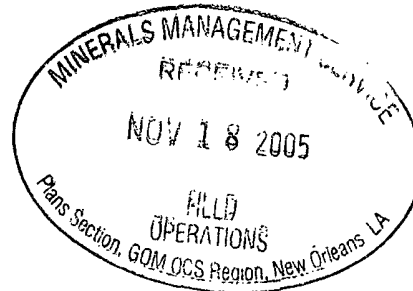
201 St. Charles Ave.  
Suite 3400  
New Orleans, LA 70170

Karen W. Vanacor  
Federal Regulatory Advisor

Direct (504) 799-4822  
Fax (504) 799-4815  
kvanacor@eplweb.com

November 17, 2005

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



Attention: Mr. Nick Wetzel  
Plans Unit

RE: Initial Exploration Plan for Lease OCS-G 26001, South Marsh Island Block 79, OCS  
Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico, Offshore, Louisiana

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 30 CFR 250.203 and that certain Notice to Lessees (NTL 2003-G17), Energy Partners, Ltd. (Energy Partners) hereby submits for your review and approval an Initial Exploration Plan (Plan) for Lease OCS-G 26001, South Marsh Island Block 79, Offshore, Louisiana. Excluded from the Public Information copies are certain geologic and geophysical discussions and attachments.

Enclosed are two Proprietary Information copies (one hard copy and one CD) and three Public Information copies (one hard copy and two CD's) of the Plan.

*Contingent upon receiving regulatory approvals and based on equipment and personnel availability, Energy Partners anticipates operations under this Plan commencing as early as April 01, 2006.*

Should additional information be required, please contact the undersigned, or our regulatory consultant, R.E.M. Solutions, Inc., Attention: Christine Groth at 281.492.8562.

Sincerely,

Energy Partners, Ltd.

*Karen W. Vanacor/CAG*

Karen W. Vanacor  
Federal Regulatory Advisor

**Public Information**

KWV:CAG:mjs  
Attachments

**ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.**

4939 Jamestown Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Karen W. Vanacor  
kvanacor@eplweb.com

**INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN**

**LEASE OCS-G 26001**

**SOUTH MARSH ISLAND BLOCK 79**

**PREPARED BY:**

Christine Groth  
R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.  
17171 Park Row, Suite 390  
Houston, Texas 77084  
281.492.8562 (Phone)  
281.492.6117 (Fax)  
christine@remolutionsinc.com

**DATED:**

November 17, 2005

## SECTION A

### Plan Contents

#### A. Description, Objectives and Schedule

Lease OCS-G 26001, South Marsh Island Block 79 was acquired by Energy Partners, Ltd. at the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale No. 190 held on March 17, 2004. The lease was issued with an effective date of July 1, 2004 and a primary term ending date of June 30, 2009.

The current lease operatorship and ownership are as follows:

Area/Block Lease No.	Operator	Ownership
South Marsh Island Block 79 Lease OCS-G 26001	Energy Partners, Ltd.	Energy Partners, Ltd.

Energy Partners proposes to drill, complete, potentially test and install minimal well protector structures over four (4) well locations in South Marsh Island Block 79. Information pertaining to the geological targets, including a narrative of trapping features, is included as *Attachment A-1*.

#### B. Location

Included as *Attachments A-2 through A-5* are Form MMS-137 "OCS Plan Information Form", well location plats, bathymetry map detailing the proposed well surface location disturbance areas, and a typical elevation view of well protector structures.

#### C. Drilling Unit

Energy Partners will utilize a typical jack-up type drilling rig for the proposed drilling, completion and potential testing operations provided for in this Plan, along with the installation on minimal well protector structures. Actual rig specifications will be included with the Applications for Permit to Drill.

Safety of personnel and protection of the environment during the proposed operations is of primary concern with Energy Partners, and mandates regulatory compliance with the contractors and vendors associated with the proposed operations as follows:

**Minerals Management Service** regulations contained in Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subparts C, D, E, and O mandate the operations comply with well control, pollution prevention, construction and welding procedures as described in Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subparts C, D, E, and O; and as further clarified by MMS Notices to Lessees.

## SECTION A

### Plan Contents - Continued

Minerals Management Service conducts periodic announced and unannounced 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.

U. S. Coast Guard regulations contained in Title 33 CFR mandate the appropriate life rafts, life jackets, ring buoys, etc., be maintained on the facility at all times.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations contained in the NPDES General Permit GMG290000 mandate that supervisory and certain designated personnel on-board the facility be familiar with the effluent limitations and guidelines for overboard discharges into the receiving waters.

Geological Targets and Trapping Features

Attachment A-1  
(Proprietary Information)

**OCS Plan Information Form**

**Attachment A-2  
(Public Information)**

### OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM

#### General Information

Type of OCS Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration Plan (EP)	Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD)	
Company Name:	Energy Partners, Ltd.		MMS Operation Number: 02266	
Address:	4939 Jamestown Avenue		Contact Person: Christine Groth / R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.	
	Baton Rouge, LA 70808		Phone Number: 281.492.8562	
			E-Mail Address: christine@remolutionsinc.com	
Lease(s): OCS-G 26001	Area: SM	Block(s): 79	Project Name (If Applicable): NA	
Objective(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sulphur	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salt
Shorebase: Fourchon, LA			Distance to Closest Land (Miles): 64	

#### Description of Proposed Activities (Mark all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration drilling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development drilling
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well completion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of production platform
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well test flaring (for more than 48 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of production facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Installation of caisson or platform as well protection structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of satellite structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of subsea wellheads and/or manifolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commence production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of lease term pipelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify and describe)
Have you submitted or do you plan to submit a Conservation Information Document to accompany this plan?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Do you propose to use new or unusual technology to conduct your activities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Do you propose any facility that will serve as a host facility for deepwater subsea development?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Do you propose any activities that may disturb an MMS-designated high-probability archaeological area?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have all of the surface locations of your proposed activities been previously reviewed and approved by MMS?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### Tentative Schedule of Proposed Activities

Proposed Activity	Start Date	End Date	No. of Days
Drill, complete, test & install minimal well protector structure over Well Location A	04/01/2006	05/10/2006	40
Drill, complete, test & install minimal well protector structure over Well Location B	05/11/2006	06/19/2006	40
Drill, complete, test & install minimal well protector structure over Well Location C	06/20/2006	07/29/2006	40
Drill, complete, test & install minimal well protector structure over Well Location D	07/30/2006	09/07/2006	40

#### Description of Drilling Rig

#### Description of Production Platform

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jackup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drillship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caisson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tension Leg Platform
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gorilla Jackup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Platform rig	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well protector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compliant tower
<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-submersible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submersible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Platform	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guyed tower
<input type="checkbox"/>	DP Semi-submersible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Attach description)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsea manifold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floating production system
Drilling Rig Name (if known):				<input type="checkbox"/>	Spar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Attach Description)

#### Description of Lease Term Pipelines

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



**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 Location A				Subsea Completion	
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:				Yes	No
Surface Location		Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)			
Lease No.	OCS-G 26001		OCS-G 26001		
Area Name	South Marsh Island		South Marsh Island		
Block No.	79		79		
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure 118' FNL		N/S Departure		
	E/W Departure 1503' FWL		E/W Departure		
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 1,825,981.76		X:		
	Y: -34,370.96		Y:		
Latitude / Longitude	Latitude 28-34-15.92		Latitude		
	Longitude -91-52-31.169		Longitude		
TVD (Feet):		MD (Feet):		Water Depth (Feet): 144'	
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=	
<p><b>Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement:</b> 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.</p>					

**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 Location B					Subsea Completion
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Surface Location		Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)		
Lease No.	OCS-G 26001		OCS-G 26001		
Area Name	South Marsh Island		South Marsh Island		
Block No.	79		79		
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure      118' FNL		N/S Departure		
	E/W Departure      1503' FWL		E/W Departure		
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 1,825,981.76		X:		
	Y: -34,370.96		Y:		
Latitude / Longitude	Latitude 28-34-15.692		Latitude		
	Longitude -91-52-31.169		Longitude		
TVD (Feet):		MD (Feet):		Water Depth (Feet): 144'	
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=	
<b>Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement:</b> 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.					

**OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM (CONTINUED)**  
Include one copy of this page for each proposed well/structure

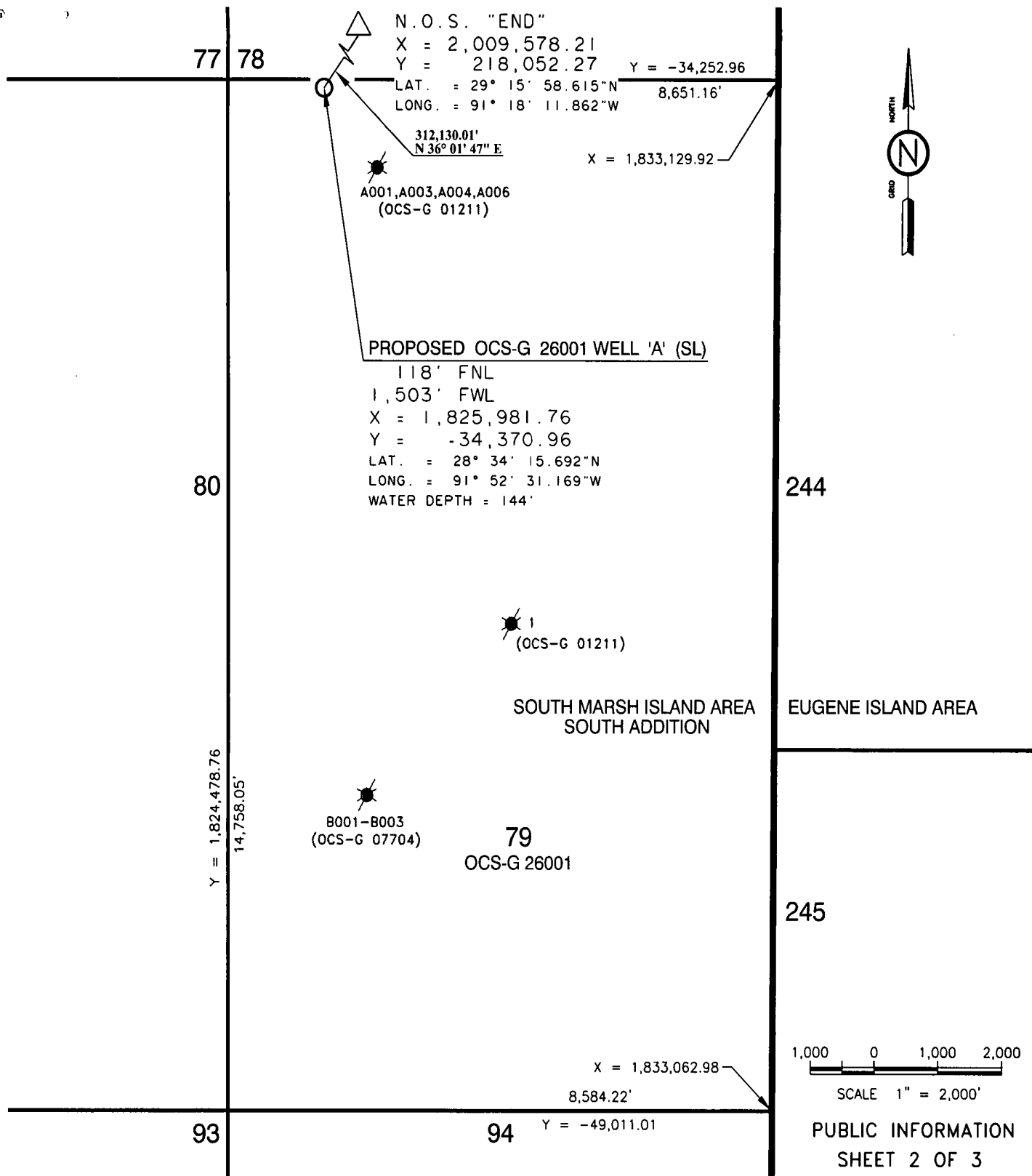
Proposed Well/Structure Location					
Well or Structure Name/Number (If renaming well or structure, reference previous name): <b>Well Location C</b>					Subsea Completion
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input type="checkbox"/> No
Surface Location			Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)		
Lease No.	OCS-G 26001		OCS-G 26001		
Area Name	South Marsh Island		South Marsh Island		
Block No.	79		79		
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure                  2646' FSL		N/S Departure		
	E/W Departure                  1576' FWL		E/W Departure		
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 1,826,054.76		X:		
	Y: -46,365.01		Y:		
Latitude / Longitude	Latitude  218-32-16.971		Latitude		
	Longitude  -91-52-29.715		Longitude		
TVD (Feet):		MD (Feet):		Water Depth (Feet): 152'	
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=	
<b>Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement:</b> 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.					

