UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

September 3, 2003

To: Public Information (MS 5034)

From: Plan Coordinator, FO, Plans Section (MS 5231)

Subject: Public Information copy of plan

Control #	-	N-07868
Type	-	Initial Exploration Plan
Lease(s)	-	OCS-G15444 Block - 961 Viosca Knoll Area OCS-G15445 Block - 962 Viosca Knoll Area
Operator	-	Mariner Energy, Inc.
Description	-	Subsea Well B
Rig Type	-	SEMISUBMERSIBLE

Attached is a copy of the subject plan.

It has been deemed submitted as of this date and is under review for approval.

Michelle Griffitt
Plan Coordinator

Site Type/Name	Botm Lse/Area/Blk	Surface Location	Surf Lse/Area/Blk
WELL/B	G15444/VK/961	7233 FNL, 1918 FWL	G15445/VK/962

NOTED - SCHEXNAILDRE

N-7868 – Exploration Plan, Mariner Energy, Viosca Knoll Block 961/962

Plan is on attached CD. On Page 1 of Activity Schedule Replace Well A to Well B.
On Page 24, Section H, EIA, 2nd Parag. 3rd line, replace TANA with Mariner

Mimi

CONTROL No. N-7868
REVIEWER: Michelle Griffitt
PHONE: (504) 736-2975

SECTION A. PLAN CONTENTS

A. Description, Objectives and Schedule

Lease OCS-G 15444, Viosca Knoll Block 961 was acquired by Amoco Production Company at the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale No. 152 held on May 10, 1995. The lease was issued with an effective date of July 1, 1995 and a primary term ending date of June 30, 2005.

The current lease operatorship and ownership are as follows:

Area/Block Lease No.	Operator	Ownership
Viosca Knoll Block 961	The Dow Chemical Company Mariner Energy, Inc.	BP Exploration & Production, Inc.

Mariner Energy, Inc. (Mariner) proposes to drill and potentially complete Subsea Well Location B in Viosca Knoll Block 961 from a surface location in Viosca Knoll Block 962.

Information pertaining to the geological targets, including a narrative of trapping features, is included as ***Attachment A-1.***

Mariner proposes to conduct the proposed operations as outlined in the following activity schedule:

Proposed Activity	*Start Up Date*	*Completion Date*
Drill Subsea Well Location B	12/15/2003	01/15/2004
Complete Subsea Well Location B	03/05/2004	04/05/2004
Test Subsea Well Location B	04/06/2004	04/07/2007

B. Location

Included as ***Attachments A-2 through A-5*** is Form MMS-137 "OCS Plan Information Form", Well Location Plat, Bathymetry Map detailing the proposed well surface location and the Seafloor Rendering Map (Original copy only) showing anchor pattern radius of the MODU.

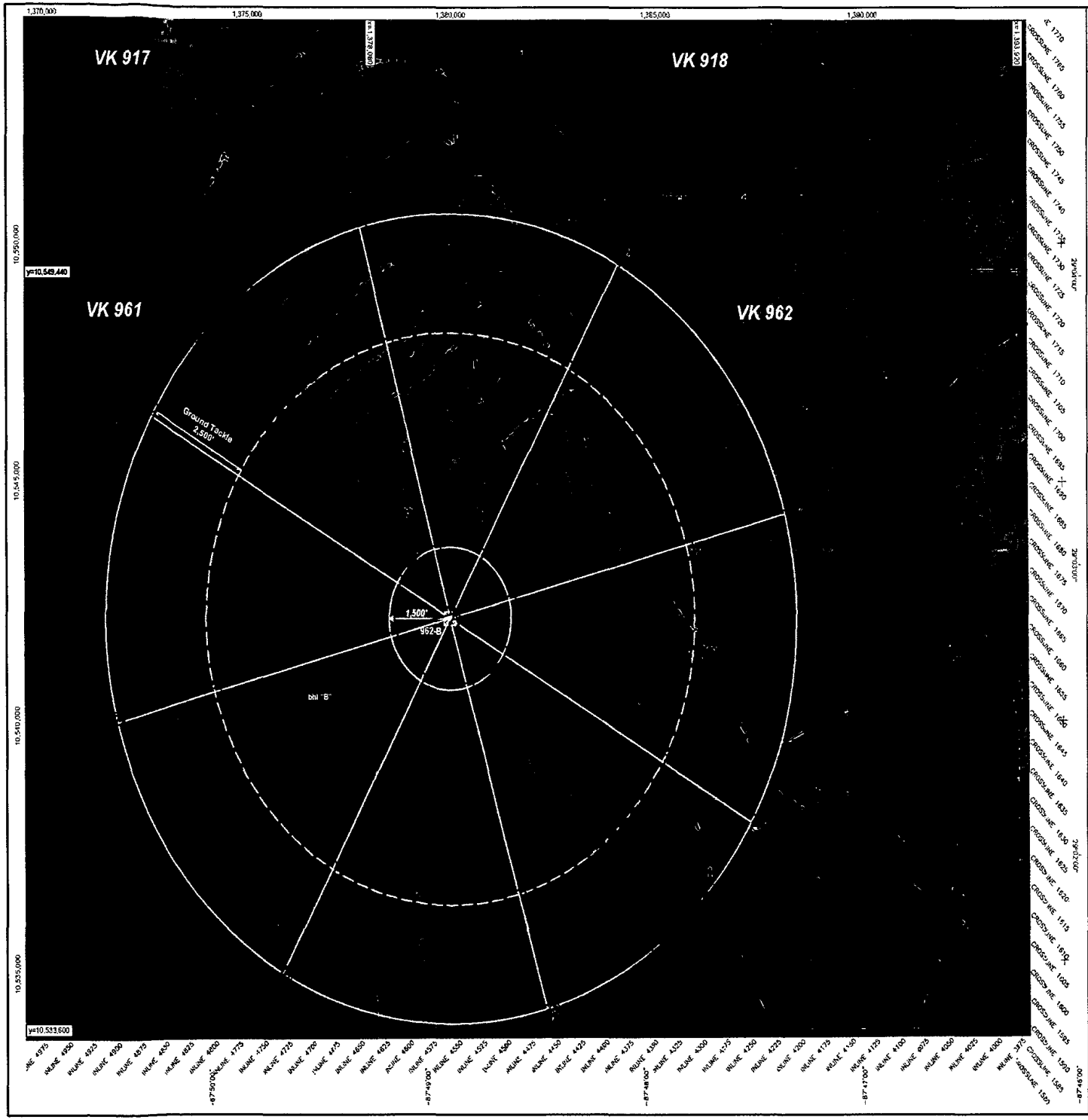
natural or antrhropogenic sources. Few lethal effects are expected from accidental oil spill, chance collisions with service vessels and ingestion of plastic material.

The net results of any disturbance would depend on the size and percentage of the population affected, ecological importance of the disturbed area, environmental and biological parameters that influence an animal's sensitivity to disturbance and stress, and the accommodation time in response to prolonged disturbance (Geraci and St. Aubin), 1980). Collisions between cetaceans and ship could cause serious injury or death (Laist et al., 2001). Sperm whales are one of 11 whale species that are him commonly by ships (Laist et al., 2001). Collisions between OCS vessels and cetaceans within the project area are expected to be unusual events.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Mariner will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality. Additionally, Mariner and its contractors will conduct the proposed activities under the additional criteria addressed by MMS in Notice to Lessee's (NTL's) 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination".

8. Sea Turtles

As a result of the proposed activities, sea turtles may be adversely impacted by traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, cumulative similar discharges, and loss of trash and debris. Small numbers of turtles could be killed or injured by chance collision with service vessels or by eating indigestible trash, particularly plastic items accidentally lost from drilling rigs, production facilities and service vessels. Drilling rigs and project vessels (construction barges) produce noise that could disrupt normal behavior patterns and crease some stress to sea turtles, making them more susceptible to disease. Accidental oil spill releases are potential threats which could have lethal effects on turtles. Contact and/or consumption of this released material could seriously affect individual sea turtles. Most OCS related impacts on sea turtles are expected to be sublethal. Chronic and/or avoidance of effected areas could cause declines in survival or productivity, resulting in gradual population declines.



Anchor Mooring Pattern
Drill Site VK 962-1 & 962-B

N

LEGEND

- Proposed drill sites.
  - #1 X = 1,380,149 Y = 10,542,320
  - B X = 1,379,998 Y = 10,542,207
- Seafloor fault.
- Landslide scarp.
- Shallow rotational slump scarp, hatchures show direction of scarp dip.
- Zone of failure scarps.
- Surficial landslide.

Low — Relative Amplitudes — High

Map features reproduced from Shallow Hazards Report of Viosca Knoll Blocks 917, 818, 961, 962 produced by FUGRO-McClelland Marine Geosciences, Inc. for AMOCO Exploration and Production, June 17, 1998.

ANCHOR CONFIGURATION

Anchor array based on 45° spread. Ship's heading 330°. Anchor length 8,500' of which 2,500' is ground tackle. Drill site encompassed by 1,500' radius.

ANCHOR COORDINATES 962-1

anchor #	X UTM 16	Y UTM 16	Bearing N = 0°	anchor length in feet
1	1,377,946.5	10,550,525.5	345	8,500
2	1,384,272.5	10,549,749.5	29	8,500
3	1,388,366.5	10,544,509.5	75	8,500
4	1,387,510.5	10,538,051.5	120	8,500
5	1,382,490.5	10,534,133.5	164	8,500
6	1,376,026.5	10,534,869.5	209	8,500
7	1,371,932.5	10,540,107.5	255	8,500
8	1,372,782.5	10,546,561.5	300	8,500

ANCHOR COORDINATES 962-B

anchor #	X UTM 16	Y UTM 16	Bearing N = 0°	anchor length in feet
1	1,377,800.5	10,550,412	345	8,500
2	1,384,118.5	10,549,638	29	8,500
3	1,388,212.5	10,544,402	75	8,500
4	1,387,362.5	10,537,944	120	8,500
5	1,382,336.5	10,534,026	164	8,500
6	1,375,874.5	10,534,766	209	8,500
7	1,371,782.5	10,538,998	255	8,500
8	1,372,630.5	10,546,454	300	8,500

SCALE 1" = 1,000'

0' 1,000' 2,000' 3,000'

MARINER ENERGY, INC.

Seafloor Amplitudes & Hazards

Swordfish Prospect
Viosca Knoll Block 962
OCS-G-15445

Gulf of Mexico

Anchor Pattern by Trabant & Associates
Map Projection: UTM Zone 16
Datum: NAD 1927
Spheroid Clarke 1866
Map Units in Feet

April 2003

MARINER ENERGY, INC.

2101 Citywest Blvd. Suite 1900 Houston, Texas 77042-3020 Tel (281) 584-5500 Fax (281) 584-5555

August 14, 2003

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Attention: Mr. Nick Wetzel
Plans Unit

RE: Initial Exploration Plan for Lease OCS-G 15444, Viosca Knoll Block 961 (***Swordfish Prospect)***, OCS Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico, Offshore, Louisiana and Alabama

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 30 CFR 250.203 and that certain Notice to Lessees (NTL 2000-G21), Mariner Energy, Inc. (Mariner) hereby submits for your review and approval ten (10) copies of an Initial Exploration Plan (Plan) for Lease OCS-G 15444, Viosca Knoll Block 961, Offshore, Louisiana and Alabama. Five (5) copies are "Proprietary Information", and five (5) copies are "Public Information".

Excluded from the Public Information copies are certain geologic and geophysical discussions and attachments.

Contingent upon receiving regulatory approvals and based on equipment and personnel availability, Mariner anticipates operations under this Plan commencing as early as December 15, 2003.

