

SPILL RESPONSE PLANS INTERIM FINAL RULE(#30007)

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MMS PUBLISHES INTERIM FINAL RULE REQUIRING
SPILL RESPONSE PLANS FOR OFFSHORE OPERATORS (#30007)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced the Interim Final Rule to require spill response plans from producers operating in state and federal waters will be published in the Federal Register February 8, 1993. The interim rule provides guidance to operators who must submit spill response and contingency plans by February 18, 1993, as mandated by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990.

Earlier on January 19, 1993, MMS announced Departmental approval of this interim final rule. However, along with other proposed regulatory actions throughout the federal government, the OPA Interim Final Rule was held for review by the Office of Management and Budget.

MMS was assigned spill prevention and contingency planning responsibility for all offshore oil and gas facilities, including those in state waters, after Executive Order 12777 was issued.

MMS published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to solicit information concerning oil spill prevention and response requirements in the Federal Register on August 12, 1992.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty program. MMS is committed to achieving the appropriate balance between protecting the environment and providing opportunities for the discovery and recovery of critical energy resources such as natural gas and oil.

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