**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): <b>Well Location D</b>				Subsea Completion	
Anchor Radius (if applicable) in feet:				Yes	No
Surface Location		Bottom-Hole Location (For Wells)			
Lease No.	OCS-G 26001		OCS-G 26001		
Area Name	South Marsh Island		South Marsh Island		
Block No.	79		79		
Blockline Departures (in feet)	N/S Departure 285' FNL		N/S Departure		
	E/W Departure 4329' FWL		E/W Departure		
Lambert X-Y coordinates	X: 1,828,817.76		X:		
	Y: -34-53.796		Y:		
Latitude / Longitude	Latitude 28-34-14.170		Latitude		
	Longitude -91-51-59.362		Longitude		
TVD (Feet):		MD (Feet):		Water Depth (Feet): 144'	
<b>Anchor Locations for Drilling Rig or Construction Barge (If anchor radius supplied above, not necessary)</b>					
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=	
<p><b>Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement:</b> 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.</p>					

**Well Location Plat**

**Attachment A-3  
(Public Information)**



DATUM: NAD 27  
SPHEROID: CLARKE 1866  
PROJECTION: LAMBERT  
ZONE: LOUISIANA SOUTH



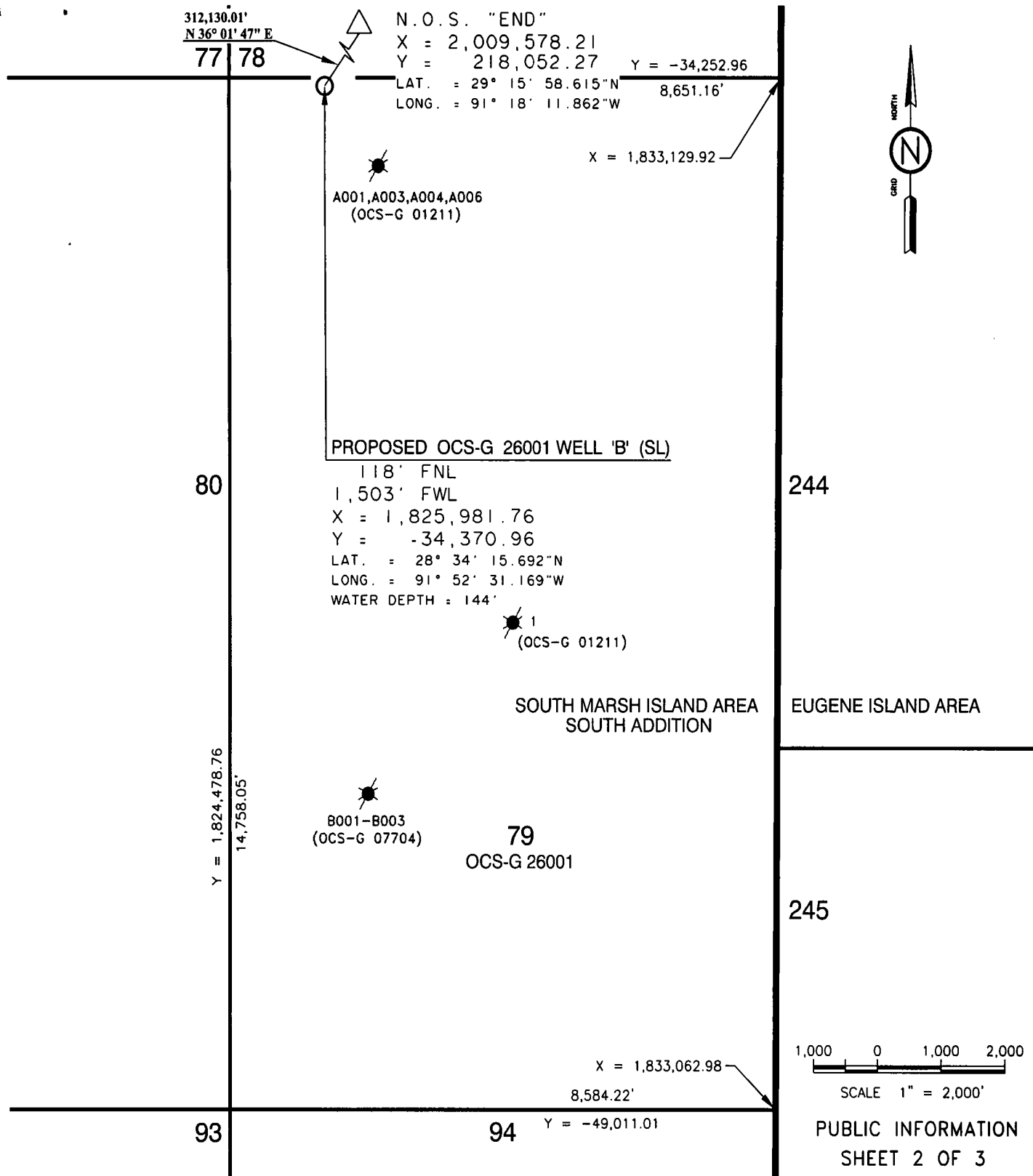
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Tel: 225-873-2163  
Fax: 225-744-3116



**EPL**

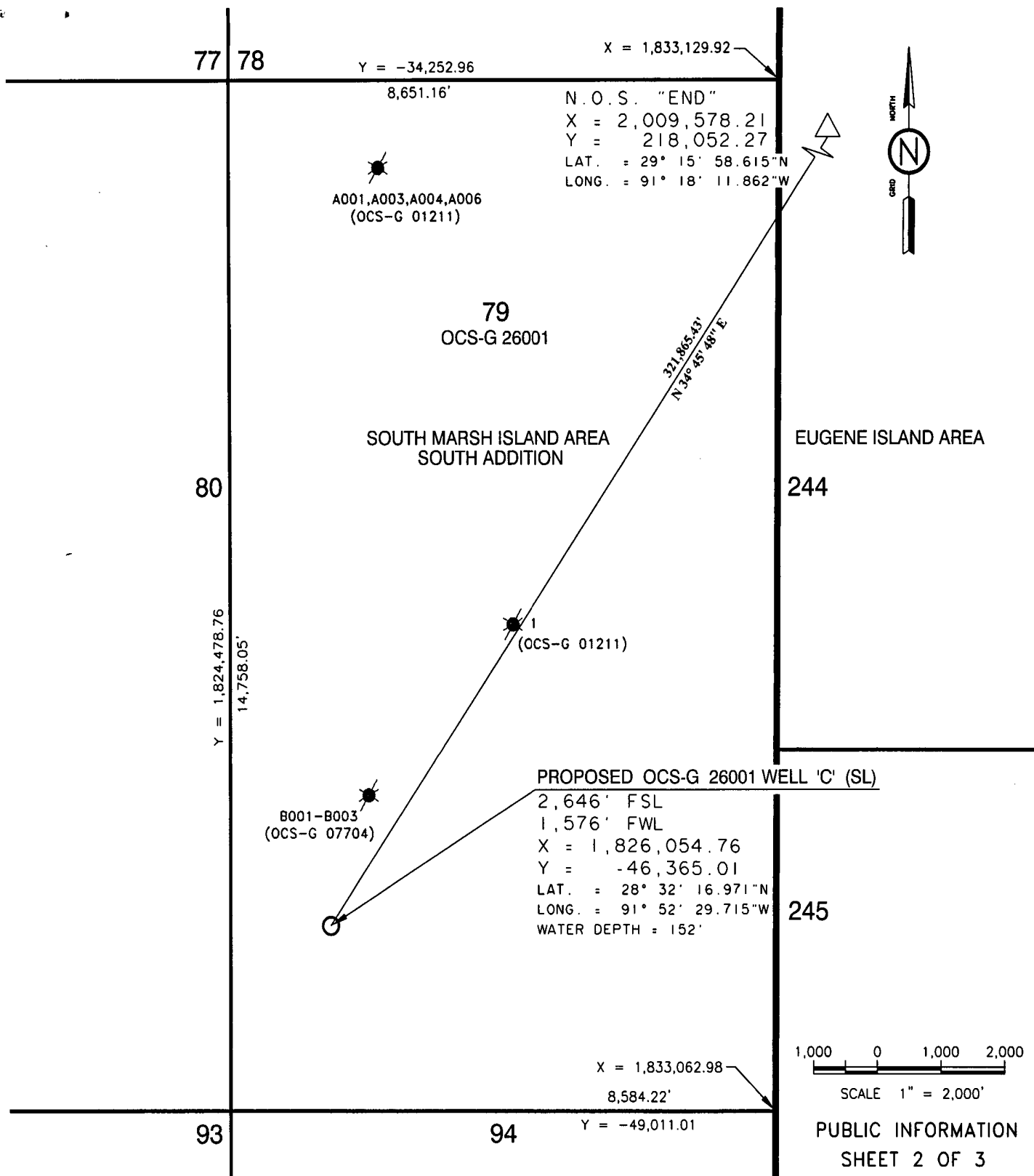
ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.