Should additional information be required, please contact the undersigned, or our regulatory consultant, R.E.M. Solutions, Inc., Attention: Connie Goers at 281.492.8562.

Sincerely,

MARINER ENERGY, INC.

Public Information

Blaine E. Dinger

Blaine E. Dinger
Manager, Environmental, Health & Safety

BED:CAG
Attachments

MARINER ENERGY, INC.
2101 Citywest Blvd., Suite 1900
Houston, Texas 77042-3020

Blaine E. Dinger
bdinger@mariner-energy.com

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

LEASE OCS-G 15444

VIOSCA KNOLL BLOCK 961

(SWORDFISH PROSPECT)

PREPARED BY:

Connie Goers
R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.
17171 Park Row, Suite 390
Houston, Texas 77084
281.492.8562 (Phone)
281.492.6117 (Fax)
connie@remsolutionsinc.com

DATED:

August 14, 2003

SECTION A
PLAN CONTENTS

A. Description, Objectives and Schedule

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Mariner Energy, Inc. (Mariner) proposes to drill and potentially complete Subsea Well Location B in Viosca Knoll Block 961 from a surface location in Viosca Knoll Block 962.

Information pertaining to the geological targets, including a narrative of trapping features, is included as ***Attachment A-1.***

Mariner proposes to conduct the proposed operations as outlined in the following activity schedule:

Proposed Activity	*Start Up Date*	*Completion Date*
Drill Subsea Well Location B	12/15/2003	01/15/2004
Complete Subsea Well Location A	03/05/2004	04/05/2004
Test Subsea Well Location A	04/06/2004	04/07/2007

B. Location

Included as ***Attachments A-2 through A-5*** is Form MMS-137 "OCS Plan Information Form", Well Location Plat, Bathymetry Map detailing the proposed well surface location and the Seafloor Rendering Map (Original copy only) showing anchor pattern radius of the MODU.

C. Drilling Unit

Mariner will utilize the Homer Ferrington semi-submersible drilling rig for the proposed drilling, completion and potential testing operations provided for in this Plan. Actual rig specifications will be included with the Application for Permit to Drill.

Safety of personnel and protection of the environment during the proposed operations is of primary concern with Mariner, and mandates regulatory compliance with the contractors and vendors associated with the proposed operations as follows:

Minerals Management Service regulations contained in Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subparts C, D, E, G and O mandate the operations comply with well control, pollution prevention, construction and welding procedures as described in Title 30 CFR Part 250, Subparts C, D, E, G and O; and as further clarified by MMS Notices to Lessees.

Minerals Management Service conducts periodic announced and unannounced onsite inspections of offshore facilities to confirm operators are complying with lease stipulations, operating regulations, approved plans, and other conditions; as well as to assure safety and pollution prevention requirements are being met. The National Potential Incident of Noncompliance (PINC) List serves as the baseline for these inspections.

U. S. Coast Guard regulations contained in Title 33 CFR mandate the appropriate life rafts, life jackets, ring buoys, etc., be maintained on the facility at all times.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations contained in the NPDES General Permit GMG290000 mandate that supervisory and certain designated personnel on-board the facility be familiar with the effluent limitations and guidelines for overboard discharges into the receiving waters.

Geological Targets and Trapping Features

Attachment A-1
(Proprietary Information)

OCS Plan Information Form

Attachment A-2
(Public Information)

OMB Control No. 1010-0049
Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

OCS PLAN INFORMATION FORM
(USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH LEASE)

EXPLORATION PLAN		DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DOCUMENT	X	DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION PLAN	

OPERATOR:	**Mariner Energy, Inc.**	ADDRESS:	**2101 Citywest Boulevard, Suite 1900, Houston, Texas 77042**
MMS OPERATOR NO.:	**00818**		
CONTACT PERSON:	**Connie Goers at R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.**	PHONE NO.	**281.492.8562**

PROPOSED START DATE: **12/15/2003**	RIG TYPE: **SS**	DISTANCE TO CLOSEST LAND (IN MILES): **75**

NEW OR UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGY	YES		NO	X	ONSHORE SUPPORT BASE:	**Venice, LA**

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: **Drill, complete and test one (1) subsea well.**

PROJECT NAME, IF APPLICABLE: **Ochre**

PROPOSED WELL/STRUCTURE LOCATIONS

WELL / STRUCTURE NAME	SURFACE LOCATION	BOTTOM-HOLE LOCATION (FOR WELLS)
Subsea Well B	CALLS: **7233'** F **N** L and **1918'** F **W** L OF LEASE OCS **G 15445** , **Viosca Knoll** AREA, BLOCK **962**	CALLS: LEASE OCS **G 15444** , **Viosca Knoll** AREA, BLOCK **961**
Name:	X: **1,379,998'** Y: **10,542,207'**	X: Y:
	LAT: **29°02'48.5575"** LONG: **-87°48'55.0219"**	LAT: LONG:
	TVD (IN FEET):	MD (IN FEET): / WATER DEPTH (IN FEET): **4677'**

Well Location Plat

Attachment A-3
(Public Information)

961

962

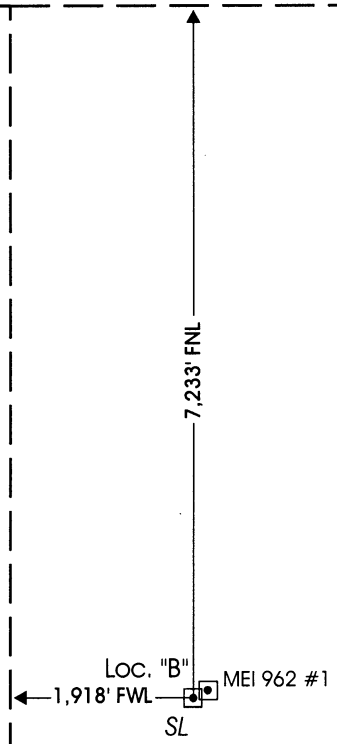
Y = 10,549,440'

MARINER ENERGY, INC.

VIOSCA KNOLL 962
OCS-G 15445
Location "B"
Surface Location Map

1" = 2000'

05-06-03



Location "B"
Surface Location

X = 1,379,998'
Y = 10,542,207'
Lat. = 29° 02' 48.5575"
Long. = -87° 48' 55.0219"

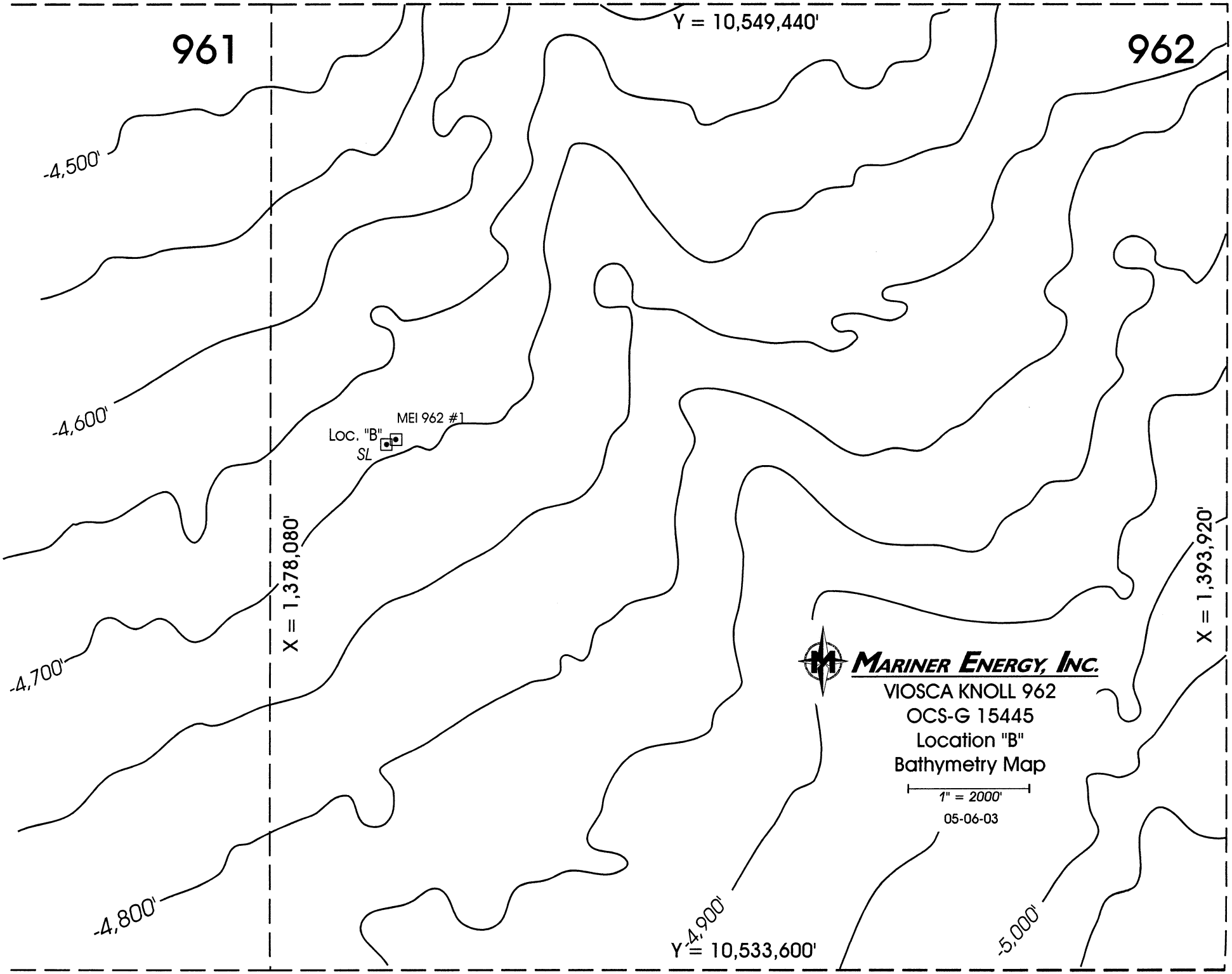
X = 1,378,080'

X = 1,393,920'

Y = 10,533,600'

Bathymetry Map

Attachment A-4
(Public Information)


961
962
Y = 10,549,440'
-4,500'
-4,600'
-4,700'
-4,800'
-4,900'
-5,000'
MEI 962 #1
Loc. "B"
SL
X = 1,378,080'
X = 1,393,920'
Y = 10,533,600'
MARINER ENERGY, INC.
VIOSCA KNOLL 962
OCS-G 15445
Location "B"
Bathymetry Map
1" = 2000'
05-06-03

Seafloor Rendering Map
(Original Copy Only)

Attachment A-5
(Public Information)

SECTION B
General Information

A. Contact

Questions or requests for additional information should be made to Mariner's authorized representative for this project:

Connie Goers
R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.
17171 Park Row, Suite 390
Houston, Texas 77084
281.492.8562 (Phone)
281.492.6117 (Fax)
connie@remsolutionsinc.com

B. New or Unusual Technology

Mariner does not propose using any new and/or unusual technology for the operations proposed in this Plan.

C. Bonding Information

In accordance with Title 30 CFR Part 256, Subpart I, Mariner has on file with the Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Regional Office a $3,000,000 Areawide Development Bond.

As deemed warranted, Minerals Management Service will contact the designated operator in the event a supplemental bond is required for the proposed operations, as outlined in Notice to Lessees (NTL) 2003-N06 to cover plugging liability of the wellbores, removal of associated well protector structures and site clearance.

BP Exploration & Production, Inc., as a lessee of record on the subject oil and gas lease, is on the Minerals Management Service exempt list for supplemental bonding.

D. Onshore Base and Support Vessels

The proposed surface disturbance in Viosca Knoll Block 962 will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline, and approximately 95 miles from the onshore support base to be located in Venice, Louisiana.

