

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE MANUAL**

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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Release No. 287

July 30, 2003

SUBJECT: Delegation Series  
Part 210.1 Special Redelegations  
Chapter 1 Offshore Leasing and Operations and  
Offshore Program Delegations Handbook

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

This is a revision to Chapter 3 of the Offshore Program Delegations Handbook to reflect the Pacific OCS Region reorganization.

/s/ Thomas A. Readinger  
Associate Director for  
Offshore Minerals Management

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

REMOVE:  
Handbook

INSERT:  
Handbook

<u>Part</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Release</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Release</u>
210	3	9	284	210	3	9	287

OPR: Engineering and Operations Division  
Offshore Minerals Management

CHAPTER 3. AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR  
OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

1. Delegations of Authority: The authorities in Appendix 1 of this chapter are redelegated by the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.
2. Redelegation: These authorities may be further redelegated. (See MMSM 210.1 for procedures to request revisions to this chapter.)
3. Exception: In the Alaska Region, the Regional Supervisor, Field Operations, holds those district office authorities listed in Appendix 1 of this chapter.
4. In the Pacific OCS Region, the Regional Manager carries out the functions of the Regional Director, and the Program Office Chiefs carry out the functions of the Regional Supervisors. There are four Program Office Chiefs: Chief, Office of Reservoir Evaluation and Production (C/REP); Chief, Office of Environmental Evaluation (C/EE); Chief, Office of Facilities, Safety and Enforcement (C/FSE); and Chief, Office of District Operations (CDO).

Supersedes Release No. 284

Date: July 30, 2003 (Release No. 287)

AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
FOR OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.1	Issue regional Notices to Lessees and Operators.	30 CFR 250.103	With EOD RPT concurrence; All RS's (GOM), RS/FO (AK), all Program Office Chiefs (PAC)
3.2	Approve welding plans.	30 CFR 250.109(a)	District Supervisor
3.3	Make determinations of well producibility.	30 CFR 250.115 250.116	Chief, OGTAU (GOM), District Supervisor (AK, PAC)
3.4	Approve applications for injection or subsurface storage of gas.	30 CFR 250.118 250.119	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.5	Inspect lessee- or permittee-conducted operations and other activities to ensure compliance with controlling laws, lease provisions, and other requirements	30 CFR 250.130 282.27 282.28	District Supervisor
3.6	Authorize cost reimbursements to lessees for providing food, quarters, and transportation for MMS personnel and fuel stops for helicopters.	30 CFR 250.133 282.27	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/DO (PAC)
3.7	Issues Notices of Incidents of Noncompliance (INCs): a. In drilling and production operations and for pipelines and production measurement facilities. b. With approved applications and plans, lease stipulations, bonding, etc. (Office INCs).	30 CFR 250.136 250 - 256 260 - 280 281 & 282	a. Inspector b. Authorized MMS Official
3.8	Give oral approvals.	30 CFR 250.140 282.12(f)	Authorized MMS Official
3.9	Approve requests for alternate procedures or equipment.	30 CFR 250.141	RS/FO or District Supervisor (AK, GOM), C/FSE, C/DO or District Supervisor (PAC)
3.10	Approve requests for departures from operating requirements of the regulations.	30 CFR 250.142	RS/FO or District Supervisor (AK, GOM), C/FSE, C/DO or District Supervisor (PAC)
3.11	Approve designations of operator.	30 CFR 250.143(a) 282.20(c)	C/FSE (PAC), Chief LAS/LE (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.12	Approve applications for right of use and easement.	30 CFR 250.160 282.11(c)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.13	Approve requests for, or direct, suspensions of operations or production.	30 CFR 250.168-177 282.13	C/REP (PAC) RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.14	Terminate suspensions approved or directed by the Regional Supervisor.	30 CFR 250.170(e)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.15	In cases where continued operations are an immediate threat to human life or the environment, suspend or temporarily prohibit production or other operations.	30 CFR 250.172(b) 282.13	Inspectors with concurrence of RS/FO (GOM), or RS/PD (AK, GOM), or C/FSE or C/DO (PAC)