PROPOSED WELL LOCATION  
OCS-G 26001 WELL 'A'  
BLOCK 79  
SOUTH MARSH ISLAND AREA  
SOUTH ADDITION  
GULF OF MEXICO


DRAWN BY: M. GLOVER	DATE: 11/03/2005	CHECKED BY: JSL	DRAWING No.: 05-581-A
REV. DATE:	REV. No.:	SCALE: AS-SHOWN	JOB No.: 05-581-31



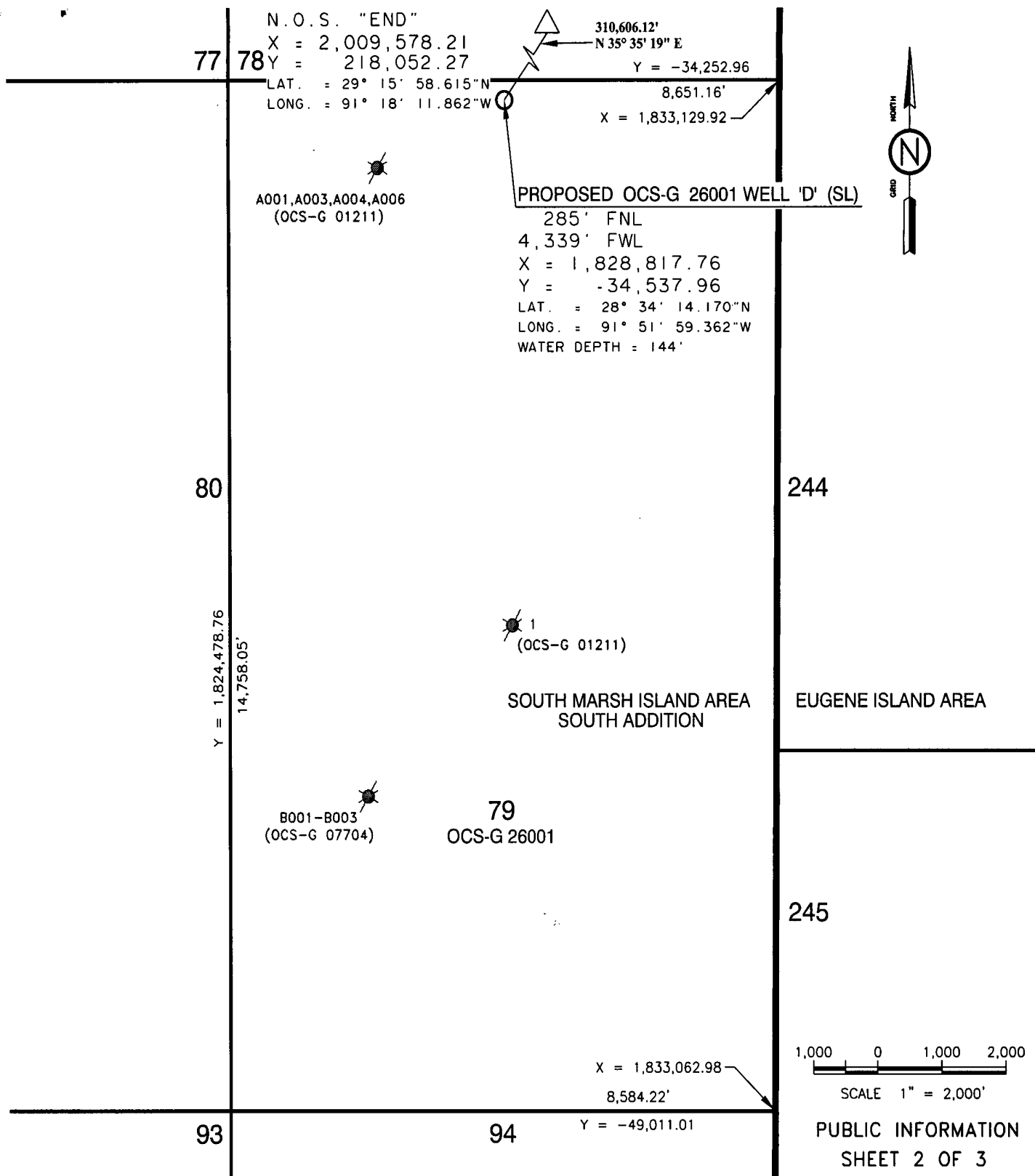
DATUM: NAD 27 SPHEROID: CLARKE 1866 PROJECTION: LAMBERT ZONE: LOUISIANA SOUTH		 ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.		
 36499 Perkins Road Prairieville, Louisiana 70769 Tel: 225-673-2163 Fax: 225-744-3116		PROPOSED WELL LOCATION OCS-G 26001 WELL 'B' BLOCK 79 SOUTH MARSH ISLAND AREA SOUTH ADDITION GULF OF MEXICO		
		DRAWN BY: M. GLOVER	DATE: 11/03/2005	CHECKED BY: JSE
REV. DATE:		REV. No.:	SCALE: AS-SHOWN	JOB No.: 05-582-31




PUBLIC INFORMATION  
SHEET 2 OF 3

DATUM: NAD 27	<div><div>EPL</div><div>ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.</div><div>PROPOSED WELL LOCATION</div><div>OCS-G 26001 WELL 'C'</div><div>BLOCK 79</div><div>SOUTH MARSH ISLAND AREA</div><div>SOUTH ADDITION</div><div>GULF OF MEXICO</div></div>			
SPHEROID: CLARKE 1866				
PROJECTION: LAMBERT				
ZONE: LOUISIANA SOUTH				
<div><div></div><div>38499 Perkins Road Prairieville, Louisiana 70769 Tel: 225-673-2163 Fax: 225-744-3116</div></div>	DRAWN BY: M. GLOVER	DATE: 11/03/2005	CHECKED BY: JSE	DRAWING No.: 05-583-C
	REV. DATE:	REV. No.:	SCALE: AS-SHOWN	JOB No.: 05-583-31

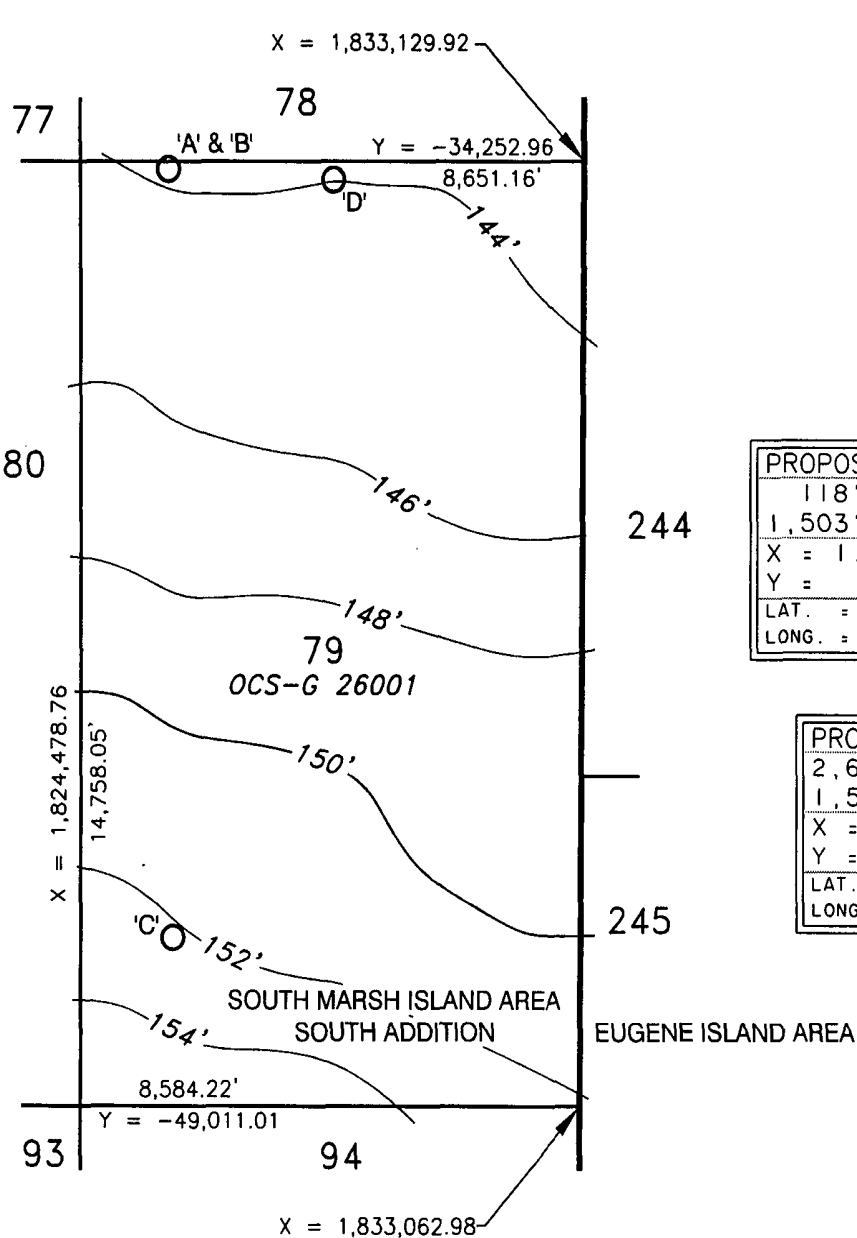




DATUM: NAD 27	<b>EPL</b> ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.		
SPHEROID: CLARKE 1866			
PROJECTION: LAMBERT			
ZONE: LOUISIANA SOUTH			
 36499 Perkins Road Prairieville, Louisiana 70769 Tel: 225-673-2163 Fax: 225-744-3116		PROPOSED WELL LOCATION OCS-G 26001 WELL 'D' BLOCK 79 SOUTH MARSH ISLAND AREA SOUTH ADDITION GULF OF MEXICO	
DRAWN BY: M. GLOVER		DATE: 11/03/2005	CHECKED BY: JZ
REV. DATE:		REV. No.:	SCALE: AS-SHOWN
		DRAWING No.:	05-584-D
		JOB No.:	05-584-31

**Bathymetry Map**

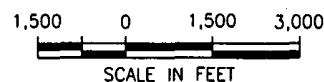
**Attachment A-4  
(Public Information)**



PROPOSED WELLS 'A' & 'B'	
118' FNL	
1,503' FWL	
X = 1,825,981.76	
Y = -34,370.96	
LAT. = 28° 34' 15.692"N	
LONG. = 91° 52' 31.169"W	

PROPOSED WELL 'C'	
2,646' FSL	
1,576' FWL	
X = 1,826,054.76	
Y = -46,365.01	
LAT. = 28° 32' 16.971"N	
LONG. = 91° 52' 29.715"W	

PROPOSED WELL 'D'	
285' FNL	
4,339' FWL	
X = 1,828,817.76	
Y = -34,537.96	
LAT. = 28° 34' 14.170"N	
LONG. = 91° 51' 59.362"W	



SURVEY PERFORMED BY TESLA OFFSHORE, LLC IN DECEMBER, 2004

DATUM:	NAD 27
SPHEROID:	CLARKE 1866
PROJECTION:	LAMBERT
ZONE:	LOUISIANA SOUTH

#### LEGEND

- 148' — BATHYMETRIC CONTOURS IN 2' INTERVALS
- PROPOSED WELL LOCATION

#### GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

#### BATHYMETRY

BLOCK 79  
SOUTH MARSH ISLAND AREA  
SOUTH ADDITION

GULF OF MEXICO

**EPL**

ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.