SECTION B
General Information - Continued

Mariner will use an existing onshore base to accomplish the following routine operations:

- Loading/Offloading point for equipment supporting the offshore operations,
- Dispatching personnel and equipment, and does not anticipate the need for any expansion of the selected facilities as a result of the activities proposed in this Plan,
- Temporary storage for materials and equipment
- 24-Hour Dispatcher

Personnel involved in the proposed operations will typically use their own vehicles as transportation to and from the selected onshore base; whereas the selected vendors will transport the equipment by a combination of trucks, boats and/or helicopters to the onshore base. The personnel and equipment will then be transported to the drilling rig via the transportation methods and frequencies shown below, taking the most direct route feasible as mandated by weather and traffic conditions:

Support Vessel	Drilling and Completion Trips Per Week
Crew Boat	10
Supply Boat	7
Helicopter	21

The proposed operations are temporary in nature and do not require any immediate action to acquire additional land, expand existing base facilities.

A Vicinity Plat showing the surface location in Viosca Knoll Block 962 relative to the shoreline and onshore base is included as ***Attachment B-1.***

E. Lease Stipulations

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Minerals Management Service is charged with the responsibility of managing and regulating the exploration and development on the OCS.

As part of the regulatory process, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared for each lease sale, at which time mitigation measures are addressed in the form of lease stipulations, which then become part of the oil and gas lease terms and are therefore enforceable as part of that lease.

SECTION B
General Information - Continued

As part of this process, the designated operator proposing to conduct related exploratory and development activities, must review the applicable lease stipulations, as well as other special conditions, which may be imposed by the Minerals Management Service, and other governing agencies.

The surface location in Viosca Knoll Block 962 and Viosca Knoll Block 961 are subject to the following such stipulation and conditions:

Military Warning Area

The hold and save harmless section of the Military Areas Stipulation serves to protect the U.S. Government from liability in the event of an accident involving the designated oil and gas lease operator and military activities.

The electromagnetic emissions section of the stipulation requires the operator and its agents to reduce and curtail the use of radio or other equipment emitting electromagnetic energy within some areas.

This serves to reduce the impact of oil and gas activity on the communications of military missions and reduces the possible effects of electromagnetic energy transmissions on missile testing, tracking, and detonation.

The operational section requires notification to the military of oil and gas activity to take place within a military use area. This allows the base commander to plan military missions and maneuvers that may avoid the areas where oil and gas activities are taking place or to schedule around these activities. Prior notification helps reduce the potential impacts associated with vessels and helicopters traveling unannounced through areas where military activities are underway.

The Military Areas Stipulation reduces potential impacts, particularly in regards to safety, but does not reduce or eliminate the actual physical presence of oil and gas operations in areas where military operations are conducted.

The reduction in potential impacts resulting from this stipulation makes multiple-use conflicts most unlikely. Without the stipulation, some potential conflict is likely. The best indicator of the overall effectiveness of the stipulation may be that there has never been an accident involving a conflict between military operations and oil and gas activities.

SECTION B
General Information - Continued

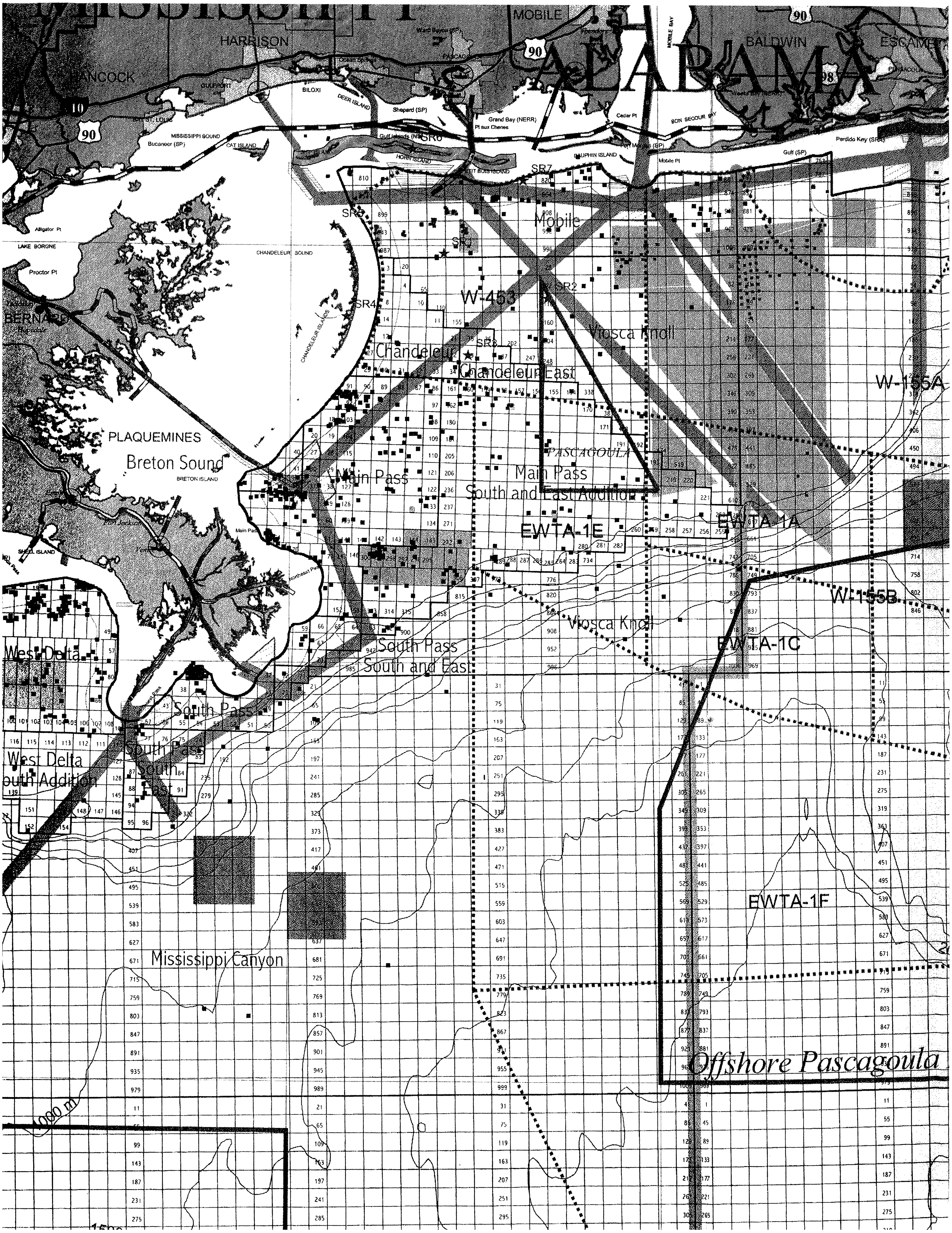
The proposed surface disturbance in Viosca Knoll Block 962 is located within the Eglin Water Test Area No. 1 and the Military Warning Area W-155. Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the referenced stipulation, Mariner will contact the Air Armament Center, Programs Division, Eglin Air Fore Base, Florida, and the Naval Air Station, Naval Air Training, Office No. 206 in Corpus Christi, Texas in order to coordinate and control the electromagnetic emissions during the proposed operations.

Special Conditions

Mariner may potentially complete Subsea Well Location B as a subsea completion. In this event, Mariner will follow the guidelines of the applicable Notice to Lessees (NTL's) 2000-N05 and 2000-N06, which mandates the submittal and approval of separate regulatory filings entitled as a "Conservation Information Document" and a "Deepwater Operations Plan", respectively.

Vicinity Plat

Attachment B-1
(Public Information)


MOBILE
HARRISON
BALDWIN
HANCOCK
ALABAMA
Mississippi Sound
Chandeleur Sound
Lake Borgne
Plaquemines
Breton Sound
Breton Island
Mobile
Viosca Knoll
W-453
Chandeleur
Chandeleur East
Main Pass
Main Pass South and East Addition
Pascagoula
EWTA-1E
EWTA-1A
EWTA-1C
EWTA-1F
W-155A
W-155B
South Pass South and East
South Pass
West Delta
West Delta South Addition
Mississippi Canyon
Offshore Pascagoula
SR2
SR3
SR4
SR5
SR6
SR7

SECTION C
Geological, Geophysical & H2S Information

A. Structure Contour Maps

Included as ***Attachment C-1*** are current structure maps (depth base and expressed in feet subsea) depicting the entire lease coverage area; drawn on the top of each prospective hydrocarbon sand. The maps depict the proposed bottom hole location and applicable geological cross section.

B. Interpreted Deep Seismic Lines

Included as ***Attachment C-2*** is a page size copy of the migrated and annotated (shot point, time lines, well paths) of the deep seismic line within 500 feet of the surface location.

C. Geological Structure Cross Sections

An interpreted geological cross section depicting the proposed well location and depth of the proposed well is included as ***Attachment C-3.*** Such cross section corresponds to the seismic line being submitted.

D. Shallow Hazards/Archaeological Reports

Fugro-McClelland Marine Geosciences conducted a survey across Viosca Knoll Blocks 962 and 917 during 1998 on behalf of Amoco Exploration and Production. It was augmented by limited deeptow data acquired by Racal, NCS Inc. and Williamson and Associated for Amoco in 1998. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate geologic conditions and inspect for potential hazards or constraints to lease development.

In conjunction with this geophysical survey, an archaeological survey and report was also prepared to comply with the requirements of NTL 2002-G01, as the surface disturbance area in Viosca Knoll Block 962 is located within a low probability area for potential archaeological resources. This requirement provides protection of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources by requiring remote sensing surveys in areas designated to have a high probability for archaeological resources.

Copies of these reports have been previously submitted to the Minerals Management Service under separate cover.

E. Shallow Hazards Assessment

Utilizing the 3D deep seismic exploration data a shallow hazards analysis was prepared for the proposed surface locations, evaluating seafloor and subsurface geologic and manmade features and conditions, and is included as ***Attachment C-4.***

SECTION C
Geological, Geophysical & H2S Information-Continued

F. High Resolution Seismic Lines

Utilizing the 3D seismic exploration data, a shallow hazards analysis was prepared for the proposed surface location, evaluating seafloor and subsurface geologic and manmade features and conditions.

G. Stratigraphic Column

A generalized biostratigraphic/lithostratigraphic column from the seafloor to the total depth of the proposed well is included as ***Attachment C-5.***

H. Time Vs. Depth Tables

Mariner has determined that there is existing sufficient well control data for the target areas proposed in this plan; therefore, tables providing seismic time versus depth for the proposed well location is not required.

I. Hydrogen Sulfide Classification

In accordance with Title 30 CFR 250.417, Mariner requests that Viosca Knoll Block 961 be classified by the Minerals Management Service as an area where the absence of hydrogen sulfide has been confirmed based on the following well which was drilled to the stratigraphic equivalent of the wells proposed in this Plan:

Lease	*Area/Block*	*Well No.*	*Stratigraphic Equivalent*
G 15445	VK 962	001	Mid-Miocene Text W

Structure Maps

Attachment C-1
(Proprietary Information)

Deep Seismic Lines

Attachment C-2
(Proprietary Information)

Cross Section Maps

Attachment C-3
(Proprietary Information)

Shallow Hazards Statement

Attachment C-4
(Public Information)

Viosca Knoll Block 962 Drill Site B

Water Depth	X (Zone 16)	Y (Zone16)	Easting	Northing
~4,677 ft	1,379,998 ft E	10,542,207 ft N	1,918 ft FWL	7,233 ft FNL

Seafloor amplitudes extracted from 3D exploration seismic data over Drill Site 962-B reveal a north-south linear low relative amplitude anomaly north of site that represents the margin of a slump scarp (solid black line) that offsets the seafloor by up to 50 feet.

