UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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Notice To Lessees and Operators (NTL) of Federal Oil, Gas, and Sulphur Leases in the Outer Continental Shelf

Synthetic Moorings Workshop

The Minerals Management Service will hold a 1-day workshop on Damage Assessment of Synthetic Moorings. The recently issued API Recommended Practice on Synthetic Moorings (API RP2 SM) addresses the design of synthetic mooring lines, such as polyester ropes, for offshore floating facilities. However, that Recommended Practice does not provide specific guidelines regarding the assessment and mitigation of rope that is damaged during installation or service. In 1999, the MMS initiated a program through the Offshore Technology Research Center (OTRC) to develop guidelines to assess and mitigate damage of polyester mooring lines to support its use on deepwater oil and gas facilities. A comprehensive, multiphase plan was initiated to provide information for the development of practical engineering guidelines. Work on the initial phases is underway through the efforts of MMS, OTRC, Stress Engineering Services, and the Center for Engineering Applications of Composites.

At the workshop we will: (1) discuss the development of damage assessment guidelines, (2) describe the initial MMS/OTRC efforts, and (3) initiate the planning and inclusion of the industry views, expertise, and participation into this effort. We invite you to share your experiences and concerns relative to rope damage assessment so that your views and observations are represented in the remaining phase of the program.

Workshop Details:
Where: Texas A&M's facilities at 2121 West Holcombe, Houston, Texas
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 23, 2001 -- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Who should attend: engineers, researchers, manufacturers, managers, regulators, and executives involved with synthetic rope used on deepwater oil and gas facilities.

If you need further information, please contact E.G. Ward at egward@tamu.edu. To register, contact Beth Rhea bethrhea@tamu.edu, OTRC, Texas A&M University, 1200 Mariner Drive, College Station, Texas 77845; (979) 845-6000; Fax (979) 845-9273.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement: This NTL does not refer to or impose any information collection subject to the PRA.

Date: 21 December 2000

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Offshore Minerals Mangement