**TESLA OFFSHORE, LLC**

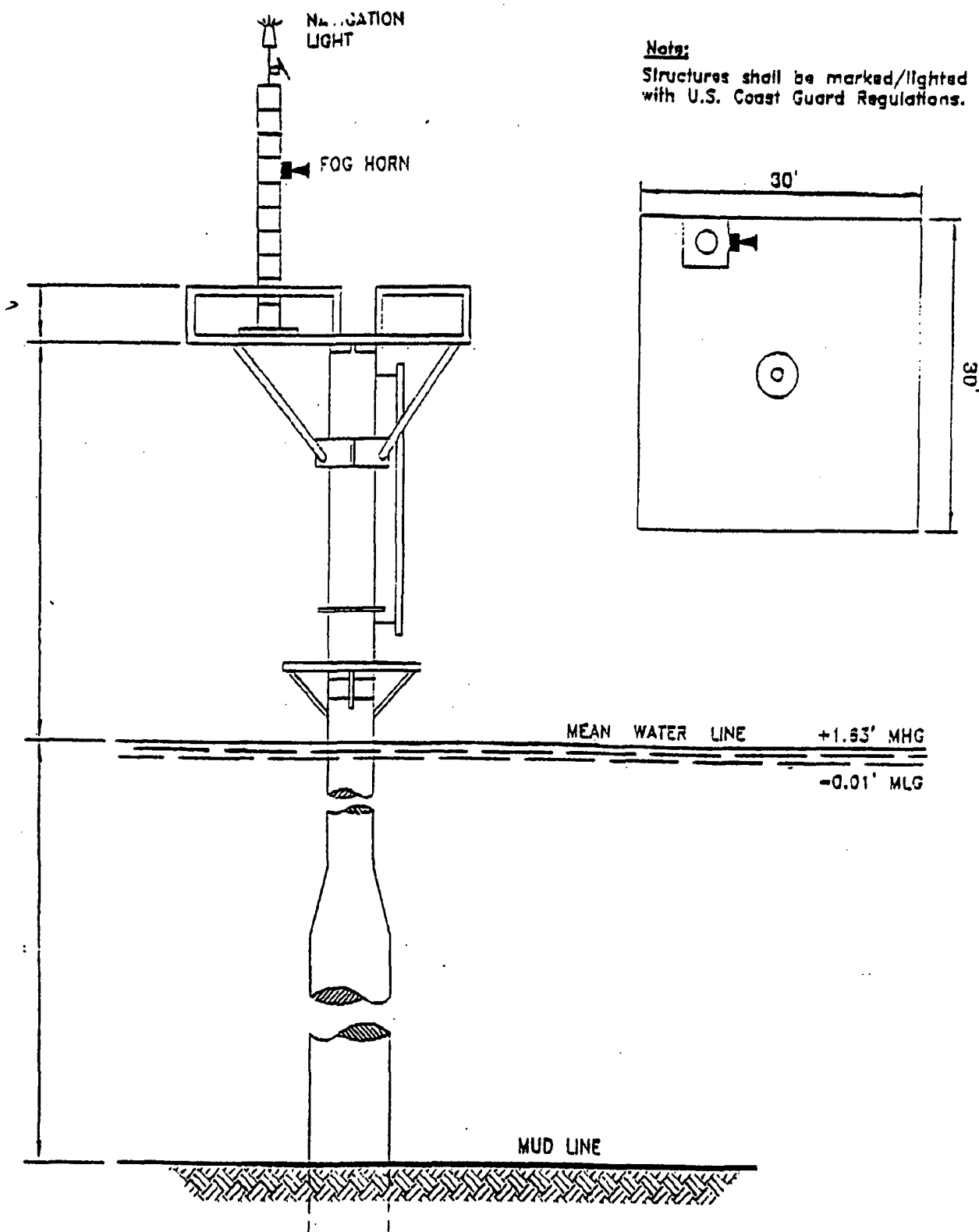
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Tel: 225-673-2163  
Fax: 225-744-3116



PREP. MWG	INT.	CAD MWG	APP. JAO	FILE NO. 05-584-BAT
CHK. JSL	CHK.	CHK. JSL	DATE 11/15/2005	

**Structure Elevation Drawing**

**Attachment A-5  
(Public Information)**



**Note:**

Structures shall be marked/lighted in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard Regulations.

TYPICAL CAISSON WELL PROTECTOR

## **SECTION B**

### **General Information**

#### **A. Contact**

Questions or requests for additional information should be made to Energy Partners' authorized representative for this project:

Christine Groth  
R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.  
17171 Park Row, Suite 390  
Houston, Texas 77084  
281.492.8562 (Phone)  
281.492.6117 (Fax)  
[christine@remsolutionsinc.com](mailto:christine@remsolutionsinc.com)

#### **B. Prospect Name**

Energy Partners does not refer to prospect names for their exploratory activities.

#### **C. New or Unusual Technology**

Energy Partners does not propose using any new and/or unusual technology for the operations proposed in this Plan.

#### **D. Bonding Information**

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 256, Subpart I, Energy Partners elected and has on file with the Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Regional Office a \$3,000,000 Areawide Development Bond.

As deemed warranted, Minerals Management Service will contact the designated operator in the event a supplemental bond is required for the proposed operations, as outlined in Notice to Lessees (NTL) 2003-N06 to cover plugging liability of the wellbores, removal of associated well protector structures and site clearance.

Energy Partners is on the exempt list with the Minerals Management Service for supplemental bonding.

#### **E. Onshore Base and Support Vessels**

The proposed surface disturbances in South Marsh Island Block 79 will be located approximately 64 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline, and approximately 114 miles from the onshore support base to be located in Fourchon, Louisiana.

## SECTION B

### General Information - Continued

Energy Partners will use an existing onshore base to accomplish the following routine operations:

- Loading/Offloading point for equipment supporting the offshore operations,
- Dispatching personnel and equipment, and does not anticipate the need for any expansion of the selected facilities as a result of the activities proposed in this Plan,
- Temporary storage for materials and equipment
- 24-Hour Dispatcher

Personnel involved in the proposed operations will typically use their own vehicles as transportation to and from the selected onshore base; whereas the selected vendors will transport the equipment by a combination of trucks, boats and/or helicopters to the onshore base. The personnel and equipment will then be transported to the drilling rig via the transportation methods and frequencies shown below, taking the most direct route feasible as mandated by weather and traffic conditions:

Support Vessel	Drilling and Completion Trips Per Week
Crew Boat	4
Supply Boat	2
Helicopter	As Needed

The proposed operations are temporary in nature and do not require any immediate action to acquire additional land, expand existing base facilities.

A Vicinity Plat showing the location of South Marsh Island Block 79 relative to the shoreline and onshore base is included as *Attachment B-1*.

#### **F. Lease Stipulations**

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Minerals Management Service is charged with the responsibility of managing and regulating the exploration and development on the OCS.

As part of the regulatory process, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared for each lease sale, at which time mitigation measures are addressed in the form of lease stipulations, which then become part of the oil and gas lease terms and are therefore enforceable as part of that lease.

As part of this process, the designated operator proposing to conduct related exploratory and development activities, must review the applicable lease stipulations, as well as other special conditions, which may be imposed by the Minerals Management Service, and other governing agencies.

## SECTION B

### General Information - Continued

Lease OCS-G 26001, South Marsh Island Block 79 is subject to the following lease stipulations and special conditions:

#### **Military Warning Area**

The hold and save harmless section of the Military Areas Stipulation serves to protect the U.S. Government from liability in the event of an accident involving the designated oil and gas lease operator and military activities.

The electromagnetic emissions section of the stipulation requires the operator and its agents to reduce and curtail the use of radio or other equipment emitting electromagnetic energy within some areas.

This serves to reduce the impact of oil and gas activity on the communications of military missions and reduces the possible effects of electromagnetic energy transmissions on missile testing, tracking, and detonation.

The operational section requires notification to the military of oil and gas activity to take place within a military use area. This allows the base commander to plan military missions and maneuvers that may avoid the areas where oil and gas activities are taking place or to schedule around these activities. Prior notification helps reduce the potential impacts associated with vessels and helicopters traveling unannounced through areas where military activities are underway.

The Military Areas Stipulation reduces potential impacts, particularly in regards to safety, but does not reduce or eliminate the actual physical presence of oil and gas operations in areas where military operations are conducted.

The reduction in potential impacts resulting from this stipulation makes multiple-use conflicts most unlikely. Without the stipulation, some potential conflict is likely. The best indicator of the overall effectiveness of the stipulation may be that there has never been an accident involving a conflict between military operations and oil and gas activities.

The proposed surface disturbances in South Marsh Island Block 79 are located within Military Warning Area W-W59. Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the referenced stipulation, Energy Partners will contact the Naval Air Station - JRB 159<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in order to coordinate and control the electromagnetic emissions during the proposed operations.