Small curvilinear low relative amplitude anomalies north of site are the product of small rotational slump scarps (dashed black lines) that offset the seafloor by up to ten-feet and extend a few tens of feet below the seafloor. An area of chaotic seafloor sediments produced by slumping lies 4,800 feet to the east and may contain stiffer sediments than adjacent areas.

Sediments at the seafloor should consist of soft clays that become stiffer within the slump-disturbed "surficial landslide" zone to the east.

A 1,500-foot radius is drawn around the proposed drill site to display the area that could be impacted by muds and cuttings discharge and drilling activity, no seismic reflector indicators of chemosynthetic environments are present within the mapped area.

No features or areas that could support high-density chemosynthetic communities are present within 500 feet of anchors and ground tackle.

Anchor positions Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are located within an area of recently disturbed sediments ("surficial landslide and failure scarps" of FGSI, 1998) emphasized by distorted amplitudes at the seafloor. These anchors will be placed within stiffer sediments than those in non slump-affected areas.

All seafloor areas that will be impacted by anchors and ground tackle are clear of seafloor hazards and environmentally sensitive chemosynthetic habitats.

Stratigraphic Column

Attachment C-5
(Proprietary Information)

SECTION D
Biological Information

A. Chemosynthetic Information

The proposed seafloor disturbing activities vary in water depths from 4500 feet to 5000 feet.

MAPS

Submitted under separate cover are the maps prepared using high resolution seismic information and/or 3-D seismic data to depict bathymetry, seafloor and shallow geological features, surface location of the proposed well, positions of anchors and chains relative to the proposed operations, and a radius circle of 1500 feet around the location.

ANALYSIS

Submitted under separate cover is the analysis of seafloor features and areas that could be disturbed by the activities proposed in this Plan.

Well Location B and the associated anchor pattern:

Features or areas that could support high-density chemosynthetic communities are not located within 500 feet of each proposed muds and cuttings discharge location.

Features or areas that could support high-density chemosynthetic communities are not located within 500 feet of any seafloor disturbances resulting from our use of anchors (including those caused by anchors, anchor chains, and wire ropes).

B. Topographic Features Information

MMS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have entered into a programmatic consultation agreement for Essential Fish Habitat that requires that no bottom disturbing activities, including anchors or cables from a semi-submersible drilling rig, may occur within 500 feet of the no-activity zone of a topographic feature. If such proposed bottom disturbing activities are within 500 feet of a no activity zone, the MMS is required to consult with the NMFS.

The activities proposed in this Plan are not affected by a topographic feature.

SECTION D
Biological Information-Continued

C. Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Information

Certain leases are located in areas characterized by the existence of live bottoms. Live bottom areas are defined as seagrass communities; those areas that contain biological assemblages consisting of sessile invertebrates living upon and attached to naturally occurring hard or rocky formations with rough, broken, or smooth topography; and areas where the lithotope favors the accumulation of turtles, fishes, or other fauna. These leases contain a Live Bottom Stipulation to ensure that impacts from nearby oil and gas activities on these live bottom areas are mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

For each affected lease, the Live Bottom Stipulation requires that you prepare a live bottom survey report containing a bathymetry map prepared by using remote sensing techniques. This report must be submitted to the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) before you may conduct any drilling activities or install any structure, including lease term pipelines in accordance with NTL 99-G16.

The surface disturbance area in Viosca Knoll Block 962 is not located within the vicinity of a proposed live bottom area.

D. Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV Surveys)

Pursuant to NTL No. 2003-G03, operators my be required to conduct remote operated vehicle (ROV) surveys during pre-spudding and post-drilling operations for the purpose of biological and physical observations.

Mariner is familiar with the ROV survey and reporting provisions of this NTL; and if required, will conduct surveys immediately prior to commencing drilling operations on Subsea Well Location B with an anticipated spud date of December 15, 2003, and following the completion of drilling operations approximately 32 days later.

Mariner will utilize the Homer Ferrington rig based ROV equipped with video imaging capabilities. The survey pattern will consist of six transects centered on the well location with tracks extending approximately 100 meters away from the well on bearing of 30 degrees, 90 degrees, 150 degrees, 210 degrees, 270 degrees and 330 degrees. The seafloor will be videotaped continuously along each track.

Mariner will make biological and physical observations as described in the subject NTL and Form MMS-141 prior to commencing drilling operations and also following the completion of drilling operations, but prior to moving the rig off location. The observations will be documented using Form MMS-141 or a facsimile and submitted to the MMS within 60 days after the second survey is completed.

SECTION E
Wastes and Discharge/Disposal Information

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate the overboard discharge and/or disposal of operational waste associated with drilling, completing, testing and/or production operations from oil and gas exploration and production activities.

Minerals Management Service regulations contained in Title 30 CFR 250.300 require operators to "prevent the unauthorized discharge of pollutants into offshore waters". These same regulations prohibit the intentional disposal of "equipment, cables, chains, containers, or other materials" offshore. Small items must be stored and transported in clearly marked containers and large objects must be individually marked. Additionally, items lost overboard must be recorded in the facility's daily log and reported to MMS as appropriate.

U. S. Coast Guard regulations implement the Marine Pollution Research and Control Act (MARPOL) of 1987 requiring manned offshore rigs, platforms and associated vessels prohibit the dumping of all forms of solid waste at sea with the single exception of ground food wastes, which can be discharged if the facility is beyond 12 nautical miles from the nearest shore. This disposal ban covers all forms of solid waste including plastics, packing material, paper, glass, metal, and other refuse. These regulations also require preparation, monitoring and record keeping requirements for garbage generated on board these facilities. The drilling contractor must maintain a Waste Management Plan, in addition to preparation of a Daily Garbage Log for the handling of these types of waste. MODU's are equipped with bins for temporary storage of certain garbage. Other types of waste, such as food, may be discharged overboard if the discharge can pass through 25-millimeter type mesh screen. Prior to off loading and/or overboard disposal, an entry will be made in the Daily Garbage Log stating the approximate volume, the date of action, name of the vessel, and destination point.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations address the disposal of oil and gas operational wastes under three Federal Acts. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) which provides a framework for the safe disposal of discarded materials, regulating the management of solid and hazardous wastes. The direct disposal of operational wastes into offshore waters is limited under the authority of the Clean Water Act. And, when injected underground, oil and gas operational wastes are regulated by the Underground Injection Control program. If any wastes are classified as hazardous, they are to be properly transported using a uniform hazardous waste manifest, documented, and disposed at an approved hazardous waste facility.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, based on effluent limitation guidelines, is required for any discharges into offshore waters. Mariner has requested coverage under the Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 for discharges associated with exploration and development activities in Viosca Knoll Blocks 961 and 962 and will take applicable steps to ensure all offshore discharges associated with the proposed operations will be conducted in accordance with the permit.

SECTION E
Wastes and Discharge/Disposal Information-Continued

A. Composition of Solid and Liquid Wastes

The major operational solid waste in the largest quantities generated from the proposed operations will be the drill cuttings, drilling and/or completion fluids. Other associated wastes include waste chemicals, cement wastes, sanitary and domestic waste, trash and debris, ballast water, storage displacement water, rig wash and deck drainage, hydraulic fluids, used oil, oily water and filters, and other miscellaneous minor discharges.

These wastes are generated into categories, being solid waste (trash and debris), nonhazardous oilfield waste (drilling fluids, nonhazardous waste including cement and oil filters), and hazardous wastes (waste paint or thinners).

The type of discharges included in this permit application allow for the following effluents to be discharged overboard, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements.

B. Overboard Discharges

The wastes detailed in ***Attachment E-1*** are those wastes generated by our proposed activities and released into the receiving waters of the Gulf of Mexico at the associated well location.

C. Disposed Wastes

The wastes detailed in ***Attachment E-2*** are those wastes generated by our proposed activities that are disposed of by means of offsite release, injection, encapsulation, or placement at either onshore or offshore permitted locations for the purpose of returning them back to the environment.

Mariner will manifest these wastes prior to being offloaded from the MODU, and transported to shore for disposal at approved sites regulated by the applicable State. Additionally, Mariner will comply with any approvals or reporting and recordkeeping requirements imposed by the State where ultimate disposal will occur.

Waste Disposal Table

Attachment E-1
(Public Information)

Mariner Energy, Inc.
Viosca Knoll Block 961
Examples of Wastes and Discharges Information

Table 1. Discharges Table (Wastes to be discharged overboard)

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount to be Discharged (volume or rate)	Maximum Discharge Rate	Treatment and/or Storage, Discharge Location*, And Discharge Method
Water-based drilling fluids	7,800 bbl/well	200 bbl/hr	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Overboard
Drill cuttings associated with water-based fluids	2,000 bbl/well	1,000 bbl/hr	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Overboard
Muds, cuttings and cement at the seafloor	Gel – 5,000 bbl WBM – 8,000 bbl Cuttings – 20,000 bbl Seawater and caustic – 4,800 bbl	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Overboard
Sanitary wastes	20 gal/person/day	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Chlorinate and discharge
Domestic wastes	30 gal/person/day	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Remove floating solids and discharge
Deck Drainage	0-4,000 bbl/day Dependant upon rainfall	15 bbl per hour (maximum separator discharge)	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Treat for oil and grease and discharge
Well treatment, workover or completion fluids	Workover – 300 bbl/well Treatment – 250 bbl/well Completion – 300 bbl/well	200 bbl/well/every 4 years	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharge used fluids overboard, return excess to shore for credit.
Uncontaminated fresh or seawater	37,000 bbl (drilling)	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged overboard.
Desalinization Unit water	700 bbl/day	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged overboard.
Uncontaminated bilge water	2,000 bbl	260 m^3/hr	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged overboard.
Uncontaminated ballast water	20,000 bbl	2,600 m^3/hr	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged overboard.
Misc. discharges to which treatment chemicals have been added	100 bbl/day	10 bbl/hr	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged overboard.
Miscellaneous discharges (permitted under NPDES) (Excess cement with cementing chemicals)	100 bbl	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961 Discharged at seafloor without treatment

Waste Disposal Table

Attachment E-2
(Public Information)

Mariner Energy, Inc.
Viosca Knoll Block 961
Examples of Wastes and Discharges Information

Table 2. Disposal Table (Wastes to be disposed of, not discharged)

Type of Waste Approximate Composition	Amount*	Rate per day	Name/Location of Disposal Facility	Treatment and/or Storage, Transport and Disposal Method
Norm – contaminated wastes	1 ton	Not applicable	Viosca Knoll Block 961	Transport to a transfer station via dedicated barge
Trash and debris	1,000 ft^3	3 ft^3/day	Newpark Environmental Fourchon, LA	Transport in storage bins on crew boat to disposal facility
Chemical product wastes	50 bbl/yr	2 bbl/day	Newpark Environmental Venice, LA	Transport in containers to shore location
Chemical product wastes	100 bbl	2 bbl/day	Newpark Environmental Venice, LA	Transport in barrels on crew boat to shore location

*can be expressed as a volume, weight, or rate

SECTION F
Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information

A. Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Information

Effective July 28, 2003, Minerals Management Service approved Mariner Energy, Inc.'s most recent modification to their Regional Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP). Mariner Energy, Inc. is the only entity covered under this OSRP. Activities proposed in this Initial Exploration Plan will be covered by the Regional OSRP.

B. Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO)

Mariner Energy, Inc. utilizes Clean Gulf Associates (CGA) as its primary provider for equipment, which is an industry cooperative owning an inventory of oil spill clean-up equipment. CGA is supported by the Marine Spill Response Corporation's (MSRC), which is responsible for storing, inspecting, maintaining and dispatching CGA's equipment. The MSRC STARS network provides for the closest available personnel, as well as an MSRC supervisor to operate the equipment.

