

Minerals Management Service, Interior

§ 280.5

(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

§ 280.6

30 CFR Ch. II (7-1-00 Edition)

and reproduction, such time being the earliest practicable time;

(6) An agreement that the information and data resulting from the scientific research activity will not be sold or withheld for exclusive use;

(7) The name, registry number, registered owner, and port of registry of vessels used in the operation; and

(8) A scientific research plan.

(e) Within 30 days following the receipt of an application for a permit and the accompanying plan which does not require preparation of an environmental analysis the Director shall—

(1) Approve the application and plan;

(2) Require the applicant to modify the application and/or plan; or

(3) Disapprove the application and plan. If the Director disapproves an application and plan, the statement of rejection shall give the reasons for the disapproval and shall advise the applicant of the changes needed to obtain approval.

§ 280.6 Prospecting or scientific research plan.

(a) The applicant shall submit a plan with its application for a prospecting or scientific research permit. The plan shall include—

(1) Identification of the mineral(s) or material(s) of primary interest, if appropriate;

(2) A detailed description of the activities to be conducted;

(3) The type(s) of equipment to be used with special attention to safety and pollution prevention and control features and the name, registration, and mobile communication system of vessel(s);

(4) Maps showing location of proposed activities including drill holes, grab or basket samples, anticipated depth of penetration of drill holes, water depth, and location of proposed survey grids for each surveying method which is to be employed;

(5) A schedule indicating the starting and completion dates for each proposed activity;

(6) Anticipated environmental consequences of each proposed activity;

(7) Mitigation measures to be used to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts of proposed activities;

(8) For any activities which are to occur in an environmentally sensitive area, a plan for monitoring the effects of the activities on the environment;

(9) Any known archaeological resources in the area of the proposed activities; and

(10) Description of any potential conflicts with other uses or users in the permit area.

(b) If the penetration of one or more proposed drill holes will exceed 300 feet, the Director may require a drilling plan to be included as part of the plan before a permit is issued.

(c) If all needed information is not available at the time the plan is submitted, a plan shall indicate when the needed information will be obtained and submitted. In such a case, depending on the significance of the missing information, the Director may disapprove the plan, approve the plan based on the information submitted, or approve the plan with a specific condition that certain specified activities are not authorized and shall not be conducted until additional information is obtained and submitted for evaluation, and the Director gives specific approval to proceed with those activities.

§ 280.7 Obligations of persons.

(a) Activities authorized under a prospecting or scientific research permit issued under this part or research authorized pursuant to the provisions of § 280.5(c) of this part shall be conducted so as not to create conditions which will pose an unreasonable risk of—

(1) Interference with, or endangerment of, operations under any lease or permit issued or maintained pursuant to the Act;

(2) Serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life) or to the marine, coastal, or human environment;

(3) Serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to property or to any mineral (in areas leased or not leased);

(4) Pollution;

(5) Disturbance of archaeological resources;

(6) Hazardous or unsafe conditions; or

(7) Interference with or serious, irreparable, or immediate harm to other uses of the area.