

CHAPTER 3. AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
FOR OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

1. Delegations of Authority. The authorities contained in Appendix 1 of this chapter are redelegated by the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.
2. Redelegation. These authorities may be further redelegated. (See MMSM 210.1 for procedures to request revisions to this chapter.)
3. Exception. In the Alaska Region, the Regional Supervisor, Field Operations holds those district office authorities listed in Appendix 1 of this chapter.

**AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.1 Prescribe manner in which prelease test activities proposed for group participation will be described in a summary statement.	30 CFR 251.6-3 (c)(1)	Regional Director
3.2 Issue a permit for geological exploration for mineral resources and geological scientific research involving the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.6-2 280.3	RS/RE with concurrence of RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC); RS/LE (AK)
3.3 Approve a request for an extension of the expiration date of a permit to drill a deep stratigraphic test well or to conduct prospecting and geological and geographical scientific research activities.	30 CFR 251.6-5 280.4	Regional Director
3.4 Approve a drilling plan or revisions to a drilling plan for a deep stratigraphic test on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.6-2	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.5 Approve prospecting or scientific research plans for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 280.6	RS/RE (AK, GOM, PAC)
3.6 Approve permit and extensions for geological and geophysical exploration activities for mineral resources which do not involve deep stratigraphic test wells.	30 CFR 251.4-1 280.4	RS/RE (AK, GOM, PAC)
3.7 Suspend or cancel permittee's authority to conduct geological and geophysical exploration, prospecting, or scientific research activities on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.8 280.14 280.15	Regional Director
3.8 Approve request to authorize reimbursement for processing and reproduction costs to permittees for geological and geophysical data submitted.		
a. under \$10,000, and	30 CFR 251.13	RS/RE (AK, GOM, PAC)
b. Over \$10,000	30 CFR 251.13	RS/RE (AK, GOM, PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.9 Approve transmittal of information to Governors to identify areas within 3 miles of a State's seaward boundary under consideration for leasing and areas believed to have oil or gas pools or fields underlying both the OCS and lands under State jurisdiction.	30 CFR 256.25	Regional Director
3.10 Initiate consultation with affected States on leasing matters, including matters under sections 8(g) and 19(e) of the OCSLA.	30 CFR 256.25 256.19 281.13	Regional Director
3.11 Conduct surveys and establish boundaries necessary to administer offshore leasing.	43 U.S.C. 1334 218 DM 2.1	Chief, Offshore Minerals Survey Group
3.12 Establish the OCS cadastre, official protraction diagrams, leasing maps, plats, and written records of surveys used in describing and depicting the offshore submerged public land areas of the United States.	43 U.S.C. 1334 218 DM 2.1	Chief, Offshore Minerals Survey Group
3.13 Authorize early release of high resolution information from lessees if it is needed by affected States to make determinations under exploration or development and production plans.	30 CFR 250.18	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.14 Approve lessee's request for, or direct, a suspension or temporary prohibition of production or any other activity pursuant to a lease on the basis that it is in the national interest and (a) will facilitate proper development of the lease, (b) will allow for construction of or negotiations for the use of transportation facilities, (c) will facilitate the installation of equipment, or (d) will allow for any inordinate delays in obtaining any required permit or consent.	30 CFR 250.10(a) and (b) 282.13	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.15 Terminate a suspension or temporary prohibition approved or prescribed by the Regional Supervisor.	30 CFR 250.10(j) 282.13	RS/PD or RS/FO (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.16 Order a suspension or temporary prohibition of production or other operations or terminate the suspension or temporary prohibition of production or other operations ordered pending correction of one or more incidents of noncompliance.	30 CFR 250.10 282.13	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.17 In cases where continued operations are an immediate threat to human life or the environment, suspend or temporarily prohibit production or other operations.	30 CFR 250.10 (b)(2) 282.13	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.18 Approve plans for pipeline construction and installation and modifications to plans for existing pipelines.	30 CFR 250.150(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.19 Suspend pipeline operations or right-of-way grants in the OCS.	30 CFR 250.150 (e)(1) & (e)(2)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.20 Direct the conduct of studies of the causes for a suspension or temporary prohibition.	30 CFR 250.10 (h)(1)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.21 Inspect lessee- or permittee-conducted operations and other activities to ensure compliance with controlling laws, lease provisions, and other requirements.	30 CFR 250.5(c) and (d) 282.27 282.28	District Supervisor District Supervisor
3.22 Validate State-issued leases qualifying under section 6, OCSLA.	30 CFR 256.79	Regional Director
3.23 Receive and accept/reject bids for OCS tracts offered at a lease sale.	30 CFR 256.47 281.21	Regional Director
3.24 Award/issue lease.	30 CFR 256.47 281.21	Regional Director
3.25 Grant variance from required rate of production.	30 CFR 250.172	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.26 Authorize reimbursement of costs to lessees for providing food, quarters, and transportation for MMS personnel and fuel stops for helicopters.	30 CFR 250.21(c) 282.27	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.27 Enforce requirements for marking of equipment.	30 CFR 250.40(c)	District Supervisor