C. Worst-Case Scenario Comparison (WCD)

Category	*Current Regional OSRP WCD*	*Proposed Exploration Plan WCD*
Type of Activity	Drilling/Completion/Testing	Drilling/Completion/Testing
Facility Surface Location	Mississippi Canyon Block 66	Viosca Knoll Block 962
Facility Description	MODU	MODU
Distance to Nearest Shoreline (Miles)	17	75
Volume: Storage Tanks (total) Facility Piping (total) Lease Term Pipeline Uncontrolled Blowout (day) **Potential 24 Hour Volume (Bbls.)**	12000	500
Type of Liquid Hydrocarbon	Crude	Condensate
API Gravity	25°	45°

SECTION F
Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information-Continued

Due to the estimated flow rates from an exploratory well blowout are speculative and temporary in nature, Mariner Energy, Inc. will not modify their Regional OSRP to change the WCD.

Since Mariner Energy, Inc. has the capability to respond to the worst-case discharge (WCD) spill scenario included in its Regional OSRP approved on July 28, 2003, and since the worst-case scenario determined for our EP does not replace the worst-case scenario in our Regional OSRP, I hereby certify that Mariner Energy, Inc. has the capability to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst-case discharge, or a substantial threat of such a discharge, resulting from the activities proposed in our EP.

D. Facility Tanks, Production Vessels

The following table details the ***tanks*** (capacity greater than 25 bbls. or more) to be used to support the proposed activities (MODU and barges):

Type of Storage Tank	Type of Facility	Tank Capacity (bbls)	Number of Tanks	Total Capacity (bbls)	Fluid Gravity (API)
Fuel Oil	MODU	250	2	500	38° (Diesel)

E. Diesel Oil Supply Vessels

The following table details the vessels to be used for purposes other than fuel (i.e., corrosion control):

Size of Fuel Supply Vessel	Capacity of Fuel Supply Vessel	Frequency of Fuel Transfers	Route Fuel Supply Vessel Will Take
180' feet	1500 bbls	Weekly	From Venice shorebase to VK 961 and onto other fields in vicinity

F. Support Vessel Fuel Tanks

The following table details the vessel and fuel tanks on supply, service and/or crew vessels to be used to support the proposed activities:

Type of Vessel	Number in Field Simultaneously	Estimated Maximum Fuel Tank Capacity (bbls)
Tug Boats	2	3000
Supply Vessels	1	500
Crew Vessels	1	500

SECTION F
Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information (Continued)

G. Produced Liquid Hydrocarbon Transportation Vessels

Mariner is proposing to conduct well testing operations on the proposed well locations. This process will include flaring the produced gas hydrocarbons and burning the liquid hydrocarbons.

H. Oil and Synthetic-Based Drilling Fluids

Mariner does not anticipate the use of oil and/or synthetic based drilling fluids for the proposed drilling activities.

I. Blowout Scenario

Mariner will drill to the objective sands outlined in Section C of this Plan utilizing a typical structural, conductor and surface casing program. If mandated by wellbore conditions, an intermediate casing string will be set prior to drilling through the objective sand. In the event of a blowout during the course of drilling open hole in the objective sands, Mariner anticipates a rate of 100 MMCF/D and 500 BCP/D with an anticipated gravity of 45°. The wellbore would most likely bridge over in one to two days. Mariner would immediately activate it's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan and Spill Management Team to initiate potential recovery of liquid hydrocarbons on the receiving water and review potential well intervention options. In the event a relief well is initiated, Mariner does not anticipate significant delays in acquiring a suitable semi-submersible drilling rig type rig to conduct the proposed operations.

J. Spill Response Sites

The following locations will be used in the event and oil spill occurs as a result of the proposed activity.

Primary Response Equipment Location	Pre-Planned Staging Location(s)
Houma, LA	Fourchon, LA Grand Isle, LA

K. Spill Discussion for NEPA Analysis

In the event of an uncontrolled spill release resulting from the activities proposed in this Plan, Mariner's Person-In-Charge on the MODU or the Shorebase Dispatcher would most likely be the initial individuals to contact the Qualified Individual (QI) or our Spill Management Team (SMT) detailed in the Regional OSRP. The QI would immediately activate the SMT to ascertain the severity of the spill incident. Mariner's SMT Incident Command Center is located at O'Brien's Oil Pollution Services office in Slidell, Louisiana.

SECTION F
Oil Spill Response and Chemical Information - Continued

Dependent upon the severity of the spill incident, a trajectory analysis would be conducted utilizing the MMS Oil Spill Risk Analysis Model (OSRAM) as referenced in our approved Regional OSRP. This trajectory would provide the required information on percentage and timing of potential impact to the shoreline impact areas. The SMT would then identify the areas of sensitivities at potential landfall segment(s), so additional planning may be conducted for shoreline protection strategies. If surveillance indicates a potential threat to shoreline; the appropriate equipment and personnel would be deployed, as outlined in our Regional OSRP.

An overflight may be conducted to determine the extent and dissipation rate of the spill, with potential sampling of the spill release. Mechanical recovery equipment may also be dispatched to the leading edge of the spill, as outlined in our Regional OSRP. If additional offshore response is required, the SMT would initiate the Dispersant Use Plan of the Regional OSRP and utilize the services of Airborne Support Inc.'s aircraft and personnel.

L. Pollution Prevention Measures

As indicated in the volumes noted above, Mariner does not anticipate a potential for initiating additional safety, pollution prevention and/or early spill detection measures beyond those already required by Title 30 CFR Part 250.

SECTION G
Air Emissions Information

The primary air pollutants associated with OCS exploration activities are:

- Carbon Monoxide
- Particulate Matter
- Sulphur Oxides
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Volatile Organic Compounds

These offshore air emissions result mainly from the drilling rig operations, helicopters, and support vessels. These emissions occur mainly from combustion or burning of fuels and natural gas and from venting or evaporation of hydrocarbons. The combustion of fuels occurs primarily on diesel-powered generators, pumps or motors and from lighter fuel motors. Other air emissions can result from catastrophic events such as oil spills or blowouts.

A. Calculating Emissions

Included as ***Attachment G-1*** is the Projected Air Quality Emissions Report (Form MMS-138) addressing the proposed drilling, completion and potential testing operations utilizing a semi-submersible drilling unit, with related support vessels and construction barge information.

B. Screening Questions

As evidenced by ***Attachment G-1***, the worksheets were completed based on the proposed flaring and burning operations.

C. Emission Reduction Measures

The projected air emissions are within the exemption level; therefore, no emission reduction measures are being proposed.

D. Verification of Non-Default Emissions Factors

Mariner has elected to use the default emission factors as provided in ***Attachment G-1.***

E. Non-Exempt Activities

The proposed activities are within the exemption amount as provided in ***Attachment G-1.***

SECTION G
Air Emissions Information-Continued

F. Review of Activities with Emissions Below the Exemption Level

The proposed activities are below the exemption amount and should not affect the air quality of an onshore area, as provided in ***Attachment G-1.***

G. Modeling Report

The proposed activities are below the exemption amount and should not affect the air quality of an onshore area.

Air Emissions Report

Attachment G-1
(Public Information)

EXPLORATION PLAN (EP) **OMB Control No. 1010-0049**

AIR QUALITY SCREENING CHECKLIST **OMB Approval Expires: September 30, 2003**

COMPANY	Mariner Energy, Inc.
AREA	Viosca Knoll
BLOCK	961
LEASE	OCS-G 15444
RIG	Semi-Submersible
WELL	B
COMPANY CONTACT	Connie Goers, R.E.M. Solutions, Inc.
TELEPHONE NO.	281.492.8562
REMARKS	Drill, complete and test one (1) subsea well.

Screening Questions for EP's	Yes	No
Is any calculated Complex Total (CT) Emission amount (in tons associated with your proposed exploration activities more than 90% of the amounts calculated using the following formulas: CT = $3400D^{2/3}$ for CO, and CT = 33.3D for the other air pollutants (where D = distance to shore in miles)?		X
Does your emission calculations include any emission reduction measures or modified emission factors?		X
Are your proposed exploration activities located east of 87.5° W longitude?		X
Do you expect to encounter H_2S at concentrations greater than 20 parts per million (ppm)?		X
Do you propose to flare or vent natural gas for more than 48 continuous hours from any proposed well?	X	
Do you propose to burn produced hydrocarbon liquids?	X	

Air Pollutant		Plan Emission Amounts[1] (tons)	Calculated Exemption Amounts[2] (tons)		Calculated Complex Total Emission Amounts[3] (tons)
Carbon monoxide (CO)		177.85	72270.82		NA
Particulate matter (PM)		23.55	3263.4		NA
Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)		109.27	3263.4		NA
Nitrogen oxides (NOx)		806.84	3263.4		NA
Volatile organic compounds (VOC)		24.48	3263.4		NA

[1] For activities proposed in your EP or DOCD, list the projected emissions calculated from the worksheets.
[2] List the exemption amounts in your proposed activities calculated using the formulas in 30 CFR 250.303(d).
[3] List the complex total emissions associated with your proposed activities calculated from the worksheets.

EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS 1ST YEAR

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL		CONTACT	PHONE	REMARKS
Mariner Energy, Inc.	Viosca Knoll	961	OCS-G 15444	Semi-Submersibl	B		Connie Goers, R.E.M. Solutions,	281.492.8562	

OPERATIONS	EQUIPMENT	RATING	MAX. FUEL	ACT. FUEL	RUN TIME		MAXIMUM POUNDS PER HOUR					ESTIMATED TONS				
	Diesel Engines	HP	GAL/HR	GAL/D												
	Nat. Gas Engines	HP	SCF/HR	SCF/D												
	Burners	MMBTU/HR	SCF/HR	SCF/D	HR/D	DAYS	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
DRILLING	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	26400	1275.12	30602.88	24	17	18.61	85.36	639.65	19.19	139.56	3.80	17.41	130.49	3.91	28.47
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BURNER diesel	0			0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	AUXILIARY EQUIP<600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	8	24	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.14	0.64	4.80	0.14	1.05
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	10	17	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.12	0.57	4.25	0.13	0.93
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(tugs)	4200	202.86	4868.64	12	2	2.96	13.58	101.76	3.05	22.20	0.04	0.16	1.22	0.04	0.27
FACILITY INSTALLATION	DERRICK BARGE diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MATERIAL TUG diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MISC.	BPD	SCF/HR	COUNT												
	TANK-	0			0	0				0.00					0.00	
DRILLING WELL TEST	OIL BURN	0			0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	GAS FLARE		0		0	0		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2003 YEAR TOTAL							**24.48**	**112.30**	**841.48**	**25.24**	**183.59**	**4.09**	**18.79**	**140.77**	**4.22**	**30.71**
EXEMPTION CALCULATION	**DISTANCE FROM LAND IN MILES**											**2497.50**	**2497.50**	**2497.50**	**2497.50**	**60467.19**
	75.0															

EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS 2ND YEAR

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL		CONTACT	PHONE	REMARKS
Mariner Energy, Inc.	Viosca Knoll	961	OCS-G 15444	Semi-Submersibl	B		Connie Goers, R.E.M. Solutions,	281.492.8562	

