



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer To: MS 5231

December 15, 2005

Ms. Scherie Douglas
EP Exploration & Production Inc.
501 Westlake Park Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77079

Dear Ms. Douglas:

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No.	N-08557
Type	Initial Exploration Plan
Received	September 19, 2005
Lease(s)	OCS-G 17003, Block 544, Walker Ridge Area

You are hereby notified that the approval of the subject plan has been granted as of December 5, 2005, in accordance with 30 CFR 250.203(i)(1).

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Michael Tolbert
for Donald C. Howard
Regional Supervisor
Field Operations

PIRS
JAN 10 2006

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