

The Standard Lease Terms are contained in Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas, U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, October 1992 or later addition (BLM 1992). Form 3100-11 is standard nationwide and is applied to every lease issued under the Mineral Leasing Act by the BLM. The Standard Lease Terms provide the lessee the right to use the leased land as needed to explore for, drill for, extract, remove, and dispose of oil and gas deposits located under the leased lands. The Standard Lease Terms also require that operations be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, water, cultural, biological, and visual elements of the environment, as well as other land uses or users. Federal environmental protection laws such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Historic Preservation Act will be applied to all lands and operations and are included in the Standard Lease Terms. If threatened or endangered species; objects of historic, cultural, or scientific value; or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are encountered during construction, all work affecting the resource will stop, and the land management agency will be contacted.

2. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Stipulations are specific to oil and gas exploration, development, and production and are included in a lease offer in addition to the standard lease terms. They constitute significant restrictions on the conduct of operations under a lease. For example, a stipulation that does not allow permanent facilities within one-fourth mile of a bird nest could result in a well being located far enough from the (lessee's) optimum site to prevent an oil reservoir from being fully developed. Such restrictions must be attached to the lease. As part of a lease contract, lease stipulations are specific to the lease. All oil and gas activity permits subsequently issued to a lessee would include, as a condition of approval, lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review.

The following stipulations were adapted from oil and gas leasing stipulations developed for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). For example, a NPR-A stipulation designed to protect caribou from the Teshekpuk Lake Herd was modified to fit the parameters of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd within the planning area. Additional stipulations were developed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. Some stipulations were changed based on public or internal comment on the Draft RMP/EIS.

The Authorized Officer (AO) may add additional conditions of approval to a specific proposal if determined necessary through further NEPA analysis and as developed through consultation with other Federal and State regulatory and resource agencies. Laws or regulations may require other Federal, State, and local government permits for an oil and gas project to proceed. Specific State permits are required when the State has authority, under federal or State law or regulation, to enforce the provisions in question. Specific permits issued by Federal agencies other than BLM may include permit conditions that are more stringent than those included in this appendix.

Compliance with stipulations is monitored by the AO or their representative. Non-compliance is documented in an Incident of Non-Compliance. Based on the nature of the non-compliance, a time-frame may be established to correct the problem. If it is not corrected, the AO has the discretion on penalties, dependant upon the nature of the problem. Non-compliance can result in monetary fines or operation shut-down.

Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/EIS. ROPs were adapted and modified to fit the situation in the planning area. Finally, some of the ROPs were modified based on public and internal comment on the Draft RMP/EIS. ROPs will continue to evolve as better resource information is gained and/or changes in technology become available. ROPs may be modified as appropriate during the NEPA and permitting process to fit site specific conditions.

The AO or his/her representative is responsible for seeing that the permittee complies with the conditions of the permit. Non-compliance will be documented and a notice will be sent to the permittee, along with corrective actions and a time frame in which the actions are to be completed.

