

complete measurement of produced sulphur for royalty purposes.

(b) Evidence of mishandling of produced sulphur from an offshore lease, or tampering or falsifying any measurement of production for an offshore lease, shall be reported to the Regional Supervisor as soon as possible but no later than the next business day after discovery of the evidence of mishandling.

**Subpart Q—Decommissioning Activities**

AUTHORITY: 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

**§ 250.1700 What do the terms “decommissioning”, “obstructions”, and “facility” mean?**

(a) *Decommissioning* means:

(1) Ending oil, gas, or sulphur operations; and

(2) Returning the lease or pipeline right-of-way to a condition that meets the requirements of regulations of MMS and other agencies that have jurisdiction over decommissioning activities.

(b) *Obstructions* means structures, equipment, or objects that were used in oil, gas, or sulphur operations or marine growth that, if left in place, would hinder other users of the OCS. Obstructions may include, but are not limited to, shell mounds, wellheads, casing stubs, mud line suspensions, well protection devices, subsea trees, jumper assemblies, umbilicals, manifolds, termination skids, production and pipeline risers, platforms, templates, pilings, pipelines, pipeline valves, and power cables.

(c) *Facility* means any installation other than a pipeline used for oil, gas, or sulphur activities that is permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed on the OCS. Facilities include production and pipeline risers, templates, pilings, and any other facility or equipment that constitutes an obstruction such as jumper assemblies,

termination skids, umbilicals, anchors, and mooring lines.

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 66047, Oct. 30, 2002]

**§ 250.1701 Who must meet the decommissioning obligations in this subpart?**

(a) Lessees and owners of operating rights are jointly and severally responsible for meeting decommissioning obligations for facilities on leases, including the obligations related to lease-term pipelines, as the obligations accrue and until each obligation is met.

(b) All holders of a right-of-way are jointly and severally liable for meeting decommissioning obligations for facilities on their right-of-way, including right-of-way pipelines, as the obligations accrue and until each obligation is met.

(c) In this subpart, the terms “you” or “I” refer to lessees and owners of operating rights, as to facilities installed under the authority of a lease, and to right-of-way holders as to facilities installed under the authority of a right-of-way.

**§ 250.1702 When do I accrue decommissioning obligations?**

You accrue decommissioning obligations when you do any of the following:

(a) Drill a well;

(b) Install a platform, pipeline, or other facility;

(c) Create an obstruction to other users of the OCS;

(d) Are or become a lessee or the owner of operating rights of a lease on which there is a well that has not been permanently plugged according to this subpart, a platform, a lease term pipeline, or other facility, or an obstruction;

(e) Are or become the holder of a pipeline right-of-way on which there is a pipeline, platform, or other facility, or an obstruction; or

(f) Re-enter a well that was previously plugged according to this subpart.

**§ 250.1703 What are the general requirements for decommissioning?**

When your facilities are no longer useful for operations, you must:

**§ 250.1704**

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(a) Get approval from the appropriate District Manager before decommissioning wells and from the Regional Supervisor before decommissioning platforms and pipelines or other facilities;

(b) Permanently plug all wells;

(c) Remove all platforms and other facilities, except as provided in sections 1725(a) and 1730.

(d) Decommission all pipelines;

(e) Clear the seafloor of all obstructions created by your lease and pipeline right-of-way operations; and

(f) Conduct all decommissioning activities in a manner that is safe, does not unreasonably interfere with other uses of the OCS, and does not cause undue or serious harm or damage to the human, marine, or coastal environment.

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002, as amended at 74 FR 19807, Apr. 29, 2009]

**§ 250.1704 When must I submit decommissioning applications and reports?**

You must submit decommissioning applications and receive approval and submit subsequent reports according to the table in this section.

DECOMMISSIONING APPLICATIONS AND REPORTS TABLE

Decommissioning applications and reports	When to submit	Instructions
(a) Initial platform removal application [not required in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region].	In the Pacific OCS Region or Alaska OCS Region, submit the application to the Regional Supervisor at least 2 years before production is projected to cease.	Include information required under § 250.1726.
(b) Final removal application for a platform or other facility.	Before removing a platform or other facility in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, or not more than 2 years after the submittal of an initial platform removal application to the Pacific OCS Region and the Alaska OCS Region.	Include information required under § 250.1727.
(c) Post-removal report for a platform or other facility.	Within 30 days after you remove a platform or other facility ...	Include information required under § 250.1729.
(d) Pipeline decommissioning application.	Before you decommission a pipeline .....	Include information required under § 250.1751(a) or § 250.1752(a), as applicable.
(e) Post-pipeline decommissioning report.	Within 30 days after you decommission a pipeline .....	Include information required under § 250.1753.
(f) Site clearance report for a platform or other facility.	Within 30 days after you complete site clearance verification activities.	Include information required under § 250.1743(b).
(g) Form MMS–124, Application for Permit to Modify (APM). The submission of your APM must be accompanied by payment of the service fee listed in § 250.125.	(1) Before you temporarily abandon or permanently plug a well or zone (2) Within 30 days after you plug a well * * * .....	Include information required under §§ 250.1712 and 250.1721. Include information required under § 250.1717.
	(3) Before you install a subsea protective device .....	Refer to § 250.1722(a).
	(4) Within 30 days after you complete a protective device trawl test.	Include information required under § 250.1722(d).
	(5) Before you remove any casing stub or mud line suspension equipment and any subsea protective device.	Refer to § 250.1723.
	(6) Within 30 days after you complete site clearance verification activities.	Include information required under § 250.1743(a).

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 44265, July 1, 2002; 67 FR 66047, Oct. 30, 2002, as amended at 71 FR 40913, July 19, 2006]

PERMANENTLY PLUGGING WELLS

**§ 250.1710 When must I permanently plug all wells on a lease?**

You must permanently plug all wells on a lease within 1 year after the lease terminates.

**§ 250.1711 When will MMS order me to permanently plug a well?**

MMS will order you to permanently plug a well if that well:

(a) Poses a hazard to safety or the environment; or