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Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.16	Direct suspensions of production or other operations pending correction of incidents of noncompliance or when in the interest of national security or defense.	30 CFR 250.173 282.13	RS/FO, District Supervisor or RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO or District Supervisor (AK), C/FSE, C/DO or District Supervisor (PAC)
3.17	Direct the conduct of studies to evaluate the cause for suspensions or temporary prohibitions.	30 CFR 250.177(a)	RS/FO or RS/PD (AK, GOM), All Program Office Chiefs (PAC)
3.18	Approve extensions of lease when lapse in production, drilling, or well reworking operations are greater than 180 days.	30 CFR 250.180(e) 256.70	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/REP (PAC)
3.19	Investigate major accidents, fires, and pollution incidents under MMS jurisdiction and prepare reports.	30 CFR 250.193 40 U.S.C. 1348	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.20	Authorize early release of high-resolution information from lessees if it is needed by affected States to make determinations under exploration or development and production plans.	30 CFR 250.196	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/REP (PAC)
3.21	Approve well-spacing programs.	30 CFR 250.202(a)	RS/FO or RS/PD (AK, GOM), C/REP (PAC)
3.22	Make drainage determinations and require lessees to protect OCS leases from drainage.	30 CFR 250.202 (b), (c)	RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/REP (PAC)
3.23	Approve, disapprove, or require modifications of leases or Unit Area Exploration Plans, including Oil-Spill Response Plans.	30 CFR 250.203(i) 254.1(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.24	Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted lease or unit area Development and Production Plan, including Oil-Spill Response Plan.	30 CFR 250.204 254.1(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/ FSE (PAC)
3.25	Approve, disapprove, or require modification of lessee-submitted lease or unit area Development Operations Coordination Document, including Oil-Spill Response Plan, for Western Gulf of Mexico.	30 CFR 250.204(d) (1) 254.1(a)	RS/FO (GOM)
3.26	Require revisions to approved Development and Production Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents.	30 CFR 250.204 (q)(1)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.27	Approve methods for disposal of drill cuttings, sand, and other well solids.	30 CFR 250.300 (b)(2)	District Supervisor
3.28	Enforce requirements for markings of equipment.	30 CFR 250.300(c)	District Supervisor
3.29	Make air quality determinations in the Gulf of Mexico.	30 CFR 250.303 (b)(1)	RS/FO (GOM)
3.30	Approve or prescribe field drilling rules.	30 CFR 250.412	District Supervisor
3.31	Amend or cancel requirements set out in field drilling rules.	30 CFR 250.412	District Supervisor
3.32	Approve Applications for Permit to Drill, Forms MMS-123 & 123S.	30 CFR 250.414(a) 250.513(a)	District Supervisor
3.33	Approve Applications for Permit to Modify, Form MMS 124.	30 CFR 250.415(a) 250.513(a) 250.613(a)	District Supervisor

