



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 13, 2005

Mr. Blaine Dinger
Mariner Energy, Inc.
2101 Citywest Boulevard
Bldg. 4, Suite 900
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Mr. Dinger:

Reference is made to the following plan:

Control No. N-08582
Type Initial Exploration Plan
Received October 17, 2005
Lease(s) OCS-G 27027, Block 386, West Cameron Area

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

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

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

Exercise caution during drilling rig placement due to indications of seafloor instability.

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."

If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval, please contact Michael Tolbert at (504) 736-2867.

Sincerely,

Michael Tolbert
for Donald C. Howard
Regional Supervisor
Field Operations

PIRG
JAN 10 2006

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