

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE and CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS
CONCERNING OFFSHORE NOTIFICATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Minerals Management Service, hereinafter referred to as the MMS, and the California Division of Oil and Gas, hereinafter referred to as the CDOG.

WHEREAS, blowouts are a costly and feared operational hazard related to oil and gas operations; and

WHEREAS, the control of underground pressures is an important factor in the planning and conduct of oil and gas operations; and

WHEREAS, improper well-control procedures can result in the sudden, uncontrolled release of hydrocarbons that can cause costly delays in drilling and production programs and lead to fires, explosions, casualties, serious property damage, and pollution; and

WHEREAS, blowouts and kicks can occur during exploratory and development drilling operations, and may also occur during production, workover, and completion activities; and

WHEREAS, the MMS and CDOG are responsible for prescribing measures and equipment to prevent blowouts and kicks from occurring on the OCS and State waters respectively; and

WHEREAS, improvements can be made in detecting and controlling shallow gas, in measurement-while-drilling (MWD) technology, in combating lost circulation, in mud measurement, in understanding the frictional effects related to gas influxes, and in well-control methods and training; therefore,

To improve the effectiveness of the CDOG and MMS in regulating offshore oil and gas operations, in identifying operating problems, and in evaluating potential solutions that could lead to the improvement of well-drilling procedures and control operations, IT IS HEREBY AGREED THAT the CDOG and MMS will notify each other and exchange information as soon as blowouts or otherwise nonroutine well-control problems occur in waters adjacent to California that are under the jurisdiction of each respective agency. The exchanged information should include well locations, measures in progress to control the well, and potential problems. Subsequent to an event, either party can initiate communication between the two agencies concerning incident findings and possible recommendations for operational improvements.

This MOU will be effective upon signature of the designated parties. The agreement may be modified upon the initiative of either

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party for the purpose of ensuring consistency with the Federal or State statutes or regulations, or for any other purpose mutually agreed upon. Termination of the MOU can be made by providing at least 45 days' prior notice of the termination date.

Simon Cordova

Simon Cordova
Acting Chief
Division of Oil and Gas

March 17, 1983
Date

Reid T. Stone

Reid T. Stone
Regional Manager
Pacific OCS Region
Minerals Management Service

March 24, 1983
Date

Concur:

M. G. Mefferd

M. G. Mefferd
Interim Director
Department of Conservation

3-17-1983
Date