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FOR OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.34	Approve H <sub>2</sub> S Contingency Plans.	30 CFR 250.417	District Supervisor
3.35	Approve equipment and modifications thereto on platforms, including electrical and production equipment and related safety systems.	30 CFR 250.802 282.12	District Supervisor
3.36	Approve applications for platform design and installation and structural modifications to existing platforms.	30 CFR 250.901	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.37	Approve plans for pipeline construction and installation and modifications to plans for existing pipelines.	30 CFR 250.1000(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.38	Approve applications for lease term pipelines.	30 CFR 250.1000(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.39	Approve applications for new or modified pipeline rights-of-way.	30 CFR 250.1000 (b), (d)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.40	Approve applications to change use or flow of pipelines.	30 CFR 250.1000(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.41	Suspend pipeline operations or right-of-way grants in the OCS.	30 CFR 250.1000 (e)(1), (e)(2)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.42	Approve abandonment of lease term or right-of-way pipelines.	30 CFR 250.1006	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.43	Approve applications describing plan of corrective action for pipelines and rights-of-way.	30 CFR 250.1008(g)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.44	Approve waivers of 1-year limit for removal of right-of-way pipelines.	30 CFR 250.1009 (c)(9)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.45	Approve assignments and accept relinquishments of pipeline right-of-way grants.	30 CFR 250.1013 250.1014	RS/FO for Relinquishments or Chief/LAS/LE for Assignments (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/EE (PAC)
3.46	Approve production within 500 feet of a unit or lease line and plans for pressure maintenance, gas cap protection, conservation review, and enhanced recovery operations.	30 CFR 250.1101 250.1107	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.47	Approve drilling wells with surface locations closer than 500 feet from unit or lease lines.	30 CFR 250.1101(b)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.48	Grant variances from required rates of production.	30 CFR 250.1102	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.49	Approve maximum production rates of wells.	30 CFR 250.1102 (a), (b)	C/REP (PAC) C/RCS (COM), RS/FO (AK)
3.50	Approve gas flaring or burning of liquid hydrocarbons.	30 CFR 250.1105 (a), (b), (c)	Authorized MMS Official (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/DO (PAC)
3.51	Approve downhole commingling of oil and gas.	30 CFR 250.1106 (a)	C/REP (PAC), C/RCS (GOM), RS/FO (AK)

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3.52	Approve production measurement procedures.	30 CFR 250.1201 (a)(1) 282.1202 (a)(2)	Chief, SC&PMS, RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/REP (PAC)
3.53	Verify production amounts, quality, and reports.	30 CFR 250.1202(a) 250.1203(b) 282.12(g)	Chief, SC & PMS (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/REP (PAC)
3.54	Approve applications for the surface commingling of production.	30 CFR 250.1204 (a)(1)	Chief, SC & PMS (GOM), RS/FO (AK), C/REP (PAC)
3.55	Approve expansions and contractions of unit areas.	30 CFR 250.1301 282.11(d)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.56	Approve amendments to unit agreement where those amendments vary from the provisions of the currently approved model unit agreements for explorations, development, and production from OCS oil and gas leases.	30 CFR 250.1301(d) 250.1303	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.57	Approve initial participating areas and revisions thereof.	30 CFR 250.1301(d) 282.11(d)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.58	Approve proposals for voluntary unitization of lease operations.	30 CFR 250.1303(a) 282.11(d)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.59	Approve departures from model unit agreements developed for unitization of operations on OCS oil and gas leases.	30 CFR 250.1303(b)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.60	Approve executed unit agreements developed on the approved model unit agreements or text.	30 CFR 250.1303(c) 282.11(d)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.61	Direct involuntary unitization of lease operations.	30 CFR 250.1304 282.11(d)	C/REP (PAC), RS/PD (GOM), RS/FO (AK)
3.62	Appoint reviewing officers for violations of OCSLA for other than financial responsibility.	30 CFR 250.1400	Chief, OSM (GOM), C/ FSE (PAC)
3.63	Appoint reviewing officer for violations of financial responsibility under the OCSLA and OPA.	30 CFR 250.1400	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.64	Make determinations of probable violations which may be (or were) threats of serious irreparable or immediate harm or danger.	30 CFR 250.1404(b)	District Supervisor, Section, or Program Office Chiefs
3.65	Direct preparation of case files.	30 CFR 250.1405	District Supervisor, section, or Program Office Chiefs
3.66	Administer oaths and issue subpoenas.	30 CFR 250.1405	Reviewing Officer
3.67	Assess civil penalties.	30 CFR 250.1408	Reviewing Officer
3.68	Oversee establishment and implementation of lessee training programs.	30 CFR 250.1503(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.69	Implement "training system audits" by MMS or its authorized representatives to periodically assess training programs.	30 CFR 250.1507(a)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.70	Implement employee or contract personnel interviews at worksite or training facility.	30 CFR 250.1507(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)

