

Safety & Environmental Enforcement, Interior

§ 250.1704

right-of-use and easement grant holders as to facilities constructed, modified, or maintained under the authority of the right-of-use and easement grant. Predecessors to any of these interest holders are also included within the scope of these terms as appropriate in the context of the particular regulation.

[88 FR 23580, Apr. 18, 2023]

§ 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 a holder of a pipeline right-of-way grant on which there is a pipeline, platform, other facility, or an obstruction;
- (f) Are or become the holder of a right-of-use and easement grant on which there is a well, pipeline, platform, other facility, or an obstruction;
- (g) Re-enter a well that was previously plugged according to this subpart.

[76 FR 64462, Oct. 18, 2011, as amended at 88 FR 23580, Apr. 18, 2023]

§ 250.1703 What are the general requirements for decommissioning?

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

(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. Packers and bridge plugs used as qualified mechanical barriers must comply with ANSI/API Spec. 11D1 (as incorporated by reference in §250.198). You must have two independent barriers, one being an ANSI/API Spec. 11D1 qualified mechanical barrier, in the exposed center wellbore prior to removing the tree and/or well control equipment;

(c) Remove all platforms and other facilities, except as provided in §§ 250.1725(a) and 250.1730.

(d) Decommission all pipelines;

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

(f) Follow all applicable requirements of subpart G of this part; and

(g) 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.

[76 FR 64462, Oct. 18, 2011, as amended at 81 FR 26037, Apr. 29 2016; 84 FR 21984, May 15, 2019; 88 FR 23580, Apr. 18, 2023]

§ 250.1704 What decommissioning applications and reports must I submit and when must I submit them?

You must submit decommissioning applications, receive approval of those applications, and submit subsequent reports according to the requirements and deadlines in the following table.

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.