

and submit meteorological data from a facility.

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### Subpart D—Oil and Gas Drilling Operations

#### § 250.400 Control of wells.

The lessee shall take necessary precautions to keep its wells under control at all times. The lessee shall utilize the best available and safest drilling technology in order to enhance the evaluation of conditions of abnormal pressure and to minimize the potential for the well to flow or kick. The lessee shall utilize personnel who are trained and competent and shall utilize and maintain equipment and materials necessary to assure the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources, and the environment.

#### § 250.401 General requirements.

(a) *Fitness of drilling unit.* (1) Drilling units shall be capable of withstanding the oceanographic, meteorological, and ice conditions for the proposed season and location of operations.

(2) Prior to commencing operation, drilling units shall be available for complete inspection by the District Supervisor.

(3) The lessee shall provide information and data on the fitness of the drilling unit to perform the proposed drilling operation. The information shall be submitted with or prior to the submission of Form MMS-123, Application for Permit to Drill (APD), in accordance with § 250.414. The District Supervisor may require the submission of a third-party review of the design of drilling units which are of a unique design and/or not proven for use in the proposed environment if the District Supervisor believes that the information submitted by the lessee is insufficient to demonstrate suitability of the unit for use at the proposed drill site. A design Certified Verification Agent approved in accordance with § 250.903 of this part shall be used for any required third-party review.

(b) *Drilling unit safety devices.* (1) No later than May 31, 1989, all drilling

units shall be equipped with a safety device which is designed to prevent the traveling block from striking the crown block. The device shall be checked for proper operation weekly and after each drill-line slipping operation. The results of the operational check shall be entered in the driller's report.

(2) No later than May 31, 1989, diesel-engine air intakes shall be equipped with a device to shut down the diesel engine in the event of runaway. Diesel engines which are continuously attended shall be equipped with either remote operated manual or automatic shutdown devices. Diesel engines which are not continuously attended shall be equipped with automatic shutdown devices.

(c) *Oceanographic, meteorological, and drilling unit performance data.* Where such information is not otherwise readily available, upon request of the District Supervisor, lessees shall collect and report oceanographic, meteorological, and drilling unit performance data, and monitor ice conditions, if applicable, during the period of operations. The type of information to be collected and reported will be determined by the District Supervisor in the interests of safe conduct of operations and the structural integrity of the drilling unit.

(d) *Foundation requirements.* When the lessee fails to provide sufficient information pursuant to §§ 250.203 and 250.204 of this part to support a determination that the seafloor is capable of supporting a specific bottom-founded drilling unit under the site-specific soil and oceanographic conditions, the District Supervisor may require that additional surveys and soil borings be performed and the results be submitted for review and evaluation by the District Supervisor before approval is granted for commencing drilling operations.

(e) *Tests, surveys, and samples.* (1) The lessee shall conduct tests, obtain well and mud logs or surveys, and take samples to determine the reservoir energy; the presence, quantity, and quality of oil, gas, sulphur, and water; and the amount of pressure in the formations penetrated. The lessee shall take formation samples or cores to determine