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Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.71	Implement employee or contract personnel testing by MMS or its authorized representatives either onshore or offshore.	30 CFR 250.1507(c)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.72	Implement hands-on production safety, simulator, or live well testing by MMS or its authorized representative either onshore	30 CFR 250.1507(d)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.73	Approve operations to discover, develop, and produce sulphur in the OCS.	30 CFR 250.1600 thru 250.1634	Approval levels are the same as those for oil and gas operations in the OCS.
3.74	Approve decommissioning wells.	30 CFR 250.1703 (a), (b)	District Supervisor
3.75	Approve decommissioning platforms.	30 CFR 250.1703(a), (c) 282.22 thru 282.24	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.76	Approve decommissioning pipelines or other facilities.	30 CFR 250.1703(a), (d)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.77	Issue permits for, and approve extensions of, geological and geophysical exploration activities for mineral resources that do not involve deep stratigraphic test wells.	30 CFR 251.4 251.5 280.4	RS/RE (AK), C/REP (PAC), Chief, Resource Studies Section (GOM)
3.78	Issue permits for geological exploration for mineral resources and geological scientific research involving the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test well on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.4 251.5 251.7(b) 280.10 280.11	C/REP (PAC), RS/RE (AK, GOM)
3.79	Approve drilling plans or revisions to drilling plans for deep stratigraphic test wells on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.7(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/DO (PAC)
3.80	Accept, reject, or require modification of environmental reports for geological and geophysical permit applications involving deep stratigraphic test wells on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.7(b)(2) 280.12(a)	RS/RE with RS/FO and RS/LE concurrence (AK, GOM), C/REP with concurrence of C/EE (PAC)
3.81	Approve extensions of permits to drill deep stratigraphic test wells or to conduct prospecting and geological and geophysical scientific research activities.	30 CFR 251.7(b)(9) 280.22	RS/RE with RS/FO concurrence (AK, GOM), C/REP (PAC)
3.82	Suspend or cancel permittee authorities to conduct geological and geological exploration, prospecting, or scientific research activities on unleased OCS lands.	30 CFR 251.9 280.25 280.27	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.83	Approve permittee requests for reimbursement for processing and reproduction costs of geological and geophysical data submitted.	30 CFR 251.13	C/REP (PAC) RS/RE (AK, GOM)
3.84	Issue public announcements when any significant hydrocarbon occurrences or environmental hazards are detected on unleased lands during drilling operations.	30 CFR 251.14(a)(4)	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.85	Transmit proprietary information under a geological and geophysical permit to affected States.	30 CFR 251.14(d)	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)

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Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.86	Approve publications of Summary Reports and Indexes of OCS Information.	30 CFR 252.4 252.5 256.10	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.87	Approve certificates of oil spill financial responsibility under OPA.	30 CFR 253	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.88	Require persons other than the Designated Applicants to demonstrate OSFR.	30 CFR 253.11(e)	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.89	Make OSFR determinations.	30 CFR 253.12	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.90	Approve OSFR evidence.	30 CFR 253.42 253.43	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.91	Approve demonstrations of OSFR under OPA.	30 CFR 253.43(a)	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.92	Refuse or invalidate OSFR evidence.	30 CFR 253.50	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.93	Determine dates of OSFR noncompliances.	30 CFR 253.51(b)	Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.94	Initiate consultations with affected States on leasing matters, including matters under OCSLA sections 8(g) and 19(e).	30 CFR 256.19 256.25 280.13	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.95	Transmit information in to Governors to identify areas within 3 miles of a State seaward boundary under consideration for leasing and areas believed to have oil or gas pools or fields underlying both the OCS and lands under State jurisdiction.	30 CFR 256.25 280.13	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.96	Receive and accept/reject bids for OCS tracts offered at lease sales.	30 CFR 256.47 281.21	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.97	Award/issue leases.	30 CFR 256.47 281.21	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.98	Approve bonds, additional bonds, or termination of bond liability.	30 CFR 256.52 thru 256-59	Regional Director or Chief, LAS/LE (AK,GOM), Regional Manager or C/EE (PAC)
3.99	Approve applications for assignments and accept relinquishments of leases.	30 CFR 256.62 256.64 256.76 281.40 281.41 281.46	RS/LE (AK), C/EE (PAC), Chief, LAS/LE (GOM)
3.100	Cancel non-producing leases or producing leases obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.	30 CFR 256.77(a), (c)	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.101	Validate State-issued leases qualifying under OCSLA section 6.	30 CFR 256.79	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)