## **SECTION B**

### **General Information - Continued**

#### **Marine Protected Species**

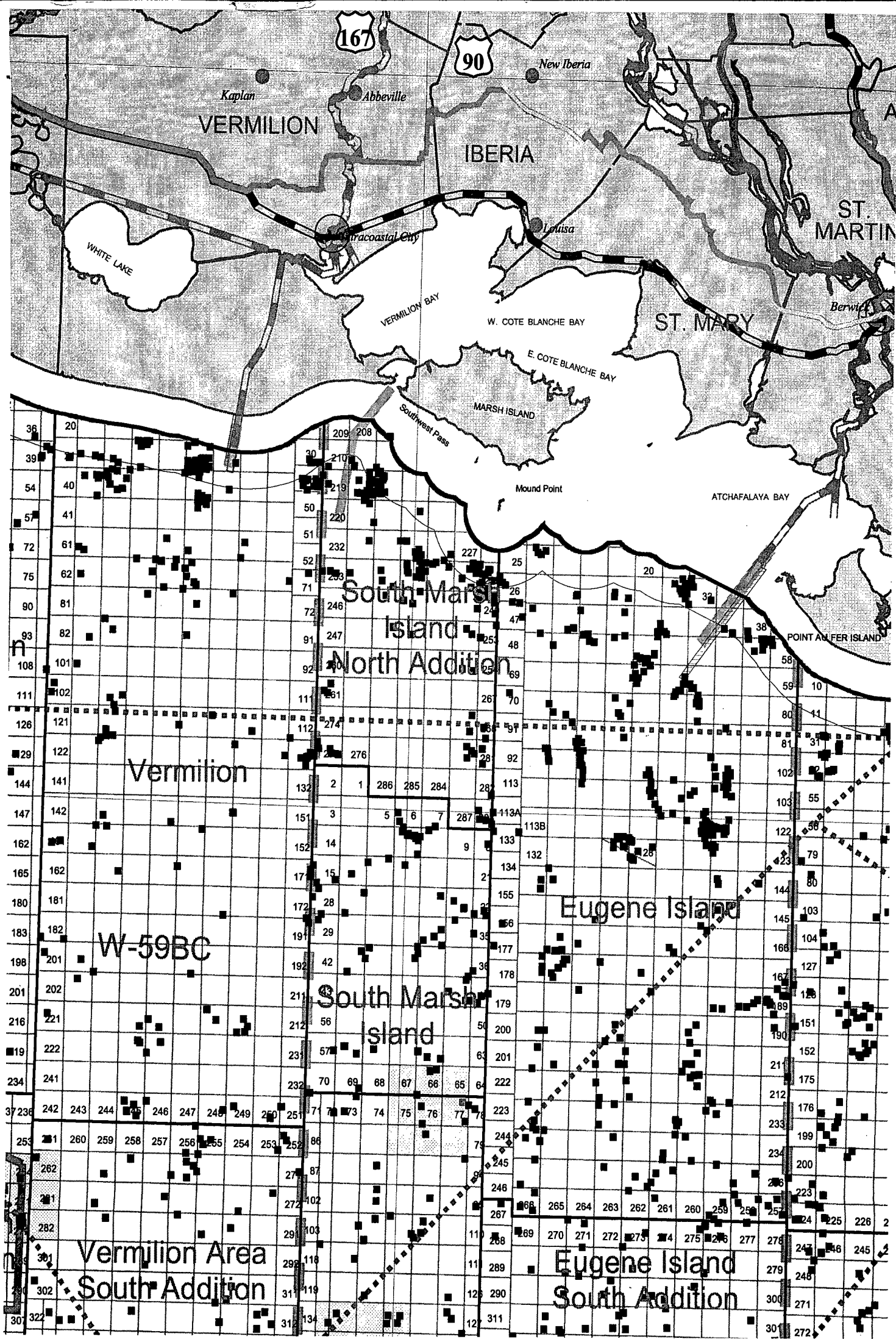
Lease Stipulation No. 6 is to reference measures to minimize or avoid potential adverse impacts to protected species (sea turtles, marine mammals, gulf sturgeon, and other federally protected species). MMS has issued Notice to Lessees NTL 2004-G01 "Implementation of Seismic Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program", NTL 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination".

#### **Special Conditions**

The proposed surface disturbance activities in South Marsh Island Block 79 will not be affected by any special conditions and/or multiple uses, such as designated shipping/anchorage areas, lightering zones, rigs-to-reef zone, and ordnance disposal zones.

**Vicinity Plat**

**Attachment B-1  
(Public Information)**



## **SECTION C**

### **Geological, Geophysical & H2S Information**

#### **A. Structure Contour Maps**

Included as *Attachment C-1* are current structure maps (depth base and expressed in feet subsea) depicting the entire lease coverage area; drawn on the top of each prospective hydrocarbon sand. The maps depict each proposed bottom hole location and applicable geological cross section.

#### **B. Interpreted Deep Seismic Lines**

Included as *Attachment C-2*, (original copy only) are the migrated and annotated (shot point, time lines, well paths) deep seismic lines within 500 feet of the surface locations.

#### **C. Geological Structure Cross Sections**

Interpreted geological cross sections depicting the proposed well locations and depth of the proposed wells are included as *Attachment C-3*. Such cross sections correspond to each seismic line being submitted.

#### **D. Shallow Hazards Report**

Tesla Offshore, LLC conducted a high resolution geophysical survey in South Marsh Island Block 79 on behalf of Energy Partners, Ltd. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate geologic conditions and inspect for potential hazards or constraints to lease development.

Three (3) copies of these reports were previously submitted to the Minerals Management Service under separate cover.

#### **E. Shallow Hazards Assessment**

A shallow hazards analysis has been prepared for the proposed surface locations, evaluating seafloor and subsurface geologic and manmade features and conditions, and is included as *Attachment C-4*.

#### **F. High Resolution Seismic Lines**

Included as *Attachment C-5* is a copy of the transmittal letter for the annotated high resolution survey data lines for each surface location disturbance proposed in this Plan.

## SECTION C

### Geological, Geophysical & H2S Information-Continued

#### G. Stratigraphic Column

A generalized biostratigraphic/lithostratigraphic column from the seafloor to the total depth of the proposed wells is included as *Attachment C-6*.

#### H. Time Vs. Depth Tables

A time versus depth table is included as *Attachment C-7*.

#### I. Hydrogen Sulfide Classification

In accordance with Title 30 CFR 250.490, Energy Partners requests that South Marsh Island Block 79 be classified by the Minerals Management Service as an area where the absence of hydrogen sulfide has been confirmed based on the following wells which were drilled to the stratigraphic equivalent of the wells proposed in this Plan:

<i>Lease</i>	<i>Area/Block</i>	<i>Well No.</i>
OCS-G 01211	SM 79	A001 - A005

**Structure Map**

**Attachment C-1  
(Proprietary Information)**

**Deep Seismic Lines**

**Attachment C-2  
(Proprietary Information)**

Cross Section Map

Attachment C-3  
(Proprietary Information)



**Shallow Hazards Assessments**

**Attachment C-4  
(Public Information)**



Tesla Offshore, LLC  
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Telephone: (225) 673-2163  
Fax: (225) 744-3116

November 16, 2005

Minerals Management Service (MS 5230)  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

RE: **Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'A' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis**

Dear Staff:

Energy Partners, LTD. proposes to drill the OCS-G 26001 'A' Well from the following surface location:

- **118' FNL & 1,503' FWL of Block 79, South Marsh Island Area**

Tesla Offshore LLC surveyed the entire lease in December of 2004 along a 300-meter by 900-meter grid. Energy Partners, LTD. operates the lease and contracted Tesla Offshore, LLC to provide this *shallow hazard analysis (NTL No. 98-20)* and *archaeological assessment (NTL No. 2005-G07)* in accordance with the Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Geophysical record copies are enclosed for the magnetometer, side scan sonar, subbottom profiler, echo sounder, and seismic sections from the survey line nearest the proposed well site as required in *NTL No. 2003-G17 Appendix C, Paragraph F* for EP and DOCD submittals.

- **Water depth** is 144 feet surrounding the proposed drill site.
- **Seafloor soils** are primarily silty clay with no evidence of topographic irregularities.
- **Identified man-made features** include a TGPL 30" pipeline (Segment 1288) crossing east/west approximately 150' north of the location. Extreme caution will be employed when moving the jack-up rig on and off the drilling location. A TGPL 12" pipeline (Segment 1251) is 900' ENE of the location, and a salvaged platform site is 1,400' SE of the proposed well site.
- **Magnetic anomalies** closest to the proposed site include #5 approximately 1,000' SE of the proposed well site. No. 19 is 1,400' SSW of the proposed well. The designated avoidance distance of 100' will be carefully noted during rig moves and anchor deployment. The buried ferrous source is far enough away not to be disturbed by drilling operations.
- **Sonar data** indicated that the seafloor was free of debris and shipwrecks.
- **Subbottom Data** showed a buried channel bank at 2 feet below the seafloor approximately 900 feet west of the proposed well site. The upper 10 feet of sediment appear as densely reflecting, acoustically opaque soil, which indicates probable dispersed methane and carbon dioxide gas from decomposing organic material. An amplitude anomaly was recorded 500' ESE of the proposed well at a depth of 200 feet below the seafloor.

**Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'A' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis  
Page 2**

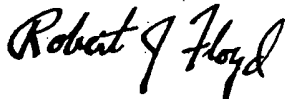
The operator has identified the primary hazards to rig movements, anchor deployments, and drilling. No shipwrecks or prehistoric archaeological features will be disturbed by the proposed drilling. The proposed well site, existing pipelines, P&A wells/platforms, and magnetic anomalies designated with avoidance criteria will be marked with appropriate marine survey equipment to comply with the **MMS On-Site Requirements specified in NTL No. 98-20, Section IV, Item B.**

In lieu of using buoys as stipulated in **Item B-1**, the operator requests MMS approval to mark potential hazards with best available technology using computer graphic screens that are integrated to DGPS positioning units aboard the drilling rig and all support vessels.

In further compliance with **Item B-2**, a map at a scale of 1:12,000 will be provided to key personnel on the drilling rig and anchor handling vessels. The field map will depict the location of the proposed drilling site, any projected anchor patterns, magnetic anomaly avoidance patterns, pipelines, and P&A wells/platforms in the area. **The pipelines will be avoided by 500 feet when deploying any anchors.**

Energy Partners, LTD. and subcontractors will apply the safest and best available technologies during drilling and installation of future platforms.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Floyd Ph.D.  
Chief Geoscientist  
Marine Archaeologist

Tesla #05-581-31



Tesla Offshore, LLC  
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Telephone: (225) 673-2163  
Fax: (225) 744-3116

November 16, 2005

Minerals Management Service (MS 5230)  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

**RE: Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'C' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis**

Dear Staff:

Energy Partners, LTD. proposes to drill the OCS-G 26001 'C' Well from the following surface location:

- **2,646' FSL & 1,576' FWL of Block 79, South Marsh Island Area**

Tesla Offshore LLC surveyed the entire lease in December of 2004 along a 300-meter by 900-meter grid. Energy Partners, LTD. operates the lease and contracted Tesla Offshore, LLC to provide this **shallow hazard analysis (NTL No. 98-20)** and **archaeological assessment (NTL No. 2005-G07)** in accordance with the Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Geophysical record copies are enclosed for the magnetometer, side scan sonar, subbottom profiler, echo sounder, and seismic sections from the survey line nearest the proposed well site as required in **NTL No. 2003-G17 Appendix C, Paragraph F** for EP and DOCD submittals.

