DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Federal Housing Administration: Continuation of FHA Reform—Strengthening Risk Management Through Responsible FHA-Approved Lenders; Correction

AGENCY: Office of General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: HUD is correcting a final rule that appeared in the Federal Register of April 20, 2010 (75 FR 20718). This final rule adopted changes pertaining to the approval of mortgage lenders by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) that are designed to strengthen FHA by improving its management of risk. Although the preamble to the final rule correctly provides that the revised net worth requirements will take effect for applicants to the FHA programs on May 20, 2010, the corresponding regulatory text incorrectly provides that the requirements will take effect on June 21, 2010. This document makes the necessary correction.

DATES: Effective Date: May 20, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Camille E. Acevedo, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410—8000; telephone number 202–708–1793 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In FR Doc. 2010–10424 filed May 3–10; 8:45 am

§ 202.5 [Corrected]

1. On page 20733, in the third column, in § 202.5 General approval standards, in paragraph (n)(2)(i), “Effective on June 21, 2010, applicants shall comply with the net worth requirements set forth in paragraphs (n)(2)(ii) of this section.” is corrected to read “Effective on May 20, 2010, applicants shall comply with the net worth requirements set forth in paragraph (n)(2)(ii) of this section.”


Camille E. Acevedo, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Annular Casing Pressure Management for Offshore Wells

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule will establish regulations to address sustained casing pressure in oil and gas wells completed in the Outer Continental Shelf. Sustained casing pressure is a problem that, if left untreated, could cause serious harm to human life and the environment. The final rule will establish criteria for monitoring and testing of wells with sustained casing pressure, and will also incorporate the American Petroleum Institute’s Recommended Practice for managing annular casing pressure. New regulations are needed because the current regulations do not adequately address the requirements for wells that have sustained casing pressure. This rule will promote human safety and environmental protection, and require Outer Continental Shelf lessees to follow best industry practices for wells with sustained casing pressure.

DATES: Effective Date: This rule becomes effective on June 3, 2010. The incorporation by reference of the publication listed in the regulation is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 3, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For comments or questions on procedural issues, contact Kirk Malstrom, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Regulations and Standards Branch, 703–787–1751. For questions on technical issues, contact Russell Hoshman, Technical Assessment and Operations Support Section, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region, 504–736–2627.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 31, 2009, MMS published the proposed rule Annular Casing Pressure Management for Offshore Wells (74 FR 38147). The comment period for the proposed rule was open for 60 days. During the comment period, MMS received three comments. Two comments were in favor of this rule and the remaining comment was not associated with this rulemaking.

There are no changes between the proposed and final rule language. There are also no changes to the procedural matters discussion regarding information collection requirements, cost estimates, benefits, or impacts to small entities.

Public Comments: The MMS received three comments on the proposed rule 1010–AD47 Annular Casing Pressure Management for Offshore Wells. The comments received are summarized as follows:

• British Petroleum (BP)—BP, a large oil and gas company, expressed the importance of this rule and how they have been involved with MMS and industry to develop the industry standard.

• Offshore Operators Committee (OOC)—OOC, a large oil and gas industry organization, stated their support of this rulemaking and their involvement with the industry standard.

• Private citizen—This comment is not associated with this rulemaking.

The two applicable comments received on the proposed rule are fully supportive of this rulemaking.

Background: Sustained casing pressure (SCP) is pressure between the casing and the well’s tubing, or between strings of casing, that rebuilds after being bled down. The SCP represents an ongoing safety hazard and can cause serious or immediate harm or damage to human life, the marine and coastal environment, and property. The oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) has suffered serious accidents as a result of high SCP, and the lack of proper control and monitoring of these pressures. With over 8,000 affected wells in the GOM with SCP in at least one annulus, immediate elimination of all SCP has proved to be impractical and exceedingly costly. The MMS has sought to identify and eliminate SCP in cases that represent a clear hazard to the safety of personnel or the environment, and establish a monitoring system for the rest, all the while working towards elimination of the problems.

The MMS is currently addressing the issue of casing pressure in a 1994 Letter...