AUTHORITIES REDELEGATED BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
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Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.102	Define regional environmental study needs.	30 CFR 256.82	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.103	Approve prospecting or scientific research plans for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 280.10 thru 280.12	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.104	Notify State Governors of receipt of permits or plan applications for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.4	RS/LE (GOM), C/FSE (PAC) and RS/RE (AK)
3.105	Notify Governors of adjacent States of submissions on delineation, testing, or mining plans for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.4(b)(1)	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.106	Approve, disapprove, or require modifications of lessee-submitted Delineation Plans, Testing Plans, and Mining Plans.	30 CFR 282.12 282.22 thru 282-24	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.107	Provide notifications of noncompliance and/or need for remedial action for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.14	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE , C/DO, or District Supervisor (PAC)
3.108	Determine need for Contingency Plans and approve modifications to such plans for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.26	RS/FO (AK, GOM), C/FSE (PAC)
3.109	Require additional environmental baseline data or modifications of environmental monitoring programs for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulphur.	30 CFR 282.28(b)	RS/FO (AK, GOM) C/EE (PAC)
3.110	Conduct surveys and establish boundaries necessary to administer offshore leasing.	43 U.S.C. 1334 218 DM 2.1	Chief, Offshore Minerals Survey Group
3.111	Establish OCS cadastre, official protraction diagrams, leasing maps, plats, and written records of surveys used in describing and depicting the offshore submerged public land areas of the United States.	43 U.S.C. 1334 218 DM 2.1	Chief, Offshore Minerals Survey Group
3.112	Notify companies of Fishermen's Contingency Fund claims in the vicinity of their operations, and send Declaration of Liability/Non-liability forms.	50 CFR 296.6(b)	Authorized MMS Official
3.113	Enter into unfunded agreements with State officials for the purpose of coordinating oil-spill prevention and control, response planning, and equipment inspection for facilities located seaward of the coastline.	218 DM 2.1.B	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.114	Provide response assistance to appropriate officials outside MMS for oil spills and hazardous substances.	218 DM 4	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.115	Coordinate reviews and comments on environmental statements and other environmental documents from other agencies.	516 DM 1	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.116	Sign categorical exclusion reviews for pre- and post-lease permitting actions.	516 DM2	C/RSS (GOM), RS/LE (AK, GOM), C/EAS/EE (PAC)

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Item No.	Authority	Citation(s)	Approval Level
3.117	Approve environmental assessments for pre- and post-lease permitting actions.	516 DM 3	C/RSS (GOM), RS/LE (AK, GOM), C/EE (PAC)
3.118	Make determinations to prepare Environmental Impact Statements for permitting-related actions.	516 DM6	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.119	Approve Environmental Impact Statements for permitting-related actions.	516 DM 6	Regional Director (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC)
3.120	Approve <u>Federal Register</u> Notices pertaining to Paperwork Reduction Act information collection activities.	MMSM 318.1.5B	Chief, EOD
3.121	Approve scientific and technical documents for publication: a. That originate at Headquarters, except those that express policy or are sensitive in nature. b. Whose scope or interest are solely regional, except those that express policy or are sensitive in nature.	MMSM 600.1	a. Deputy Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management. b. Regional Director (after regional editor certifies) (AK, GOM), Regional Manager (PAC).