- **Water depth** is 152 feet surrounding the proposed drill site.
- **Seafloor soils** are primarily silty clay with no evidence of topographic irregularities.
- **Identified man-made features** include an abandoned Forcenergy 8" pipeline (Segment 8397) crossing approximately 1,900' NE of the proposed. Normal precautions will be employed when moving the jack-up rig on and off the drilling location. A P&A #2 well is 600' SW of the planned well site.
- **Magnetic anomalies** closest to the proposed site include #1 approximately 1,000' SSE of the proposed well site. The anomaly was recommended for avoidance by 100'. The avoidance criterion will be carefully noted during rig moves and anchor deployment. The buried ferrous source is far enough away not to be disturbed by drilling operations.
- **Sonar data** indicated that the seafloor was free of debris and shipwrecks.
- **Subbottom Data** showed a buried channel bank at 2 feet below the seafloor approximately 1,600 feet south of the proposed well site. The upper 20 feet of sediment appear as densely reflecting, acoustically opaque soil, which indicates probable dispersed methane and carbon dioxide gas from decomposing organic material. An amplitude anomaly was recorded 300' east of the proposed well at a depth of 350 feet below the seafloor. Precautions for possible gas venting will be taken when driving surface casing through this interval.

Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'C' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis  
Page 2

The operator has identified the primary hazards to rig movements, anchor deployments, and drilling. No shipwrecks or prehistoric archaeological features will be disturbed by the proposed drilling. The proposed well site, existing pipelines, P&A wells/platforms, and magnetic anomalies designated with avoidance criteria will be marked with appropriate marine survey equipment to comply with the **MMS On-Site Requirements specified in NTL No. 98-20, Section IV, Item B.**

In lieu of using buoys as stipulated in **Item B-1**, the operator requests MMS approval to mark potential hazards with best available technology using computer graphic screens that are integrated to DGPS positioning units aboard the drilling rig and all support vessels.

In further compliance with **Item B-2**, a map at a scale of 1:12,000 will be provided to key personnel on the drilling rig and anchor handling vessels. The field map will depict the location of the proposed drilling site, any projected anchor patterns, magnetic anomaly avoidance patterns, pipelines, and P&A wells/platforms in the area. **The pipelines will be avoided by 500 feet when deploying any anchors.**

Energy Partners, LTD. and subcontractors will apply the safest and best available technologies during drilling and installation of future platforms.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Floyd Ph.D.  
Chief Geoscientist  
Marine Archaeologist

Tesla #05-583-31



Tesla Offshore, LLC  
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Telephone: (225) 673-2163  
Fax: (225) 744-3116

---

November 16, 2005

Minerals Management Service (MS 5230)  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

**RE: Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'B' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis**

Dear Staff:

Energy Partners, LTD. proposes to drill the OCS-G 26001 'B' Well from the following surface location:

- **118' FNL & 1,503' FWL of Block 79, South Marsh Island Area**

Tesla Offshore LLC surveyed the entire lease in December of 2004 along a 300-meter by 900-meter grid. Energy Partners, LTD. operates the lease and contracted Tesla Offshore, LLC to provide this *shallow hazard analysis (NTL No. 98-20)* and *archaeological assessment (NTL No. 2005-G07)* in accordance with the Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Geophysical record copies are enclosed for the magnetometer, side scan sonar, subbottom profiler, echo sounder, and seismic sections from the survey line nearest the proposed well site as required in *NTL No. 2003-G17 Appendix C, Paragraph F* for EP and DOCD submittals.

- **Water depth** is 144 feet surrounding the proposed drill site.
- **Seafloor soils** are primarily silty clay with no evidence of topographic irregularities.
- **Identified man-made features** include a TGPL 30" pipeline (Segment 1288) crossing east/west approximately 150' north of the location. Extreme caution will be employed when moving the jack-up rig on and off the drilling location. A TGPL 12" pipeline (Segment 1251) is 900' ENE of the location, and a salvaged platform site is 1,400' SE of the proposed well site.
- **Magnetic anomalies** closest to the proposed site include #5 approximately 1,000' SE of the proposed well site. No. 19 is 1,400' SSW of the proposed well. The designated avoidance distance of 100' will be carefully noted during rig moves and anchor deployment. The buried ferrous source is far enough away not to be disturbed by drilling operations.
- **Sonar data** indicated that the seafloor was free of debris and shipwrecks.
- **Subbottom Data** showed a buried channel bank at 2 feet below the seafloor approximately 900 feet west of the proposed well site. The upper 10 feet of sediment appear as densely reflecting, acoustically opaque soil, which indicates probable dispersed methane and carbon dioxide gas from decomposing organic material. An amplitude anomaly was recorded 500' ESE of the proposed well at a depth of 200 feet below the seafloor.

Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'B' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis  
Page 2

The operator has identified the primary hazards to rig movements, anchor deployments, and drilling. No shipwrecks or prehistoric archaeological features will be disturbed by the proposed drilling. The proposed well site, existing pipelines, P&A wells/platforms, and magnetic anomalies designated with avoidance criteria will be marked with appropriate marine survey equipment to comply with the **MMS On-Site Requirements specified in NTL No. 98-20, Section IV, Item B.**

In lieu of using buoys as stipulated in **Item B-1**, the operator requests MMS approval to mark potential hazards with best available technology using computer graphic screens that are integrated to DGPS positioning units aboard the drilling rig and all support vessels.

In further compliance with **Item B-2**, a map at a scale of 1:12,000 will be provided to key personnel on the drilling rig and anchor handling vessels. The field map will depict the location of the proposed drilling site, any projected anchor patterns, magnetic anomaly avoidance patterns, pipelines, and P&A wells/platforms in the area. **The pipelines will be avoided by 500 feet when deploying any anchors.**

Energy Partners, LTD. and subcontractors will apply the safest and best available technologies during drilling and installation of future platforms.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Floyd Ph.D.  
Chief Geoscientist  
Marine Archaeologist

Tesla #05-581-31



Tesla Offshore, LLC  
36499 Perkins Road  
Prairieville, Louisiana 70769  
Telephone: (225) 673-2163  
Fax: (225) 744-3116

November 16, 2005

Minerals Management Service (MS 5230)  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

**RE: Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'D' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis**

Dear Staff:

Energy Partners, LTD. proposes to drill the OCS-G 26001 'D' Well from the following surface location:

- **285' FNL & 4,339' FWL of Block 79, South Marsh Island Area**

Tesla Offshore LLC surveyed the entire lease in December of 2004 along a 300-meter by 900-meter grid. Energy Partners, LTD. operates the lease and contracted Tesla Offshore, LLC to provide this *shallow hazard analysis (NTL No. 98-20)* and *archaeological assessment (NTL No. 2005-G07)* in accordance with Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Geophysical record copies are enclosed for the magnetometer, side scan sonar, subbottom profiler, echo sounder, and seismic sections from the survey line nearest the proposed well site as required in *NTL No. 2003-G17 Appendix C, Paragraph F* for EP and DOCD submittals.

- **Water depth** is 144 feet surrounding the proposed drill site.
- **Seafloor soils** are primarily silty clay with no evidence of topographic irregularities.
- **Identified man-made features** include a TGPL 30" pipeline (Segment 1288) crossing east/west approximately 250' north of the location. Extreme caution will be employed when moving the jack-up rig on and off the drilling location. A TGPL 12" pipeline (Segment 1251) is 2,000' west of the location, and a salvaged platform site is 2,200' SW of the proposed well site.
- **Magnetic anomalies** closest to the proposed site include #7 and #10 approximately 900' SW and 700' SE, respectively, from the proposed well site. Both anomalies were recommended for avoidance by 75', and that distance from each will be carefully noted during rig moves and anchor deployment. The buried ferrous sources are far enough away not to be disturbed by drilling operations.
- **Sonar data** indicated that the seafloor was free of debris and shipwrecks.
- **Subbottom Data** showed buried channel fill 2' below the seafloor at the proposed location. The channel cut extends 45' below the seafloor, and methane and carbon dioxide gas from decomposing organic fill attenuated the subbottom signals. Caution will be taken during pre-loading of the jack-up rig. An amplitude anomaly was recorded 1,800' SW of the proposed well at a depth of 80 feet below the seafloor.



Energy Partners, LTD.  
Proposed OCS-G 26001 'D' Well Location  
Block 79, South Marsh Island Area  
Archaeological & Shallow Hazard Analysis  
Page 2

The operator has identified the primary hazards to rig movements, anchor deployments, and drilling. No shipwrecks or prehistoric archaeological features will be disturbed by the proposed drilling. The proposed well site, existing pipelines, P&A wells/platforms, and magnetic anomalies designated with avoidance criteria will be marked with appropriate marine survey equipment to comply with the **MMS On-Site Requirements specified in NTL No. 98-20, Section IV, Item B.**

In lieu of using buoys as stipulated in **Item B-1**, the operator requests MMS approval to mark potential hazards with best available technology using computer graphic screens that are integrated to DGPS positioning units aboard the drilling rig and all support vessels.

In further compliance with **Item B-2**, a map at a scale of 1:12,000 will be provided to key personnel on the drilling rig and anchor handling vessels. The field map will depict the location of the proposed drilling site, any projected anchor patterns, magnetic anomaly avoidance patterns, pipelines, and P&A wells/platforms in the area. **The pipelines will be avoided by 500 feet when deploying any anchors.**

Energy Partners, LTD. and subcontractors will apply the safest and best available technologies during drilling and installation of future platforms.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Floyd Ph.D.  
Chief Geoscientist  
Marine Archaeologist

Tesla #05-584-31

**Shallow Hazards Lines**

**Attachment C-5  
(Proprietary Information)**

**Stratigraphic Column**

**Attachment C-6  
(Proprietary Information)**

Time Vs. Depth Table

Attachment C-7  
(Proprietary Information)

## **SECTION D**

### **Biological and Physical Information**

#### **A. Chemosynthetic Information**

The proposed seafloor disturbing activities are in water depths less than 400 meters (1312 feet); therefore, this section of the Plan is not applicable.

#### **B. Topographic Features Information**

MMS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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 disturbing activities 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.

#### **C. Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Information**

Certain leases are located in areas characterized by the existence of live bottoms. Live bottom areas are defined as seagrass communities; those areas that contain biological assemblages consisting of sessile invertebrates living upon and attached to naturally occurring hard or rocky formations with rough, broken, or smooth topography; and areas where the lithotope favors the accumulation of turtles, fishes, or other fauna. These leases contain a Live Bottom Stipulation to ensure that impacts from nearby oil and gas activities on these live bottom areas are mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

For each affected lease, the Live Bottom Stipulation requires that you prepare a live bottom survey report containing a bathymetry map prepared by using remote sensing techniques. This report must be submitted to the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) before you may conduct any drilling activities or install any structure, including lease term pipelines in accordance with NTL 99-G16.

South Marsh Island Block 79 is not located within the vicinity of a proposed live bottom area.