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.28 Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted lease Exploration Plan, including Oil-Spill Contingency Plan.	30 CFR 250.33(i)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.29 Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted Delineation Plans, Testing Plans, and Mining Plans.	30 CFR 282.12 282.22 282.23 282.24	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC) with concurrence by RS/EE (PAC)
3.30 Approve well-spacing programs.	30 CFR 250.32(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.31 Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted lease or unit area Development and Production Plan, including Oil-Spill Contingency Plan.	30 CFR 250.34(1)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.32 Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted lease or unit area Development Operations Coordination Document, including Oil-Spill Contingency Plan, for Western Gulf of Mexico.	30 CFR 250.34 (d)(1)	RS/FO (GOM)
3.33 Approve issuance of Regional Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTL's).	30 CFR 250.5(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC); RS/PD and RS/RE (GOM)
3.34 Approve or prescribe field rules.	30 CFR 250.62	District Supervisor
3.35 Approve methods for disposal of drill cuttings, sand, and other well solids.	30 CFR 250.40 (b)(2)	District Supervisor
3.36 Amend or cancel requirements set out in field rules.	30 CFR 250.62	District Supervisor
3.37 Investigate major accidents, fires, and major pollution incidents under MMS's jurisdiction and prepare reports.	43 U.S.C. 1348	Regional Director
3.38 Make determinations of well producibility.	30 CFR 250.11	District Supervisor
3.39 Approve Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells.	30 CFR 250.65(a)	District Supervisor
3.40 Approve platform design and installation and structural modifications to existing platforms.	30 CFR 250.130	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.41 Approve design, fabrication, installation, and modifications to platforms, artificial islands, and other installations and devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed.	30 CFR 282.12	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.42 Approve applications for lease term pipelines and pipeline right-of-way.	30 CFR 250.150(b) 250.161(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.43 Approve applications for right of use and easement.	30 CFR 250.7(a) 282.11(c)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.44 Approve applications describing proposed pipeline repair procedures or plan of corrective action.	30 CFR 250.158(e) and (g)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.45 Approve or reject applications for new or modified pipeline rights-of-way.	30 CFR 250.161 250.163(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.46 Approve assignments and applications for relinquishment of pipeline right-of-way grants.	30 CFR 250.163 250.164	RS/FO (GOM) for Relinquishments; RS/LE (GOM) for Assignments; RS/FO (AK); RS/EE (PAC)
3.47 Approve an application for change of use or flow of pipeline.	30 CFR 250.122(e) 250.150(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.48 Approve equipment and modifications thereto on platforms, including electrical and production equipment.	30 CFR 250.65 282.12	District Supervisor
3.49 Approve production-measurement equipment.	30 CFR 250.180 (c)(2)(i) 282.12	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.50 Approve welding, burning, and hot tapping plans.	30 CFR 250.52(b)	District Supervisor
3.51 Approve bonds, additional bonds, or termination of bond liability.	30 CFR 256.58 256.61	Regional Director
3.52 Approve temporary removal of required subsurface safety devices.	30 CFR 250.3 250.121(h)	District Supervisor
3.53 Direct involuntary unitization of lease operations.	30 CFR 250.193 282.11(d)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.54 Approve proposal for voluntary unitization of lease operations.	30 CFR 250.192(a) 282.11(d)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.55 Approve executed unit agreements developed on the approved model unit agreement.	30 CFR 250.192(c)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.56 Approve executed unit agreements developed according to the unit agreement text.	30 CFR 282.11(d)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.57 Approve departures from model unit agreement developed for use in unitization of operations on OCS oil and gas leases.	30 CFR 250.192(b)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.58 Approve expansions and contractions of unit areas.	30 CFR 250.190 282.11(d)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.59 Approve amendments to unit agreement where those amendments vary from the provisions of the currently approved model unit agreement for exploration, development, and production from OCS oil and gas leases.	30 CFR 250.190	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.60 Approve initial participating areas and revisions thereof.	30 CFR 250.194 282.11(d)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.61 Approve maximum efficient rates of production from reservoirs and maximum production rates of wells.	30 CFR 250.172 (a) and (b)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.62 Authorize production at less than maximum efficient rate.	30 CFR 250.172 (a)(5)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.63 Approve gas flaring, downhole commingling of oil or gas, pressure maintenance, and enhanced recovery operations.	30 CFR 250.171(b) 250.175(a) 250.176(a) 250.177(b)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.64 Require revisions to approved Development and Production Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents.	30 CFR 250.34 (q)(1)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.65 Approve reinjection or subsurface storage of gas.	30 CFR 250.14	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.66 Make drainage determinations and require lessee to protect OCS lease from drainage.	30 CFR 250.32(b)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.67 Approve surface commingling of production.	30 CFR 250.182(b)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.68 Issue Notice of Incidents of Noncompliance in drilling and production operations.	30 CFR 250.5	Inspector
3.69 Issue Notice of Incidents of Noncompliance for pipelines and production measurement facilities.	30 CFR 250.5	Inspector
3.70 Approve Applications for Permit to Drill, Form MMS-331C.	30 CFR 250.64	District Supervisor
3.71 Define regional environmental study needs.	30 CFR 256.82	Regional Director
3.72 Approve air quality reviews, determinations, and requirements in the Gulf of Mexico.	30 CFR 250.45 (b) (1)	RS/FO (GOM)
3.73 Approve abandonment of wells.	30 CFR 250.111	District Supervisor
3.74 Approve removal and abandonment of platforms.	30 CFR 250.143 282.22 282.23 282.24	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC) with concurrence by RS/EE (PAC)
3.75 Approve abandonment of structures on OCS upon termination of rights-of-way grant.	30 CFR 250.159 (c) (9)	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC) with concurrence by RS/EE (PAC)
3.76 Approve applications for assignments and accept relinquishments of lease.	30 CFR 256.62 256.64 256.76 281.40 281.41 281.46	RS/LE (AK, GOM); RS/EE (PAC)
3.77 Cancel a nonproducing lease or producing lease obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.	30 CFR 256.77(a) and (c)	Regional Director
3.78 Sign categorical exclusion review for pre- and postlease permitting actions.	516 DM 2	RS/LE (AK, GOM); RS/EE (PAC)
3.79 Approve environmental assessments for pre- and postlease permitting actions.	516 DM 3	RS/LE (AK, GOM); RS/EE (PAC)
3.80 Verify production: - Amount - Quality - Reports.	30 CFR 250.180(b) 250.181(b) 282.12(g)	RS/PD (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.81 Approve correspondence prepared in the Region which releases or denies release of records requested or which discloses material exempt under the Freedom of Information Act.	MMSM 316.1	Regional Director
3.82 Approve designation of operator.	30 CFR 250.8 282.20	RS/LE (GOM); RS/FO (AK) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.83 Approve scientific and technical documents for publication: a. That originate at Headquarters, except those that express policy or are sensitive in nature. b. Whose scope or interest are solely regional, except those that express policy or are sensitive in nature.	MMSM 600.1	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management
	MMSM 600.1	Regional Director (after regional editor is certified)
3.84 Provide response assistance to appropriate officials outside MMS for oil spills and hazardous substances.	218 DM 4	Regional Director
3.85 Give temporary oral approvals before commencing operations and issue emergency permits.	30 CFR 250.6 280.3 282.12	Authorized MMS Official
3.86 Make determination of probable violation may be (or was) a threat of serious irreparable or immediate harm or damage.	30 CFR 250.200 (a)(1)	Regional Director
3.87 Direct preparation of a case file.	30 CFR 250.200 (a)(1)	Regional Director
3.88 Appoint reviewing officer for violations of OCSLA.	30 CFR 250.200 (a)(1)	Regional Director
3.89 Administer oaths and issue subpoenas.	30 CFR 250.200 (a)(4)	Reviewing Officer
3.90 Assess civil penalties.	30 CFR 250.200 (a)(5)	Reviewing Officer
3.91 Approve required well-control training programs for lessee's personnel.	30 CFR 250.211	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.92 Approve requests for departures.	30 CFR 250.210(h)	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management