OPERATIONS	EQUIPMENT	RATING	MAX. FUEL	ACT. FUEL	RUN TIME		MAXIMUM POUNDS PER HOUR					ESTIMATED TONS				
	Diesel Engines	HP	GAL/HR	GAL/D												
	Nat. Gas Engines	HP	SCF/HR	SCF/D												
	Burners	MMBTU/HR	SCF/HR	SCF/D	HR/D	DAYS	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
DRILLING	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	26400	1275.12	30602.88	24.00	98.00	18.61	85.36	639.65	19.19	139.56	21.88	100.39	752.23	22.57	164.12
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PRIME MOVER>600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BURNER diesel	0			0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	AUXILIARY EQUIP<600hp diesel	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	8.00	140.00	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.82	3.74	28.02	0.84	6.11
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	2065	99.7395	2393.75	10.00	98.00	1.46	6.68	50.03	1.50	10.92	0.71	3.27	24.52	0.74	5.35
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(tugs)	4200	202.86	4868.64	12.00	2.00	2.96	13.58	101.76	3.05	22.20	0.04	0.16	1.22	0.04	0.27
FACILITY INSTALLATION	DERRICK BARGE diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MATERIAL TUG diesel	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(crew)	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	VESSELS>600hp diesel(supply)	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MISC.	BPD	SCF/HR	COUNT												
	TANK-	0			0	0				0.00					0.00	
DRILLING WELL TEST	OIL BURN	250			24	2	4.38	71.15	20.83	0.10	2.19	0.11	1.71	0.50	0.00	0.05
	GAS FLARE		208333.33		24	2		0.12	14.87	12.56	80.94		0.00	0.36	0.30	1.94
2004 YEAR TOTAL							**28.85**	**183.57**	**877.18**	**37.91**	**266.72**	**23.55**	**109.27**	**806.84**	**24.48**	**177.85**
EXEMPTION CALCULATION	**DISTANCE FROM LAND IN MILES** 98.0											**3263.40**	**3263.40**	**3263.40**	**3263.40**	**72270.82**

SUMMARY

COMPANY	AREA	BLOCK	LEASE	PLATFORM	WELL
Mariner Energy, Inc.	Viosca Knoll	961	OCS-G 15444	Semi-Submersible	B

Year	Emitted Substance				
	PM	SOx	NOx	VOC	CO
2003	4.09	18.79	140.77	4.22	30.71
2004	23.55	109.27	806.84	24.48	177.85
Allowable	2497.50	2497.50	2497.50	2497.50	60467.19

SECTION H
Environmental Impact Analysis

A. IMPACT PRODUCING FACTORS (IPF'S)

The following matrix is utilized to identify the environmental resources that could be impacted by these IPF's. An "x" has been marked for each IPF category that Mariner has determined may impact a particular environmental resource as a result of the proposed activities. For those cells which are footnoted, a statement is provided as to the applicability of the proposed activities, and where there may be an effect, an analysis of the effect is provided.

Environmental Resources	Emissions (air, noise, light, etc.)	Effluents (muds, cuttings, other discharges to the water column or seafloor	Physical Disturbances To the seafloor (rig or anchor emplacement, etc.)	Wastes Sent to Shore for Treatment Or disposal	Accidents (e.g. oil spills, chemical spills, H2S releases)	Other IPF's identified
Site Specific at Offshore Location						
Designated topographic feature						
Pinnacle Trend area live bottoms						
Eastern Gulf live bottoms						
Chemosynthetic communities						
Water quality		X			X	
Fisheries		X			X	
Marine mammals	X	X			X	
Sea turtles	X	X			X	
Air quality						
Shipwreck sites (known or potential)						
Prehistoric archaeological sites						
Vicinity of Offshore Location						
Essential fish habitat					X	
Marine and pelagic birds					X	
Public health and safety						
Coastal and Onshore						
Beaches						
Wetlands						
Shorebirds and coastal nesting birds						
Coastal wildlife refuges						
Wilderness areas						
Other Resources						

SECTION H
Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued

B. VICINITY OF OFFSHORE LOCATION ANALYSES

1. Designated Topographic Features

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to topographic features. The proposed surface disturbances within Viosca Knoll Block 962 are located a significant distance (>100 miles) from the closest designated topographic feature. The crests of designated topographic features in the northern Gulf are found below 10 m. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by the currents moving around the bank; thereby avoiding the sessile biota.

2. Pinnacle Trend Live Bottoms

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to a pinnacle trend area. The proposed surface disturbances within Viosca Knoll Block 962 are located approximately 22 miles from the closest pinnacle trend live bottom stipulated block. The crests of the pinnacle trend area are much deeper than 20 m. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by currents moving around the bank; and thus not impacting the pinnacles.

3. Eastern Gulf Live Bottoms

There are no anticipated effluents, physical disturbances to the seafloor, and accidents from the proposed activities that could cause impacts to Eastern Gulf live bottoms. The proposed surface disturbances within Viosca Knoll Block 962 are located approximately 22 miles from the closest pinnacle Eastern Gulf live bottom stipulated block. In the event of an accidental oil spill from the proposed activities, the gravity of such oil (high gravity condensate and/or diesel fuel) would rise to the surface, quickly dissipate, and/or be swept clear by currents moving around the bank; and would not be expected to cause adverse impacts to Eastern Gulf live bottoms because of the depth of the features and dilutions of spills.

4. Chemosynthetic Communities

Water depths in Viosca Knoll Blocks 961 and 962 range from 4500 feet to 5000 feet. There are no known chemosynthetic communities within the vicinity of the proposed operations.

5. Water Quality

Accidental oil spill releases from the proposed activities, and cumulative similar discharge activity within the vicinity could potentially cause impacts to water quality. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur from the proposed activities. In the event of such a release, the water quality would be temporarily affected by the dissolved components and small droplets. Currents and microbial degradation would remove the oil from the water column or dilute the constituents to background levels.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Mariner will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality.

6. Fisheries

Accidental oil spill releases from the proposed activities, and cumulative similar discharge activity within the vicinity may potentially cause some detrimental effects on fisheries. It is unlikely a spill would occur; however, such a release in open waters closed to mobile adult finfish or shellfish would likely be sublethal and the extent of damage would be reduced to the capability of adult fish and shellfish to avoid a spill, to metabolize hydrocarbons, and to excrete both metabolites and parent compounds.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Mariner will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality.

7. Marine Mammals

As a result of the proposed activities, marine mammals may be adversely impacted by traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, cumulative similar discharge activity, and loss of trash and debris. Chronic and sporadic sublethal effects could occur that may stress and/or weaken individuals of a local group or population and make them more susceptible to infection from

natural or antrhropogenic sources. Few lethal effects are expected from accidental oil spill, chance collisions with service vessels and ingestion of plastic material.

The net results of any disturbance would depend on the size and percentage of the population affected, ecological importance of the disturbed area, environmental and biological parameters that influence an animal's sensitivity to disturbance and stress, and the accommodation time in response to prolonged disturbance (Geraci and St. Aubin), 1980). Collisions between cetaceans and ship could cause serious injury or death (Laist et al., 2001). Sperm whales are one of 11 whale species that are him commonly by ships (Laist et al., 2001). Collisions between OCS vessels and cetaceans within the project area are expected to be unusual events.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Tana's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Mariner will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements. As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality. Additionally, Mariner and its contractors will conduct the proposed activities under the additional criteria addressed by MMS in Notice to Lessee's (NTL's) 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination".

8. Sea Turtles

As a result of the proposed activities, sea turtles may be adversely impacted by traffic, noise, accidental oil spills, cumulative similar discharges, and loss of trash and debris. Small numbers of turtles could be killed or injured by chance collision with service vessels or by eating indigestible trash, particularly plastic items accidentally lost from drilling rigs, production facilities and service vessels. Drilling rigs and project vessels (construction barges) produce noise that could disrupt normal behavior patterns and crease some stress to sea turtles, making them more susceptible to disease. Accidental oil spill releases are potential threats which could have lethal effects on turtles. Contact and/or consumption of this released material could seriously affect individual sea turtles. Most OCS related impacts on sea turtles are expected to be sublethal. Chronic and/or avoidance of effected areas could cause declines in survival or productivity, resulting in gradual population declines.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill. Mariner will conduct the proposed activities under EPA's Region VI NPDES General Permit GMG290000 which authorizes the discharge of certain effluents, subject to certain limitations, prohibitions and recordkeeping requirements.

As such, it is not anticipated these discharges will cause significant adverse impacts to water quality. Additionally, Mariner and its contractors will conduct the proposed activities under the additional criteria addressed by MMS in Notice to Lessee's (NTL's) 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species" and NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination".

9. Air Quality

The proposed activities are located approximately 75 miles to the nearest shoreline. There would be a limited degree of air quality degradation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed activities. Air quality analyses of the proposed activities are below the MMS exemption level.

10. Shipwreck Site (Known or Potential)

There are no physical disturbances to the seafloor which could impact known or potential shipwreck sites, as the review of high resolution shallow hazards data indicate there are no known or potential shipwreck sites located within the surveyed area.

11. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

There are no physical disturbances to the seafloor which could cause impacts to prehistoric archaeological sites, as the review of high resolution shallow hazards data and supporting studies did not reflect the occurrence of prehistoric archaeological sites.

Site Specific Offshore Location Analyses

1. Essential Fish Habitat

An accidental oil spill that may occur as a result of the proposed activities has potential to cause some detrimental effects on essential fish habitat. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur; however, if a spill were to occur in close proximity to finfish or shellfish, the effects would likely be sublethal and the extent of damage would be reduced to

the capability of adult fish and shellfish to avoid a spill, to metabolize hydrocarbons, and to excrete both metabolites and parent compounds.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

2. Marine and Pelagic Birds

An accidental oil spill that may occur as a result of the proposed activities has potential to impact marine and pelagic birds, by the birds coming into contact with the released oil. It is unlikely that an accidental oil spill release would occur.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

3. Public Health and Safety Due to Accidents

There are no anticipated IPF's from the proposed activities that could impact the public health and safety. Mariner has requested MMS approval to classify the proposed objective area as absent of hydrogen sulfide.

Coastal and Onshore Analyses

1. Beaches

It is unlikely an accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to beaches due to the distance from shore (approximately 75 miles), and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2202-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which

address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

2. Wetlands

It is unlikely an accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to wetlands due to the distance from shore (approximately 75 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2202-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

3. Shore Birds and Coastal Nesting Birds

It is unlikely an accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to shore birds and coastal nesting birds due to the distance from shore (approximately 75 miles, and the response capabilities that would be implemented. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2202-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

4. Coastal Wildlife Refuges

It is unlikely an accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to coastal wildlife refuges due to the distance from shore (approximately 75 miles, and the response capabilities that would be implemented. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2202-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

5. Wilderness Areas

It is unlikely an accidental oil spill release from the proposed activities could cause impacts to wilderness areas due to the distance from shore (approximately 75 miles, and the response capabilities that would be implemented. Both historical spill data and the combined trajectory/risk calculations referenced in the publication of OCS EIA /EA MMS 2202-052 indicate there is little risk of contact or impact to the coastline and associated environmental resources.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

Other Identified Environmental Resources

Mariner has not identified any other environmental resources other than those addressed above.

Impacts on Proposed Activities

No impacts are expected on the proposed activities as a result of taking into consideration the site specific environmental conditions.

A High Resolution Shallow Hazards Survey was conducted, a report prepared in accordance with NTL 2002-G08 and NTL 98-20.

Based on the analysis of the referenced data, there are no surface or subsurface geological and manmade features and conditions that may adversely affect the proposed activities. Mariner will institute procedures to avoid pipelines and abandoned wells within the vicinity of the proposed operations.

Alternatives

Mariner did not consider any alternatives to reduce environmental impacts as a result of the proposed activities.

SECTION H
Environmental Impact Analysis-Continued

Mitigation Measures

Mariner will not implement any mitigation measures to avoid, diminish, or eliminate potential environmental resources, other than those required by regulation and policy.

Consultation

Mariner has not contacted any agencies or persons for consultation regarding potential impacts associated with the proposed activities. Therefore, a list of such entities is not being provided.