#### **D. Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV Surveys)**

Pursuant to NTL No. 2003-G03, operators may be required to conduct remote operated vehicle (ROV) surveys during pre-spudding and post-drilling operations for the purpose of biological and physical observations.

South Marsh Island Block 79 is not located within an area where ROV Surveys are required.

## SECTION D

### Biological and Physical Information-Continued

#### E. Archaeological Reports

In conjunction with this geophysical survey, an archaeological survey and report was also prepared to comply with the requirements of NTL 2005-G07, as South Marsh Island Block 79 is located within a high probability pre-historic area for potential archaeological resources.

This requirement provides protection of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources by requiring remote sensing surveys in areas designated to have a high probability for archaeological resources.

The archaeological report is included in the Shallow Hazards Report being submitted under separate cover to the Minerals Management Service.

## SECTION E

### Wastes and Discharge/Disposal 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. Energy Partners has requested coverage under the Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 for discharges associated with exploration and development activities in South Marsh Island Block 79 and will take applicable steps to ensure all offshore discharges associated with the proposed operations will be conducted in accordance with the permit.

## SECTION E

### Wastes and Discharge/Disposal Information-Continued

#### **A. 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), nonhazardous oilfield waste (drilling fluids, nonhazardous 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 recordkeeping requirements.

#### *Overboard Discharges*

In accordance with NTL 2003-G17, overboard discharges generated by the activities are not required for submittal in this Plan.

#### *Disposed Wastes*

The wastes detailed in *Attachment E-1* 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.

Energy Partners will manifest these wastes prior to being offloaded from the MODU, and transported to shore for disposal at approved sites regulated by the applicable State. Additionally, Energy Partners will comply with any approvals or reporting and recordkeeping requirements imposed by the State where ultimate disposal will occur.



**Disposal Table**

**Attachment E-1  
(Public Information)**

**Energy Partners, Ltd.**  
**South Marsh Island Block 79**  
**Examples of Wastes and Discharges Information**

**Disposal Table (Wastes to be disposed of, not discharged)**

<b>Type of Waste Approximate Composition</b>	<b>Amount*</b>	<b>Rate per day</b>	<b>Name/Location of Disposal Facility</b>	<b>Treatment and/or Storage, Transport and Disposal Method</b>
Norm – contaminated wastes	1 ton	Not applicable	Newpark Environmental Fourchon, LA	Transport to a transfer station via dedicated barge
Trash and debris	1,000 ft <sup>3</sup>	3 ft <sup>3</sup> /day	Newpark Environmental Fourchon, LA	Transport in storage bins on crew boat to disposal facility
Chemical product wastes	50 bbl/yr	2 bbl/day	Newpark Environmental Fourchon, LA	Transport in containers to shore location
Chemical product wastes	100 bbl	2 bbl/day	Newpark Environmental Fourchon, LA	Transport in barrels on crew boat to shore location

\*can be expressed as a volume, weight, or rate

## SECTION F

### Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information

#### A. Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Information

Effective October 8, 2004, Minerals Management Service approved Energy Partners, Ltd.'s (Energy Partners') Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP). Energy Partners, Ltd. is the only entity covered under this OSRP. Activities proposed in this Initial Exploration Plan will be covered by the Regional OSRP.

#### B. Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO)

Energy Partners utilizes Clean Gulf Associates (CGA) as its primary provider for equipment, which is an industry cooperative owning an inventory of oil spill clean-up equipment. CGA is supported by the Marine Spill Response Corporation's (MSRC), which is responsible for storing, inspecting, maintaining and dispatching CGA's equipment. The MSRC STARS network provides for the closest available personnel, as well as an MSRC supervisor to operate the equipment.

#### C. Worst-Case Scenario Comparison (WCD)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Current Regional OSRP WCD</i>	<i>Proposed Exploration Plan WCD</i>
Type of Activity	Exploratory	Exploratory
Facility Surface Location	Eugene Island Block 277	South Marsh Island Block 79
Facility Description	Well No. 004	MODU
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (Miles)	56 miles	64 miles
Volume: Storage Tanks (total) Facility Piping (total) Lease Term Pipeline Uncontrolled Blowout (day) Potential 24 Hour Volume (Bbls.)	3000	3000
Type of Liquid Hydrocarbon	Oil	Oil
API Gravity	30°	30°

## **SECTION F**

### **Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information-Continued**

Since Energy Partners has the capability to respond to the worst-case discharge (WCD) spill scenario included in its Regional OSRP approved on October 8, 2004, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our EP does not exceed the worst-case scenario in our Regional OSRP, I hereby certify that Energy Partners has 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 our EP.

#### **D. Facility Tanks, Production Vessels**

The following table details the *tanks* (capacity greater than 25 bbls. or more) to be used to support the proposed activities (MODU and barges):

Type of Storage Tank	Type of Facility	Tank Capacity (bbls)	Number of Tanks	Total Capacity (bbls)	Fluid Gravity (API)
Fuel Oil	MODU	250	2	500	38° (Diesel)

#### **E. Spill Response Sites**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **F. Diesel Oil Supply Vessels**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **G. Support Vessel Fuel Tanks**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **H. Produced Liquid Hydrocarbon Transportation Vessels**

Energy Partners is proposing to conduct well testing operations on the proposed well locations. This process will include flaring the produced gas hydrocarbons and burning the liquid hydrocarbons.

#### **I. Oil and Synthetic-Based Drilling Fluids**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

## **SECTION F**

### **Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information (Continued)**

#### **J. Oil Characteristics**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **K. Blowout Scenario**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **L. Spill Discussion for NEPA Analysis**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **M. Pollution Prevention Measures**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

#### **N. FGBNMS Monitoring Plans**

According to NTL 2003-G17, this section of the Plan is not applicable to the proposed operations.

## SECTION G

### Air Emissions Information

The primary air pollutants associated with OCS exploration activities are:

- Carbon Monoxide
- Particulate Matter
- Sulphur Oxides
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Volatile Organic Compounds

These offshore air emissions result mainly from the drilling rig operations, helicopters, and support 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.

#### A. Calculating Emissions

Included as *Attachment G-1* is the Projected Air Quality Emissions Report (Form MMS-138) for Plan Emissions addressing drilling, potential completion and testing operations utilizing a typical jack-up type drilling unit, with related support vessel information.

#### B. Screening Questions

As evidenced by *Attachment G-1*, the worksheets were completed based on flaring and burning operations.

#### C. Emission Reduction Measures

The projected air emissions are within the exemption level; therefore, no emission reduction measures are being proposed.

#### D. Verification of Non-Default Emissions Factors

Energy Partners has elected to use the default emission factors as provided in *Attachment G-1*.

#### E. Non-Exempt Activities

The proposed activities are within the exemption amount as provided in *Attachment G-1*.

## SECTION G

### Air Emissions Information-Continued

#### F. Review of Activities with Emissions Below the Exemption Level

The proposed activities are below the exemption amount and should not affect the air quality of an onshore area, as provided in *Attachment G-1*.

#### G. Modeling Report

The proposed activities are below the exemption amount and should not affect the air quality of an onshore area.

**Air Quality Emissions Report**

**Attachment G-1  
(Public Information)**



**EXPLORATION PLAN (EP)**

OMB Control No. 1010-0049

**AIR QUALITY SCREENING CHECKLIST**

OMB Approval Expires: August 31, 2006

<b>COMPANY</b>	Energy Partners, Ltd.
<b>AREA</b>	South Marsh Island
<b>BLOCK</b>	79
<b>LEASE</b>	OCS-G 26001
<b>PLATFORM</b>	Well Protector
<b>WELL</b>	A, B, C and D
<b>COMPANY CONTACT</b>	Christine Groth at R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.
<b>TELEPHONE NO.</b>	281.492.8562
<b>REMARKS</b>	Drill, complete and test Well Locations A, B, C and D.

Screening Questions for EP's	Yes	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: $CT = 3400D^{2/3}$ for CO, and $CT = 33.3D$ for the other air pollutants (where D = distance to shore in miles)?		X
Does your emission calculations include any emission reduction measures or modified emission factors?		X
Are your proposed exploration activities located east of 87.5° W longitude?		X
Do you expect to encounter H <sub>2</sub> S at concentrations greater than 20 parts per million (ppm)?		X
Do you propose to flare or vent natural gas for more than 48 continuous hours from any proposed well?		X
Do you propose to burn produced hydrocarbon liquids?	X	

Air Pollutant	Plan Emission Amounts <sup>1</sup> (tons)	Calculated Exemption Amounts <sup>2</sup> (tons)	Calculated Complex Total Emission Amounts <sup>3</sup> (tons)
Carbon monoxide (CO)	131.24	54400.00	NA
Particulate matter (PM)	16.85	2131.20	NA
Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	82.24	2131.20	NA
Nitrogen oxides (NOx)	568.37	2131.20	NA
Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	18.16	2131.20	NA

<sup>1</sup> For activities proposed in your EP or DOCD, list the projected emissions calculated from the worksheets.

<sup>2</sup> List the exemption amounts in your proposed activities calculated using the formulas in 30 CFR 250.303(d).

<sup>3</sup> List the complex total emissions associated with your proposed activities calculated from the worksheets.

## EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS 1ST YEAR

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL		CONTACT			PHONE	REMARKS						
Energy Partners, Ltd.	South Marsh Island	79	OCS-G 26001	Well Protector	A, B, C and D		Christine Groth at R.E.M. Solution			281.492.8562							
OPERATIONS	EQUIPMENT	RATING	MAX. FUEL	ACT. FUEL	RUN TIME		MAXIMUM POUNDS PER HOUR					ESTIMATED TONS					
	Diesel Engines	HP	GAL/HR	GAL/D													
	Nat. Gas Engines	HP	SCF/HR	SCF/D													
	Burners	MMBTU/HR	SCF/HR	SCF/D	HR/D	DAYS	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO	
DRILLING	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	11400	550.62	13214.88	24	160	8.04	36.86	276.21	8.29	60.26	15.43	70.77	530.33	15.91	115.71	
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	BURNER diesel	0			0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	AUXILIARY EQUIP<600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	8	91	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.53	2.44	18.30	0.55	3.99	
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	10	46	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.33	1.53	11.44	0.34	2.50	
VESSELS>600hp diesel(tugs)	4200	202.86	4868.64	12	8	2.96	13.58	101.76	3.05	22.20	0.14	0.65	4.88	0.15	1.07		
FACILITY INSTALLATION	DERRICK BARGE diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	MATERIAL TUG diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	MISC.	BPD	SCF/HR	COUNT													
	TANK-	0			0	0				0.00				0.00			
DRILLING	OIL BURN	250			24	8	4.38	71.15	20.83	0.10	2.19	0.42	6.83	2.00	0.00	0.21	
WELL TEST	GAS FLARE		208333.33		24	8		0.12	14.87	12.56	80.94		0.01	1.43	1.21	7.77	
2006 YEAR TOTAL							18.28	135.07	513.75	27.01	187.42	16.85	82.24	568.37	18.16	131.24	
EXEMPTION CALCULATION		DISTANCE FROM LAND IN MILES										2131.20	2131.20	2131.20	2131.20	54400.00	
		64.0															

# SUMMARY

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL
Energy Partners, Ltd.	South Marsh Island	79	OCS-G 26001	Well Protector	A, B, C and D
Year	Emitted Substance				
	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
2006	16.85	82.24	568.37	18.16	131.24
Allowable	2131.20	2131.20	2131.20	2131.20	54400.00

## SECTION H

### Environmental Impact Analysis

#### A. IMPACT PRODUCING FACTORS (IPF'S)

The following matrix is utilized to identify the environmental resources that could be impacted by these IPF's. An "x" has been marked for each IPF category that Energy Partners has determined may impact a particular environmental resource as a result of the proposed activities. For those cells which are footnoted, a statement is provided as to the applicability of the proposed activities, and where there may be an effect, an analysis of the effect is provided.

