

**ATP OIL & GAS CORPORATION**

17 March 2008

Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service (MS 4024)  
Attn: Rules Processing Team (Comments)  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Re: RIN 1010-AD 11; Sub Part J-Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way FR Vol. 72,  
No. 191 10-03-07

Ladies and Gentlemen:

ATP Oil & Gas Corporation ("ATP") appreciates this opportunity to provide written comments on the subject proposed rule to amend regulations regarding pipeline and pipeline rights-of-way associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas and other mineral operations as published in the 03 October 2007 Federal Register.

ATP acknowledges that MMS has conducted a significant rewrite of Subpart J using plain language and restructured the rule to improve readability and consolidated numerous Notices to Lessees and Operators ("NTL") that were in effect in the proposed rule making. By incorporating into the proposed rule the numerous NTLs that clarify the current regulation, MMS will reduce the burden on industry to keep track of rules from various sources and simplify compliance.

ATP appreciate that MMS rewrote the proposed rule focusing each section on one topic and believe the proposed rule is better organized to reflect actual sequences of events that occur within our industry. However while reporting times have been shortened, the time before receipt of permit approvals continues to lengthen.

ATP notes that unlike recent rule making efforts, this one clearly attempts to more rigidly prescribe new reporting, documentation and record keeping requirements far above current levels. Based on our current experience furnishing permitting and operating information and the long cycle times associated with the GOM Region Pipeline Group in the GOM OCS Region, it is surprising that the MMS has chosen to actually expand requirements, while cutting response time for submittal of information. Our experience with cycle time necessary to get work carried out has been very disappointing and the new rule has the potential to multiply the amount of information the already swamped group with more data of questionable value as required for regulatory oversight. The rule takes the position of being more interactive to the point of requiring information on a time line that could prove impractical or slow down the development process such that permitting is the critical path in lieu of actual design, construction, installation and operation. ATP appreciates that MMS rewrote the proposed rule to consolidate and streamline. However, the many authors of the new rule also added significant new requirements whose value ATP must challenge in light of the industry's current safe operating record.

ATP believes the proposed rule is broadly targeted at three critical areas: safety, reliability, and environmental and agrees these areas are important to the industry, customers, general public, and regulators. With this in mind, ATP would like to know specifically where MMS believes the industry is falling short of expectations in these areas and why the MMS has not shared this information in the rule making.

The comment period allocated for industry's response to such a significant formal rule making on Sub Part J did not allow ATP to develop detailed comments on the various parts of the rule making and it is recommended that further discussions with industry be carried out prior to any final rule making on the issue.

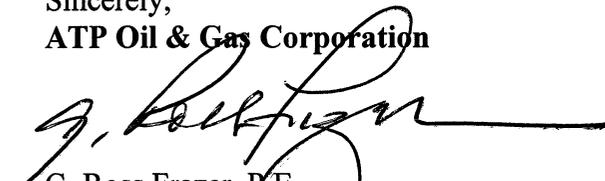
ATP notes that the proposed rule making would create numerous conflicting and duplicative requirements between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Interior (DOI). Consequently, ATP believes the NOPR creates confusion, inconsistencies, and redundancy for the offshore pipeline operators. Additionally, the conflicting and duplicative requirements will create jurisdictional overlap and conflicts among the two agencies. ATP believes the NOPR contradicts the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and DOI governing their respective responsibilities on the OCS.

ATP has noted that the new rule defines a larger more proactive role by the MMS Pipeline Group in existing pipeline operations and a material increase in the amount and technical detail of information that would be required to be developed, recorded and reported without a readily apparent reason for this additional information. ATP is concerned that this new role will have significantly slow the critical cycle times in the ongoing development of the OCS.

ATP supports the recommendations developed by the Offshore Operators Committee *ad hoc* team in addressing the rule making and urges the MMS to carefully review those for detail.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
ATP Oil & Gas Corporation



G. Ross Frazer, P.E.  
Vice President, Engineering