References

The following documents were utilized in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment:

Document	*Author*	*Dated*
Shallow Hazards Survey	Fugro-McClelland Marine Geosciences	1998
MMS Environmental Impact Statement Report No. 2002-15	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2003-G10 "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protective Species"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2003-G11 "Marine Trash & Debris Awareness & Elimination"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 2002-G09 "Regional and Subregional Oil Spill Response Plans"	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2002-G08 "Information Requirements for Exploration Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents"	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2002-G01 "Archaeological Resource Surveys and Reports"	Minerals Management Service	2002
NTL 2000-G16 "Guidelines for General Lease Surety Bonds"	Minerals Management Service	2000
NTL 98-20 "Shallow Hazards Survey Requirements"	Minerals Management Service	1998
NTL 2003-N06 "Supplemental Bond Procedures"	Minerals Management Service	2003
NTL 98-16 "Hydrogen Sulfide Requirements"	Minerals Management Service	1998
NPDES General Permit GMG290000	EPA – Region VI	1998
Regional Oil Spill Response Plan	Mariner Energy, Inc.	2003

SECTION I
CZM Consistency

Under direction of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CMZA), the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas developed Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMP) to allow for the supervision of significant land and water use activities that take place within or that could significantly impact their respective coastal zones.

Certificates of Coastal Zone Management Consistency for the States of Alabama and Louisiana are enclosed as ***Attachments I-1 and I-2.*** Included as ***Attachments I-3 and I-4*** are the enforceable policies from the States of Alabama and Louisiana that are related to OCS Plan Filings.

Alabama CZM Statement

Attachment I-1
(Public Information)

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

VIOSCA KNOLL BLOCK 961

LEASE OCS-G 15444

The proposed activities described in detail in the enclosed Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

By: Mariner Energy, Inc.

Signed By: _____

Dated: 08/14/03

Louisiana CZM Statement

Attachment I-2
(Public Information)

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION

INITIAL EXPLORATION PLAN

VIOSCA KNOLL BLOCK 961

LEASE OCS-G 15444

The proposed activities described in detail in the enclosed Plan comply with Louisiana's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such Program.

By: **Mariner Energy, Inc.**

Signed By: _____

Dated: 08/14/03

Alabama Coastal Zone Management
Enforceable Policies

Attachment I-3
(Public Information)

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

STATE OF ALABAMA ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

STATE OF ALABAMA

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

Coastal Resource Use Policies

1. Coastal Development

Coastal regions are likely sites for port, industrial, urban/suburban and energy development facilities. It is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to provide assistance within its means to facilitate a productive and environmental responsible port, industrial, urban/suburban and energy development facilities.

The proposed activities are located in OCS Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico, approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline and 95 miles to the existing onshore support base located in Venice, Louisiana.

Due to the proposed activities being temporary and speculative in nature, and our proposed onshore support operations being located in Louisiana; Mariner does not anticipate an impact or need to pursue coastal development activities in Alabama at this time.

2. Mineral Resource Exploration and Extraction

Clay, sand, and gravel are mined in limited quantities from Alabama's coastal river bottoms and stream cuts. This resource extraction is vital to certain sections of the Alabama economy, and the associated land processes produce short and long term adverse impacts to the coastal area and resources. This activity contributes to the overall suspended sediment load in coastal area water bodies, destroys wildlife habitat, changes the visual quality of the landscapes and, irretrievably, consumes the depleted mineral resources. It is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Management Plan to encourage mining operations, and directly related development, engaged in the extraction and/or processing of construction sand, industrial sand, gravel, and other minerals to avoid hydrologically sensitive areas, including oyster reefs, submerged grassbeds, and other productive shallow water areas, with the exception of those activities related to beach nourishment and shoreline stabilization.

The proposed activities do not provide for the extraction of solid minerals from the State of Alabama. These activities provide for the exploration of oil and gas hydrocarbons located in OCS Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico, approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline.

3. Commercial Fishing

Alabama's fishing industry is one of the most important uses of Alabama's natural coastal assets and the major economic factor in several Mobile and Baldwin County communities. The abundance of commercial species, especially shrimp, is heavily dependent upon the presence of extensive wetland areas for nursery grounds and good. Physical alterations of the estuarine environment that affects certain species of marine organisms are dredge spoil disposal, bacterial pollutions, heavy metals and toxic chemicals discarded by industries.

It is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to encourage the protection and enhancement of the water quality and wetland resources of the coastal area of Alabama in order to protect and enhance the aquatic resources; and to identify, expand and enhance existing essential habitat in an effort to extend the productivity of the ecosystem.

The proposed activities at Viosca Knoll Block 961 will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline. Mariner does not propose any dredging and/or spoil deposition as a result of the proposed activities. The authorized effluents to be discharged during the proposed drilling operations may temporarily affect water quality in the immediate vicinity of each discharge point associated with each well location. Water quality is expected to return to normal in the area following the cessation of operations. Due to the low toxicity and rapid dispersion of these discharges, little or no impact on water column biota is likely, including fish larvae that recruit to near shore nursery areas.

The overboard authorized effluents of drilling fluids and associated cuttings may increase sedimentation rate around the well location, possibly causing burying or smothering of some benthic organisms. Results of previous monitoring programs and modeling studies suggest that burial would most likely occur within an area of a few hectares around each well location. Recovery from these temporary impacts is expected over a period of months to years.

Other minor authorized effluents discharged overboard may include sanitary and domestic waste, deck drainage from the drilling unit, uncontaminated seawater for cooling machinery, and desalination brine. Such discharges may case localized, short-term impacts on water quality near the discharge points for each well location. There is a very low probability that a diesel spill may occur while conducting transfer operations from the supply vessel to the MODU. Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan discusses any potential impacts from these types of spills on Alabama's coastal zone. This Plan also describes response actions for specific hypothetical spill events, provisions and approvals required for the use of a dispersants by boat or aerial application, provisions for inspection and maintenance of response equipment, required spill management team tabletop exercises, procedures for spill notification to government agencies, inventories of locally and nationally available response equipment, waste disposal methods and site, and procedures for monitoring and predicting spill movement.

As discussed in the Initial Exploration Plan, Mariner will be utilizing a drilling unit equipped with equipment and technology for well control and blowout prevention as a preventative measure for the safety of personnel and protection of the environment. If a blowout should occur, which results in an oil spill, Mariner's Regional Oil Spill Response Plan addresses the processed for containment, recovery, and removal of the spill liquid hydrocarbons.

The precautions addressed in Mariner's standard safety and environmental operating procedures and our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan are considered consistent with the state's enforceable policies to conserve and protect marine habitat and saltwater fisheries.

4. Hazard Management

Natural hazards such as storms and hurricanes can change the natural beach and dune systems. Human activities such as construction on dune systems and construction of seawalls, bulkheads or jetties can have an adverse effect on adjacent properties and property forward of vertical structures. The Alabama Coastal Area Management Program recognizes that dynamic, unpredictable and damaging natural events such as floods, hurricanes and erosion, occurring within the coastal area are part of the necessary cyclical functions needed to maintain the natural environment. However, the effects of these natural hazard events must be managed, by means of mitigating as a strategy that necessitates proper planning. It is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to encourage land-use planning that avoids or eliminates development in hazardous coastal areas prone to loss due to flood, hurricane surge and/or erosion.

The proposed activities in Viosca Knoll Block 961 should not impact Alabama's measures to protect the coastal area from natural hazards. Furthermore, since the proposed operations are temporary and speculative in nature, Mariner does not propose or anticipate the need to develop any coastal/onshore sites which could have an adverse effect.

Mariner has adopted industry standards for conducting the proposed exploratory operations. Such standards are adopted to prevent unanticipated occurrences such as a well blowout or oil spill release, which could potentially cause adverse water/air environmental consequences. Such anticipated occurrences will be handled as quickly as possible by Mariner implementing their Regional Oil Spill Response Plan and/or well control standards and procedures.

5. Shoreline Erosion

Shorelines are the transitional areas between water and land because of their location. These shorelines represent the most dynamic interface in the coastal area and are very productive. Their continuous change from wet to dry conditions result in diverse habitats and ecosystems. The shorelines of the Alabama coastal area provide the State and its citizens with many direct and indirect benefits of great value. At the

same time, they are highly vulnerable to the pressures of development and to a variety of natural hazards, most notably erosion. Construction and development are primary activities affecting the Alabama shoreline. As development intensifies, the natural topography diminishes critical habitat and creates hazards or intensifies existing hazards. Therefore, it is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to encourage the maintenance and stability of Alabama's natural shoreline and shoreline resources and to minimize erosion by assuring compatibility of shoreline uses.

Mariner will be using the existing onshore support infrastructure located in Venice, Louisiana; and as such does not anticipate a need for new development, construction, dredging or filling activities on Alabama's lands or waters. All travel routes to and from the onshore support base and the offshore locations in Viosca Knoll Block 961 will avoid any recreational trail systems established by the State of Alabama. Therefore, the proposed activities are consistent with the enforceable policies of this chapter.

6. Recreation

Alabama's recreational opportunities are centered around the water resources and include, but are not limited to, sport fishing, boating, swimming and sightseeing. There is an increasing demand for recreational opportunities, both public and private, in Alabama's coastal area; as evidenced by the increased number of boater registrations, waterfront developments and demand for permit requests for private docks, harbors and marinas. Is it the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to safeguard public access to and use of coastal lands and waters such as beaches and shorelines, boat landings, and fishing grounds.

Mariner will be using the existing onshore support infrastructure located in Venice, Louisiana, and will utilize the most direct travel routes to and from the onshore support base and the offshore locations in Viosca Knoll Block 961, and will take measures to avoid any recreational systems recognized by the State of Alabama, and do not anticipate usage of any Alabama lands or waters, and no new vehicle traffic on public lands.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of our Subregional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

The precautions addressed in Mariner's standard safety and environmental operating procedures and our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan are considered consistent with the state's enforceable policies to protect and maintain Alabama's lands and water areas for outdoor recreation, conservation, and wildlife management.

7. Transportation

The State of Alabama is responsible for approving plans for the location, construction and maintenance of the state highway system and public roads and the location, construction, and maintenance of individual state highway system projects. Rules and project approvals governing transportation projects within the coastal zone must comply with the policies in this category. Standard specifications include measures for erosion and sedimentation control, waste disposal, earthwork, and revegetation during construction.

The operations proposed in this Plan at Viosca Knoll Block 961 are temporary and speculative in nature. Additionally, Mariner will be using an existing infrastructure in Venice, Louisiana for its onshore support operations. Therefore, we do not anticipate any impact on the State of Alabama's transportation system.

Natural Resource Protection Policies

1. Biological Productivity

Biologically, more than 90% of all Alabama's commercial and recreational fishing dollars are dependent on estuaries like Mobile Bay, Weeks Bay and Perdido Bay, which provide habitat for one or more critical life stages for species of fish and shellfish. Protective functions if the coastal area and coastal resources are instrumental in ecosystem preservation and enhancement.

The proposed surface disturbance in Viosca Knoll Block 961 will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline, and approximately 95 miles from the onshore support base to be located in Venice, Louisiana. These proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and Mariner does not anticipate an adverse impact on the biological productivity of the coastal area and/or coastal resources.

2. Water Quality

The policies address the conservation of surface and ground waters for full beneficial use; sustainable water management; preservation of natural resources, fish, and wildlife; protecting public land; and promoting the health and general welfare of the general public in Alabama. The State manages and conserves water and related natural resources by determining whether activities will unreasonable consume water, degrade water quality, or adversely affect environmental values such as protected species habitat, recreational pursuits, and marine productivity.

