

AMERADA HESS CORPORATION

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1201 LOUISIANA, SUITE 700
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-5681
713-658-9770

May 10, 1990

Minerals Management Service
Alaska OCS Region
Attention: Regional Director
949 E. 36th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302

RE: Suspension of Operations Request
OCS-Y 0179
Northstar Unit
Beaufort Sea, Alaska
AHC NO. BS-00027

Gentlemen:

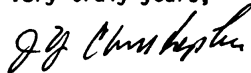
Amerada Hess Corporation (AHC) is the holder of lease OCS-Y 0179 dated August 1, 1980. The lease is now included in the Northstar Unit (contract No. 75019000X), a joint Federal-State unit, approved by the Regional Supervisor, Field Operations effective January 24, 1990. AHC is the Unit Operator.

In accordance with the Regional Supervisor's letter dated January 25, 1990 (copy attached) approving the unit, AHC hereby requests a suspension of operations pursuant to 30 CFR 250.10. The suspension is requested for a period of five years to be consistent with the Northstar Unit Plan of Development. During the period of suspension, AHC, as Unit Operator, will conduct the activities indicated in the approved Unit Plan of Development (copy attached).

The purpose of the plan, as noted therein, is to further define the hydrocarbon accumulation and address development scenarios and technical problems associated with developing an offshore Arctic oilfield. The results of the work to be accomplished under the plan is expected to provide significant information on which to make informed decisions regarding future operations on the lease. The suspension will thus benefit the national interest in that the knowledge gained may be of use in avoiding physical and economic waste and minimizing or eliminating adverse environmental effects. Accordingly, we would appreciate your early favorable approval of our request.

Should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please call P. E. Bacon at (713) 752-5869.

Very truly yours,



J. Y. Christopher
Attorney-In-Fact

JYC:HD:053

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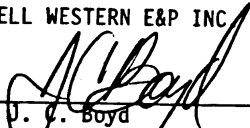
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ALASKA OCS
Minerals Management Service
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, we will be pleased to meet with you at your convenience. Please call R. E. Molinari, (713) 870-4314 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

SHELL WESTERN E&P INC

By


J. P. Boyd
Attorney-in-Fact

REM
RMB