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GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

July 22, 2008

Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Attention: Regulations and Standards Branch
381 Elden Street, MS-4024
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Ref: Allocation and Disbursement of Royalties, Rentals and Bonuses—Oil and Gas, Offshore, 1010AD46

The General Land Office appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on MMS' rules proposal for the implementation of Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA).

The Summary section of the May 27, 2008 Federal Register posting summarizes the purposes for which funds may be used under the provisions of GOMESA. The General Land Office would suggest that MMS consider modifying or clarifying that authorized use 1 "hurricane protection" to allow for the removal of structures either pre- or post-storm event. This provision is particularly important to Texas given the forecasts of increased storm activity in the Gulf of Mexico for this year.

The proposed definition in the MMS rules for "coastal political subdivision" defines eligible local government entities that would participate in the revenue sharing provisions of GOMESA. As with HR 6111, the proposed rules definition would allow only coastal political subdivisions in a state's coastal zone and within 200 miles of the center of a leased tract in OCS Area 181 or 181A to participate in the program. It is unclear whether certain Texas coastal counties would be excluded from the local government share of the payments made to Texas based on the 200-mile limitation. Clarification of this issue should be provided.

Finally, in the list of eligible Texas coastal political subdivisions, "Arkansas" should be deleted and replaced with "Aransas".

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to MMS. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jodena Henneke".

Jodena Henneke
Deputy Commissioner
Coastal Resources

Stephen F. Austin Building • 1700 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1495

Post Office Box 12873 • Austin, Texas 78711-2873

512-463-5001 • 800-998-4GLO

www.glo.state.tx.us