

§ 280.25

- (i) Hard mineral, hydrocarbon, or sulphur occurrences encountered;
 - (ii) Environmental hazards; and
 - (iii) Adverse effects of the G&G prospecting or scientific research activities on the environment, aquatic life, archaeological resources, or other uses of the area in which the activities were conducted.
- (5) Other descriptions of the activities conducted as specified by the RD.

INTERRUPTED ACTIVITIES

§ 280.25 When may MMS require me to stop activities under this part?

(a) We may temporarily stop prospecting or scientific research activities under a permit when the RD determines that:

(1) Activities pose a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm. This includes damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life), property, and any minerals (in areas leased or not leased), to the marine, coastal, or human environment, or to an archaeological resource;

(2) You failed to comply with any applicable law, regulation, order or provision of the permit. This would include our required submission of reports, well records or logs, and G&G data and information within the time specified; or

(3) Stopping the activities is in the interest of national security or defense.

(b) The RD will advise you either orally or in writing of the procedures to temporarily stop activities. We will confirm an oral notification in writing and deliver all written notifications by courier or certified/registered mail. You must stop all activities under a permit as soon as you receive an oral or written notification.

§ 280.26 When may I resume activities?

The RD will advise you when you may start your permit activities again.

§ 280.27 When may MMS cancel my permit?

The RD may cancel a permit at any time.

(a) If we cancel your permit, the RD will advise you by certified or registered mail 30 days before the can-

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cellation date and will state the reason.

(b) After we cancel your permit, you are still responsible for proper abandonment of any drill site according to the requirements of 30 CFR 251.7(b)(8). You must comply with all other obligations specified in this part or in the permit.

§ 280.28 May I relinquish my permit?

(a) You may relinquish your permit at any time by advising the RD by certified or registered mail 30 days in advance.

(b) After you relinquish your permit, you are still responsible for proper abandonment of any drill sites according to the requirements of 30 CFR 251.7(b)(8). You must also comply with all other obligations specified in this part or in the permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

§ 280.29 Will MMS monitor the environmental effects of my activity?

We will evaluate the potential of proposed prospecting or scientific research activities for adverse impact on the environment to determine the need for mitigation measures.

§ 280.30 What activities will not require environmental analysis?

We anticipate that activities of the type listed below typically will not cause significant environmental impact and will normally be categorically excluded from additional environmental analysis. The types of activities include:

(a) Gravity and magnetometric observations and measurements;

(b) Bottom and subbottom acoustic profiling or imaging without the use of explosives;

(c) Hard minerals sampling of a limited nature such as shallow test drilling;

(d) Water and biotic sampling, if the sampling does not adversely affect shellfish beds, marine mammals, or an endangered species or if permitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service or another Federal agency;

(e) Meteorological observations and measurements, including the setting of instruments;