

**§ 250.1104 Bottomhole pressure survey.**

(a) For each new reservoir, the lessee shall conduct a static bottomhole pressure survey within 3 months after the date of first continuous production.

(b) For each producing reservoir with three or more producing completions, the lessee shall conduct annual static bottomhole pressure surveys in a sufficient number of key wells to establish an average reservoir pressure. The Regional Supervisor may require that a survey be performed on specific wells.

(c) The results of all static bottomhole pressure surveys obtained by the lessee shall be filed with the Regional Supervisor within 60 days after the date of the survey.

**§ 250.1105 Flaring or venting gas and burning liquid hydrocarbons.**

(a) Lessees may flare or vent oil-well gas or gas-well gas without receiving prior approval from the Regional Supervisor only in the following situations:

(1) When gas vapors are flared or vented in small volumes from storage vessels or other low-pressure production vessels and cannot be economically recovered.

(2) During an equipment failure or to relieve system pressures. The lessee must comply with the following conditions:

(i) Lessees must not flare or vent oil-well gas for more than 48 continuous hours unless the Regional Supervisor approves. The Regional Supervisor may specify a limit of less than 48 hours to prevent air quality degradation.

(ii) Lessees must not flare or vent gas from a facility for more than 144 cumulative hours during any calendar month unless the Regional Supervisor approves.

(iii) Lessees must not flare or vent gas-well gas beyond the time required to eliminate an emergency unless the Regional Supervisor approves.

(3) During the unloading or cleaning of a well, drill-stem testing, production testing, or other well-evaluation testing, flaring or venting must not exceed 48 cumulative hours per testing operation on a single completion. The Regional Supervisor may allow less time to prevent air quality degradation

or more time if lessees need additional time to evaluate reservoir parameters.

(b) Lessees may flare or vent oil-well gas for up to 1 year when the Regional Supervisor approves the request for one of the following reasons:

(1) The lessee initiated an action which, when completed, will eliminate flaring and venting; or

(2) The lessee submitted an evaluation supported by engineering, geologic, and economic data indicating that either:

(i) The oil and gas produced from the well(s) will not economically support the facilities necessary to save and/or sell the gas; or

(ii) There is not enough gas to market.

(c) Lessees may burn produced liquid hydrocarbons only if the Regional Supervisor approves. To burn produced liquid hydrocarbons, the lessee must demonstrate that the amounts to burn would be minimal, or that the alternatives are infeasible or pose a significant risk that may harm offshore personnel or the environment. Alternatives to burning liquid hydrocarbons include transporting the liquids or storing and re-injecting them into a producible zone.

(d) Lessees must prepare records detailing gas flaring or venting and liquid hydrocarbon burning for each facility. The records must include, at a minimum:

(1) Daily volumes of gas flared or vented and liquid hydrocarbons burned;

(2) Number of hours of flaring, venting, or burning on a daily basis;

(3) Reasons for flaring, venting, or burning; and

(4) A list of the wells contributing to flaring, venting, or burning, along with the gas-oil ratio data.

(e) Lessees must keep these records for at least 2 years. Lessees must allow Minerals Management Service representatives to inspect the records at the lessees' field office that is nearest the Outer Continental Shelf facility, or at another location agreed to by the Regional Supervisor. If the Regional Supervisor requests to see the records, lessees must provide a copy.

(f) *Requirements for flaring and venting of gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S*—(1) *Flaring of gas*

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*containing H<sub>2</sub>S.* (i) The Regional Supervisor may, for safety or air pollution prevention purposes, further restrict the flaring of gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S. The Regional Supervisor will use information provided in the lessee's H<sub>2</sub>S Contingency Plan (§250.490(f)), Exploration Plan or Development and Production Plan, and associated documents in determining the need for such restrictions.

(ii) If the Regional Supervisor determines that flaring at a facility or group of facilities may significantly affect the air quality of an onshore area, the Regional Supervisor may require the operator(s) to conduct an air quality modeling analysis to determine the potential effect of facility emissions on onshore ambient concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>. The Regional Supervisor may require monitoring and reporting or may restrict or prohibit flaring pursuant to §§250.303 and 250.304.

(2) *Venting of gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S.* You must not vent gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S except for minor releases during maintenance and repair activities that do not result in a 15-minute time weighted average atmospheric concentration of H<sub>2</sub>S of 20 ppm or higher anywhere on the platform.

(3) *Reporting flared gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S.* In addition to the recordkeeping requirements of paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, when required by the Regional Supervisor, the operator must submit to the Regional Supervisor a monthly report of flared and vented gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S. The report must contain the following information:

- (i) On a daily basis, the volume and duration of each flaring episode;
- (ii) H<sub>2</sub>S concentration in the flared gas; and
- (iii) Calculated amount of SO<sub>2</sub> emitted.

[61 FR 25148, May 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 3800, Jan. 27, 1997. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29486, May 29, 1998; 68 FR 8435, Feb. 20, 2003]

**§ 250.1106 Downhole commingling.**

(a) An application to commingle hydrocarbons produced from multiple reservoirs within a common wellbore shall be submitted to the Regional Super-

visor for approval and shall include all pertinent well information, geologic and reservoir engineering data, and a schematic diagram of well equipment. The application shall provide the estimated recoverable reserves as well as any available alternate drainage points which might be used to produce the reservoirs separately.

(b) For a competitive reservoir, notice of intent to submit the application shall be sent by the applicant to all other lessees having an interest in the reservoir prior to submitting the application to the Regional Supervisor.

(c) The application shall specify the well-completion number to be used for subsequent reporting purposes.

**§ 250.1107 Enhanced oil and gas recovery operations.**

(a) The lessee shall timely initiate enhanced oil and gas recovery operations for all competitive and non-competitive reservoirs where such operations would result in an increased ultimate recovery of oil or gas under sound engineering and economic principles.

(b) A proposed plan for pressure maintenance, secondary and tertiary recovery, cycling, and similar recovery operations to increase the ultimate recovery of oil and/or gas from a reservoir shall be submitted to the Regional Supervisor for approval before such operations are initiated.

(c) Periodic reports of the volumes of oil, gas, or other substances injected, produced, or reproduced shall be submitted as required by the Regional Supervisor.

**Subpart L—Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security**

SOURCE: 63 FR 26370, May 12, 1998, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 63 FR 29479, May 29, 1998.

**§ 250.1200 Question index table.**

The table in this section lists questions concerning Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security.