

The NewsRoom

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MMS Proposes To Incorporate Recommended Practice For Cementing Shallow Water Flow Zones In Deep Water

Operators Provided Hazard Mitigation Options

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service today published a Proposed Rule in the [Federal Register](#) requesting comments on cementing wells in deep water areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that are prone to shallow water flow (i.e. water flow at shallow well depths). “Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf— Incorporate API RP 65 for Cementing Shallow Water Flow Zones”, revises regulations at 30 CFR Part 250 to clarify best cementing practices used in deep water, shallow water flow areas.

Certain geologic conditions can result in the pressurization of the pore water above normal hydrostatic pressure in shallow formations. This abnormally pressured formation, once penetrated, may result in an influx of water or sediment into or around the wellbore, or a shallow water flow. The flow may result in the creation of a channel behind the casing, creation of a large washout, buckling of casing, cross flow between a localized group of wells, premature permanent abandonment of the well, and expenditure of additional time and expense for the operator to control the well.

MMS and industry groups have recognized the safety and environmental consequences resulting from shallow water flow encounters, and have jointly assembled this Recommended Practice. MMS is proposing to incorporate this recommended practice to give operators options of best cementing practices available to help mitigate shallow water flow hazards.

MMS is accepting comments for the next 60 days. All comments must be identified with 1010-AD19, and can be submitted electronically through [MMS’s Public Connect on-line commenting system](#), by [email](#), by fax at 703-787-1546; or via mail to:

The U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Attention: Rules Processing Team
381 Elden Street, MS-4024
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Relevant Web Site:
[MMS Main Website](#)

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[MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America](#)
U.S. Department of the Interior