§ 250.176 Does a suspension affect my royalty payment?

A directed suspension may affect the payment of rental or royalties for the lease as provided in §218.154.

§ 250.177 What additional requirements may the Regional Supervisor order for a suspension?

If MMS grants or directs a suspension under paragraph §250.172(b), the Regional Supervisor may require you to:

(a) Conduct a site-specific study.

(1) The Regional Supervisor must approve or prescribe the scope for any site-specific study that you perform.

(2) The study must evaluate the cause of the hazard, the potential damage, and the available mitigation measures.

(3) You must pay for the study unless you request, and the Regional Supervisor agrees to arrange, payment by another party.

(4) You must furnish copies and results of the study to the Regional Supervisor.

(5) MMS will make the results available to other interested parties and to the public.

(6) The Regional Supervisor will use the results of the study and any other information that becomes available:

(i) To decide if the suspension can be lifted; and

(ii) To determine any actions that you must take to mitigate or avoid any damage to the environment, life, or property.

(b) Submit a revised Exploration Plan (including any required mitigating measures);

(c) Submit a revised Development and Production Plan (including any required mitigating measures); or

(d) Submit a revised Development Operations Coordination Document according to 30 CFR part 250, subpart B.

§ 250.180 What am I required to do to keep my lease term in effect?

(a) If your lease is in its primary term:

(1) You must submit a report to the District Manager according to paragraphs (h) and (i) of this section whenever production begins initially, whenever production ceases during the last 180 days of the primary term, and whenever production resumes during the last 180 days of the primary term.

(2) Your lease expires at the end of its primary term unless you are conducting operations on your lease (see 30 CFR part 256). For purposes of this section, the term operations means, drilling, well-reworking, or production in paying quantities. The objective of the drilling or well-reworking must be to establish production in paying quantities on the lease.

(b) If you stop conducting operations during the last 180 days of your primary lease term, your lease will expire unless you either resume operations or receive an SOO or an SOP from the Regional Supervisor under §§250.172, 250.173, 250.174, or 250.175 before the end of the 180th day after you stop operations.

(c) If you extend your lease term under paragraph (b) of this section, you must pay rental or minimum royalty, as appropriate, for each year or part of the year during which your lease continues in force beyond the end of the primary lease term.

(d) If you stop conducting operations on a lease that has continued beyond its primary term, your lease will expire unless you resume operations or receive an SOO or an SOP from the Regional Supervisor under §§250.172, 250.173, 250.174, or 250.175 before the end of the 180th day after you stop operations.

(e) You may ask the Regional Supervisor to allow you more than 180 days to resume operations on a lease continued beyond its primary term when operating conditions warrant. The request must be in writing and explain the operating conditions that warrant a longer period. In allowing additional