Environmental Resources	Emissions (air, noise, light, etc.)	Effluents (muds, cuttings, other discharges to the water column or seafloor	Physical Disturbances To the seafloor (rig or anchor emplacement, etc.)	Wastes Sent to Shore for Treatment Or disposal	Accidents (e.g. oil spills, chemical spills, H2S releases)	Other IPF's identified
<b>Site Specific at Offshore Location</b>						
Designated topographic feature						
Pinnacle Trend area live bottoms						
Eastern Gulf live bottoms						
Chemosynthetic communities						
Water quality		X			X	
Fisheries		X			X	
Marine mammals	X	X			X	
Sea turtles	X	X			X	
Air quality						
Shipwreck sites (known or potential)						
Prehistoric archaeological sites						
<b>Vicinity of Offshore Location</b>						
Essential fish habitat					X	
Marine and pelagic birds					X	
Public health and safety						
<b>Coastal and Onshore</b>						
Beaches					X	
Wetlands					X	
Shorebirds and coastal nesting birds					X	
Coastal wildlife refuges					X	
Wilderness areas					X	
<b>Other Resources</b>						

## **SECTION H**

### **Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued**

#### **B. VICINITY OF OFFSHORE LOCATION ANALYSES**

##### **1. Designated Topographic Features**

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to topographic features. The proposed surface disturbances within South Marsh Island Block 79 are located approximately 25 miles away from the closest designated topographic feature (Fishnet Bank). The crests of designated topographic features in the northern Gulf are found below 10 m. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by the currents moving around the bank; thereby avoiding the sessile biota.

##### **2. Pinnacle Trend Live Bottoms**

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to a pinnacle trend area. The proposed surface disturbances within South Marsh Island Block 79 are located a significant distance (> 100 miles) from the closest pinnacle trend live bottom stipulated block. The crests of the pinnacle trend area are much deeper than 20 m. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by currents moving around the bank; and thus not impacting the pinnacles.

##### **3. Eastern Gulf Live Bottoms**

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to Eastern Gulf live bottoms. The proposed surface disturbances within South Marsh Island Block 79 are located a significant distance (>100 miles) from the closest pinnacle Eastern Gulf live bottom stipulated block. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by currents moving around the bank; and would not be expected to cause adverse impacts to Eastern Gulf live bottoms because of the depth of the features and dilutions of spills.

##### **4. Chemosynthetic Communities**

The water depths at the proposed well locations in South Marsh Island Block 79 range from 144 feet to 152 feet. Therefore, the proposed activities are not located within the vicinity of any known chemosynthetic communities, which typically occur in water depths greater than 400 meters.

## SECTION H

### Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued

#### 5. Water Quality

Accidental oil spill releases from the proposed activities, and cumulative similar discharge activity within the vicinity could potentially cause impacts to water quality. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur from the proposed activities. In the event of such a release, the water quality would be temporarily affected by the dissolved components and small droplets. Currents and microbial degradation would remove the oil from the water column or dilute the constituents to background levels.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Energy Partners will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality.

#### 6. Fisheries

Accidental oil spill releases from the proposed activities, and cumulative similar discharge activity within the vicinity may potentially cause some detrimental effects on fisheries. It is unlikely a spill would occur; however, such a release in open waters closed to mobile adult finfish or shellfish would likely be sublethal and the extent of 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.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Energy Partners will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality.

## SECTION H

### Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued

#### 7. Marine Mammals

As a result of the proposed activities, marine mammals may be adversely impacted by traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, cumulative similar discharge activity, and loss of trash and debris. 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 accidental oil spill, chance collisions with service vessels and ingestion of plastic material.

The net results 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). Collisions between cetaceans and ship could cause serious injury or death (Laist et al., 2001). Sperm whales are one of 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.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Energy Partners will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality. Additionally, Energy Partners and its contractors will conduct the proposed activities under the additional criteria addressed by MMS in Notice to Lessee's (NTL's) 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination".

#### 8. Sea Turtles

As a result of the proposed activities, sea turtles may be adversely impacted by traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, cumulative similar discharges, and loss of trash and debris. Small numbers of turtles could be killed or injured by chance collision with service vessels or by eating indigestible trash, particularly plastic items accidentally lost from drilling rigs, production facilities and service vessels. Drilling rigs and project vessels (construction barges) produce noise that could disrupt normal behavior patterns and crease some stress to sea turtles, making them more susceptible to disease. Accidental oil spill releases are potential threats which could have lethal effects on turtles. Contact and/or consumption of this released material could seriously affect individual sea turtles. Most OCS related impacts on sea turtles are expected to be sublethal. Chronic and/or avoidance of effected areas could cause declines in survival or productivity, resulting in gradual population declines.



## **SECTION H**

### **Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued**

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Energy Partners will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements.

As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality. Additionally, Energy Partners and its contractors will conduct the proposed activities under the additional criteria addressed by MMS in Notice to Lessee's (NTL's) 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination".

#### **9. Air Quality**

The proposed activities are located approximately 64 miles to the nearest shoreline. There would be a limited degree of air quality degradation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed activities. Air quality analyses of the proposed activities are below the MMS exemption level.

#### **10. Shipwreck Site (Known or Potential)**

There are no physical disturbances to the seafloor which could impact known or potential shipwreck sites, as the review of high resolution shallow hazards data indicate there are no known or potential shipwreck sites located within the surveyed area.

#### **11. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites**

There are no physical disturbances to the seafloor which could cause impacts to prehistoric archaeological sites, as the review of high resolution shallow hazards data and supporting studies did not reflect the occurrence of prehistoric archaeological sites.

### **Site Specific Offshore Location Analyses**

#### **1. Essential Fish Habitat**

An accidental oil spill that may occur as a result of the proposed activities has potential to cause some detrimental effects on essential fish habitat. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur; however, if a spill were to occur in close proximity to finfish or shellfish, the effects would likely be sublethal and the extent of 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.

## **SECTION H**

### **Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued**

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

#### **2. Marine and Pelagic Birds**

An accidental oil spill that may occur as a result of the proposed activities has potential to impact marine and pelagic birds, by the birds coming into contact with the released oil. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

#### **3. Public Health and Safety Due to Accidents**

There are no anticipated IPF's from the proposed activities that could impact the public health and safety. Energy Partners has requested MMS approval to classify the proposed objective area as absent of hydrogen sulfide.

### **Coastal and Onshore Analyses**

#### **1. Beaches**

An accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to beaches. However, due to the distance from shore (approximately 64 miles), and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2002-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

## **SECTION H**

### **Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued**

#### **2. Wetlands**

An accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to wetlands. However, due to the distance from shore (approximately 64 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2002-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

#### **3. Shore Birds and Coastal Nesting Birds**

An accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds. However, due to the distance from shore (approximately 64 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2002-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

#### **4. Coastal Wildlife Refuges**

An accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to coastal wildlife refuges. However, due to the distance from shore (approximately 64 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2002-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

## **SECTION H**

### **Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued**

#### **5. Wilderness Areas**

An accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to wilderness areas. However, due to the distance from shore (approximately 64 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2002-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Energy Partners' Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

#### **Other Identified Environmental Resources**

Energy Partners has not identified any other environmental resources other than those addressed above.

#### **Impacts on Proposed Activities**

No impacts are expected on the proposed activities as a result of taking into consideration the site specific environmental conditions.

A High Resolution Shallow Hazards Survey was conducted, a report prepared in accordance with NTL 2005-G07 and NTL 98-20.

Based on the analysis of the referenced data, there are no surface or subsurface geological and manmade features and conditions that may adversely affect the proposed activities. Energy Partners will institute procedures to avoid pipelines and abandoned wells within the vicinity of the proposed operations.

#### **Alternatives**

Energy Partners did not consider any alternatives to reduce environmental impacts as a result of the proposed activities.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Energy Partners will not implement any mitigation measures to avoid, diminish, or eliminate potential environmental resources, other than those required by regulation and policy.

## SECTION H

### Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued

#### Consultation

Energy Partners has not contacted any agencies or persons for consultation regarding potential impacts associated with the proposed activities. Therefore, a list of such entities is not being provided.

#### References

The following documents were utilized in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment:

<i>Document</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Dated</i>
Shallow Hazards Survey	Tesla Offshore, LLC	2004
MMS Environmental Impact Statement Report No. 2002-15	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2003-N06 "Supplemental Bond Procedures"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2004-G01 "Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program"	Minerals Management Service	2004
NTL 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2002-G09 "Regional and Subregional Oil Spill Response Plans"	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2003-G17 "Guidance for Submitting Exploration Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2005-G07 "Archaeological Resource Surveys and Reports"	Minerals Management Service	2005
NTL 2000-G16 "Guidelines for General Lease Surety Bonds"	Minerals Management Service	2000
NTL 98-20 "Shallow Hazards Survey Requirements"	Minerals Management Service	1998
NTL 98-16 "Hydrogen Sulfide Requirements"	Minerals Management Service	1998
NPDES General Permit GMG290000	EPA - Region VI	2004
Regional Oil Spill Response Plan	Energy Partners Ltd.	2004

## SECTION I

### CZM Consistency

Under direction of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CMZA), the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas developed Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMP) to allow for the supervision of significant land and water use activities that take place within or that could significantly impact their respective coastal zones.

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

Energy Partners, Ltd. has considered all of Louisiana's enforceable policies and certifies the consistency for the proposed operations.

**Louisiana Coastal Zone Consistency Statement**

**Attachment I-1  
(Public Information)**

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION****INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN****SOUTH MARSH ISLAND BLOCK 79****LEASE OCS-G 26001**

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

By: **Energy Partners, Ltd.**

Signed By: 

Dated: 11-16-05