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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
3.93 Implement testing of lessees and contractors at worksite or training facility.	30 CFR 250.215	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management
3.94 Review notification letters from training schools concerning completion of approved training courses.	30 CFR 250.211 (a)(12)	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management
3.95 Approve and certify training programs and implementation plans for basic, advanced, and refresher courses in well control and production safety systems.	30 CFR 250.211(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.96 Approve training programs and implementation plans for well-control training for drilling supervisors.	30 CFR 250.212(f)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.97 Approve and certify training program and implementation plans for well completion and well-workover well-control courses.	30 CFR 250.213(f)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.98 Approve and certify training and implementation plans for well servicing courses.	30 CFR 250.213(j)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
3.99 Approve and certify training programs and implementation plans for training for production safety system personnel.	30 CFR 250.214(d)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) and RS/DOS (PAC)
4.00 Approve <u>Federal Register</u> Notices pertaining to Office of Management and Budget information collection requests.	MMSM 318.1.5B	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management
4.01 Appoint reviewing officers for violations of OPA financial responsibility.	NTL 93-1N (33 CFR 135)	Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management
4.02 Approval of demonstrations of financial responsibility under OPA.	NTL 93-1N (33 CFR 135)	Chief, Inspection, Compliance and Training Division
4.03 Approval of certificates of financial responsibility under OPA.	NTL 93-1N (33 CFR 135)	Chief, Inspection, Compliance and Training Division

AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
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Authority	Citation	Approval Level
4.04 Enter into unfunded agreements, with State officials, for the purpose of coordinating oil-spill prevention and control, response planning, and equipment inspection for facilities located seaward of the coast line.	218 DM 2.1.B	Regional Director
4.05 Notifies State Governors of receipt of permit or plan applications for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 280.11	RS/FO (GOM), RS/DOS (PAC) and RS/RE (AK)
4.06 Approves application with plan and determines need for mitigation for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 280.5(e) 280.6(c) 280.10	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC) with concurrence by RS/EE (PAC)
4.07 Provides notification of noncompliance and/or need for remedial action for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.14	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC)
4.08 Determines need for a Contingency Plan and approves modifications to such plans for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.26	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC)
4.09 Notifies Governor of affected States of submission of delineation, testing or mining plan for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.4	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/DOS (PAC)
4.10 Requires lessee to provide additional environmental baseline data or modify environmental monitoring program for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.28	RS/FO (AK, GOM); RS/EE (PAC)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE MANUAL**

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

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**SUBJECT: Delegation Series**  
**Part 210 Special Delegations**  
**Chapter 3 Authorities Redelegated by the Associate**  
**Director for Offshore Minerals Management**  
**Offshore Program Delegations Handbook**

**EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:**

This handbook revises Chapter 3 on authorities redelegated by the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management. Revisions reflect additional redelegated authorities to the lowest possible levels. It also includes new authorities relating to minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur and financial responsibility. The revisions were made in accordance with appropriate levels of authority and coordinated with the Regions and Offshore program offices.



Associate Director for  
Offshore Minerals Management

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**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

<b>REMOVE:</b>				<b>INSERT:</b>			
<b>Handbook</b>				<b>Handbook</b>			
<u>Part</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Release</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Release</u>
210	3	3-1 to 3-10	215	210	3	3-1 to 3-11	236

**OPR: Engineering and Standards Branch**  
**Offshore Minerals Management**