

### § 280.3

### 30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–00 Edition)

under section 6 of the Act and which authorizes exploration for, and development and production of, specific minerals or the area covered by that authorization.

*Material remains* means physical evidence of human habitation, occupation, use, or activity, including the site, location, or context in which such evidence is situated.

*Minerals* has the same meaning as the term is defined in section 2(q) of the Act.

*National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

*OCS minerals* means any mineral found on or below the surface of the seabed but does not include oil, gas, or sulphur.

*Of archaeological interest* means capable of providing scientific or humanistic understanding of past human behavior, cultural adaptation, and related topics through the application of scientific or scholarly techniques, such as controlled observation, contextual measurements, controlled collection, analysis, interpretation, and explanation.

*Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)* means all submerged lands lying seaward and outside of the area of lands beneath navigable waters as defined in section 2 of the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301) and of which the subsoil and seabed appertain to the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction and control.

*Permit* means the contract or agreement, other than a lease, approved pursuant to this part under which a person acquires the right to conduct prospecting or scientific research activities.

*Permittee* means the person authorized by a permit issued pursuant to this part to conduct prospecting or scientific research activities in the OCS.

*Person* means a citizen or national of the United States; an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residency in the United States as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20); a private, public, or municipal corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or territory thereof; and an association of such citizens, nationals, resi-

dent aliens, or private, public, or municipal corporations, States, or political subdivisions of States; or anyone operating in a manner provided for by treaty or other applicable international agreements. The term does not include Federal Agencies.

*Prospecting activities* means the gathering of any G&G data and information for the purpose of determining the feasibility of commercial recovery, which has as its objective the establishment and documentation of the nature, shape, concentration, location, and tenor of an OCS mineral resource. Such activities shall include (1) geophysical surveys where magnetic, gravity, seismic, or other systems are used to detect or imply the presence of minerals; and (2) the gathering through drilling or other means of geological samples which could be used for the purpose of discovering, characterizing, or evaluating OCS mineral deposits. Prospecting activities do not include G&G scientific research.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of the Interior or an official authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf.

*Significant archaeological resource* means those archaeological resources that meet the criteria of significance for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places as defined in 36 CFR 60.4.

[53 FR 25256, July 5, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 53094, Oct. 21, 1994]

#### § 280.3 Activities requiring a permit.

(a) No prospecting activities shall be conducted in the OCS without a permit approved by the Director pursuant to this part, unless such activities are being conducted pursuant to authority contained in a lease issued or maintained under part 256 or part 281 of this title or unless such activities are conducted by a Federal Agency.

(b) No person may conduct G&G scientific research activities in the OCS without a permit approved by the Director pursuant to this part if the proposed activities include either: (1) The drilling of a borehole to a depth greater than 300 feet below the seafloor; or (2) the use of solid or liquid explosives.

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(c) Any person may conduct G&G scientific research in the OCS without obtaining a permit pursuant to this part if—

(1) The activities will not interfere with or endanger operations under any lease or right-of-way maintained or issued pursuant to the Act;

(2) The activities will not be unduly harmful to aquatic life in the area; result in pollution; create hazardous or unsafe conditions; unreasonably interfere with other uses of the area; or disturb any site, structure, or object of historical or archaeological significance; and

(3) The person conducting the activities or operating the vessel from which the activities are to be conducted has consulted and coordinated the conduct of those activities with any other users of the area.

(d) The Director may orally approve plan revisions or issue emergency permits to accommodate unforeseen or special circumstances. Oral approvals given for a written application shall be followed with a written confirmation by MMS. In the event an oral approval is given in response to an oral request, the applicant shall confirm the oral request in writing within 72 hours of the approval.

### § 280.4 Term of permit.

Permits approved under this part shall be granted for a term not to exceed 3 years. The Director may extend the term of a permit for an additional period(s) of time not to exceed a total of 2 years when the Director determines that the additional time is appropriate based upon a showing of good cause by the permittee.

### § 280.5 Application for a prospecting or scientific research permit.

(a) An application for a prospecting or scientific research permit shall be submitted to the Director at least 60 days prior to the date proposed as the startup date for activities in the permit area.

(b)(1) An application for a prospecting permit shall be submitted in a form and manner approved by the Director. Three copies of each application shall be submitted and shall include—

(i) The name, address, and nationality of the person(s) submitting the application;

(ii) The name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) directly responsible for conducting the activities proposed;

(iii) A description and a map of the area(s) covered by the application;

(iv) The period of time to be covered by the primary term of the permit not to exceed 3 years;

(v) A narrative description in non-proprietary terms of the activities to be conducted, such as mapping, geophysical surveying, drilling, bottom sampling, and dredging;

(vi) A detailed description and schedule giving the estimated starting and completion dates for the proposed activities that are to be authorized under the permit; and

(vii) A prospecting plan.

(2) An applicant for a prospecting permit shall indicate which data and information included in the application and plan the applicant considers proprietary.

(c) Upon application submitted by a permittee pursuant to this section, the Director may approve the conversion of a permit issued under part 251 of this title to a permit issued under this part. A permit issued under part 251, which is converted to a permit issued under this part, shall be subject to all the requirements of this part.

(d) An application for a permit to conduct scientific research activities shall be submitted in a form approved by the Director. The application should be signed by an officer of the organization proposing to carry out the activity and shall state—

(1) The name of the person conducting the proposed research;

(2) The type of research activity and manner in which it will be conducted;

(3) The location designated on a map, plat, or chart where the research activity will be conducted;

(4) A schedule indicating the starting and completion dates for each proposed scientific research activity;

(5) The proposed time and manner in which the information and data resulting from the research will be made available to the public for inspection