As Mariner will be using the existing onshore support infrastructure in Venice, Louisiana; we do not anticipate usage of any Alabama water resource, nor any new construction, dredging, or filling on Alabama's lands or waters to affect water quality. The authorized overboard discharges attributable to the proposed activities will be

temporary in nature, and will be localized in the vicinity of the surface location for the proposed well; which should not impact Alabama lands or waters.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

The precautions addressed in Mariner's standard safety and environmental operating procedures and our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan are considered consistent with the state's enforceable policies to conserve surface and ground waters of the State.

Overboard discharges (i.e., drilling fluids and associated cuttings) associated with the proposed activities must be tested first for toxicity limitations as mandated by EPA's NPDES General Permit GMG290000. Other solid waste such as ground food will first pass through a 25-millimeter type mesh screen before being discharged overboard, as regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Pollution Research and Control Act (MARPOL) of 1987. Solid wastes will be collected and stored on the facility, and then transported by an offshore support vessel to an authorized onshore disposal site with the State of Louisiana. These wastes will be manifested and disposed as per the State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's regulations.

3. Water Resources

In the coastal area, two important reasons for managing water resources and protecting water quality are the availability of adequate supplies of clean, safe waters for private, public and industrial consumers, and to protect the water quality for managing most of the other coastal area resources. The key to protecting the quality of the water resources is to manage the impacts to Alabama's bays, tidal streams, estuaries, wetlands and near shore waters.

The proposed surface disturbance in Viosca Knoll Block 961 will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline, and approximately 95 miles from the onshore support base to be located in Venice, Louisiana. These proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any permanent installations which may have an impact on area runoff in coastal waters.

4. Air Quality

The quality of air in the Alabama coastal area affects many aspects of the environment that directly relate to the quality of life on the coastal area. The coastal area of Alabama is rapidly expanding, and the increased coastal urbanization and industrial development and increased motor vehicle traffic have increased the amount and complexity of air pollution. Therefore, it is the policy of the Coastal

Area Management Program to encourage all sources of air pollution in Alabama's coastal area meet or exceed all applicable emission standards.

Air emissions associated with the proposed activities in Viosca Knoll Block 961 have been projected using a matrix and formula supplied by the Minerals Management Service who has primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency for regulating such emissions. The resultant emissions are below the exemption levels for Carbon Monoxide, Particulate Matter, Sulphur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds.

5. Wetlands and Submerged Grassbeds

The State of Alabama has dominion and control of submerged lands extending three miles seaward from its coast. Proper management ensures the continued viability of this resource and prevents obstructions to navigation, reductions in water quality, biological diversity and production, and restriction of public access. It is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to encourage the protection of wetlands and submerged grassbeds to maintain or increase the vital role they play in the coastal ecosystem and the coastal quality of life.

The proposed activities addressed in this Plan will be located 75 miles from the nearest shoreline, with an existing onshore support infrastructure in Venice, Louisiana. Therefore, Mariner does not anticipate an impact on associated wetlands and submerged grassbeds as a result of the proposed activities.

6. Beach and Dune Protection

Beach and dune systems are dynamic and respond to the many forces of the sea. Their characteristics serve to buffer and cushion against wave attach and, therefore, are the first line of defense against the destructive and erosive forces of the sea, Beach and dune systems also re-supply the land-water interface before, during and after periods of high energy conditions (wave actions). Beach and dune systems cover approximately 10,000 acres along Alabama's shoreline and are highly productive and protective to the coastal area. Protection and preservation of these systems in a natural state it vital. Loss of beaches and dunes eliminates wildlife, habitat, reduces buffers protecting inland areas from the forces of storms, and significantly impacts the Alabama economy. Therefore, it is the policy of the Alabama Coastal Zone Management Program to encourage the maintenance of the natural attributes of beach and dune systems in the Alabama coastal area and to assure adequate public access.

The offshore activities to be conducted in Viosca Knoll Block 961 will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest coastline; whereas the onshore support operations will be conducted from an existing infrastructure located in Venice, Louisiana. The onshore support and offshore activities should not have an impact on the coastal areas of the State of Alabama. The transportation modes from the

onshore support base in Venice, Louisiana to Viosca Knoll Block 961 will be in excess of 75 miles from the coastal shoreline to the offshore activities.

In the event of an unanticipated blowout resulting in an oil spill, it is unlikely to have an impact based on the industry wide standards for using proven equipment and technology for such responses, implementation of our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan which address available equipment and personnel, techniques for containment and recovery, and removal of the oil spill.

The precautions addressed in Mariner's standard safety and environmental operating procedures and our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan are considered consistent with the policies for protecting beach and shore preservation.

7. Wildlife Habitat Protection

The enforceable policies direct the State of conserve its diverse fish and wildlife resources, with emphasis on the protection of species defined as endangered or threatened. State lands that provide habitat needed by these species shall be maintained and enhanced for their value wildlife habitat. Substances thrown, spilled, drained, or discharged into fresh waters that injure or kill fish are expressly prohibited.

As Mariner will be using the existing onshore support infrastructure in Venice, Louisiana; we do not anticipate any impact on Alabama lands or waters to affect wildlife habitats. The most direct traffic routes for support vessels from Louisiana to Viosca Knoll Block 961. The authorized overboard discharges attributable to the proposed activities will be temporary in nature, and will be localized in the vicinity of the surface location for each proposed well; which should not impact Alabama lands, waters or wildlife. Disposal of trash and debris into the receiving waters is strictly prohibited by the Minerals Management Service, US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Coast Guard. Implementation of a stipulation attached to the oil and gas leases address the measures for preventing disposal of trash and debris overboard and subsequently endangering wildlife. Minerals Management Service recently issued Notice to Lessees No. 2003-G10 and 2003-G11 outlining the requirements for posting of signs and training of personnel on such unauthorized disposals, as well as accident reporting related to marine species.

The precautions addressed in Mariner's standard safety and environmental operating procedures and our Regional Oil Spill Response Plan are considered consistent with the state's enforceable policies to conserve Alabama's wildlife resources, including endangered and/or threatened species.

8. Endangered Species

Coastal area habitats are important in the life-cycles for many endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, waterfowls, and terrestrial species and, of course, finfish and shellfish. Therefore, it is the policy of the State of Alabama Coastal Area

Management Program to promote the preservation of these habitats which are important to the endangered species.

The proposed activities addressed in this Plan are temporary and speculative in nature and will be located approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline; therefore, Mariner does not anticipate an impact on these areas and species.

9. Cultural Resources Protection

The cultural resources of the Alabama coastal area include historical resources, architectural resources, archaeological resources and heritage resources. The importance of cultural resources is that they allow insight into the past inhabitants of the coastal area and provide valuable information and clues to understanding the conditions of the past natural environment. Therefore, it is the policy of the State of Alabama Coastal Area Management Program to promote the preservation of cultural resources and to insure that the knowledge of Alabama's history and pre-history is not lost.

The proposed activities are located in Viosca Knoll Block 961, and are within a low probability area for potential archaeological resources; therefore, we do not anticipate any impact as a result of the proposed operations.

Louisiana Coastal Zone Management
Enforceable Policies

Attachment I-4
(Public Information)

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

STATE OF LOUISIANA ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY POLICIES

A. Guidelines Applicable to All Users

1.2 Air and Water Quality Standards

a. **Air emissions** associated with the proposed activities have been projected using a matrix and formula supplied by the Minerals Management Service who has primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency for regulating such emissions. As detailed in ***Section G*** of this Plan, the resultant emissions are below the exemption levels for Carbon Monoxide, Particulate Matter, Sulphur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds.

b. **Overboard discharges** (i.e., drilling fluids and associated cuttings) associated with the proposed activities must be tested first for toxicity limitations as mandated by EPA's NPDES General Permit GMG290000. Other solid waste such as ground food will first pass through a 25-millimeter type mesh screen before being discharged overboard, as regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Pollution Research and Control Act (MARPOL) of 1987. Solid wastes will be collected and stored on the facility, and then transported by an offshore support vessel to an authorized onshore disposal site with the State of Louisiana. These wastes will be manifested and disposed as per the State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's regulations.

Refer to ***Section E*** of the Plan for more detailed comprehensive information pertaining to the types of wastes generated, discharged and/or disposed of as a result of the proposed activities.

1.6. General Factors that will be utilized by the permitting authority.

The proposed activities will be approved by the Minerals Management Service with consistency certification from the State of Louisiana. Additional authorities will be received by the Environmental Protection Agency for overboard discharges, and the U. S. Coast Guard for marking of navigational aids, and general workplace safety.

1.7. Adverse effects from land and water uses in the coastal area.

The proposed activities are located in OCS Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico, approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline. The greatest potential risk to land and/or water uses in the coastal area could result from a blowout or oil spill.

Protection of the environment during the proposed operations is of primary concern; with Mariner mandating regulatory compliance from its contractors and vendors associated with the proposed activities.

Mariner Energy, Inc. (Mariner) has adopted industry standards for safe well operations to prevent potential blowout situations, as well as implementing a Regional Oil Spill Response Plan to respond to a potential spill incident.

The likelihood of land and water uses in the coastal area being impacted is minimal based on the temporary nature of the proposed activities, the implementation measures Mariner would employ in the event of a blowout or oil spill, along with the wind and wave currents which could potentially divert such an unanticipated release outside the coastal areas.

Please refer to ***Sections B, E and F*** for additional measures implemented by Mariner to avoid any adverse alteration or destruction to the coastal area.

1.9 Permitting multiple uses to avoid conflict.

The proposed activities will not impact or be impacted by potential multiple use conflicts, other than military warning area exercises which may be conducted by the Department of Defense. Mariner will coordinate our activities with the appropriate command headquarters to avoid any potential conflict.

C. Guidelines for Linear Facilities

1.1 Linear use alignments.

No linear facilities are planned for the proposed activities addressed in this Plan.

1.2 Linear facilities dredging or filling avoidance.

No linear facilities involving dredging or filling avoidance criteria are anticipated for the proposed activities addressed in this Plan.

1.3 Linear facilities dredging or filling guidelines.

No linear facilities involving dredging or filling guidelines are anticipated for the proposed activities addressed in this Plan.

1.4 Pipeline "push ditch" methodology.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any pipeline related development activity.

1.5 Facilities with corridors, rights-of-way, canals, and streams.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any linear facilities with corridors, rights-of-way and/or streams. Therefore, there should not be any resultant adverse impacts to these areas.

1.6 Multiple uses

The proposed activities will not impact or be impacted by potential multiple use conflicts, other than military warning area exercises which may be conducted by the Department of Defense. Mariner will coordinate our activities with the appropriate command headquarters to avoid any potential conflict.

1.7 Barrier Island traverses.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any barrier island traversing for a linear facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any resultant adverse impacts to these areas.

1.8 Beach, tidal passes, protective reef, or shoreline traverses.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any linear facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any resultant adverse impacts to these areas.

1.9 Location guidelines.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any linear facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any applicable location guidelines.

1.10 Planning guidelines.

The proposed activities are speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any facility related development activity, other than potential installation of a well protector structure. Therefore, there should not be any applicable planning guidelines.

1.11 Saline to freshwater channeling.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and therefore do not include any linear facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts of saline to freshwater channeling associated with linear facilities.

1.12 Directional drilling, multiuse canals, and accesses.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any directional drilling, multiuse canals and accesses for linear facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts as a result of the proposed operations.

1.13 Pipeline guidelines.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any linear pipeline facility related development activity. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts as a result of the proposed operations.

1.14 Restoration.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any linear facility related development activity which may require restoration of state water bottom lands. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts as a result of the proposed operations.

1.15 Best practical techniques.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any linear facility related development activity which would require review for best practical techniques other than adhering to company and industry wide standards for conducting safe, and environmentally sound drilling related operations. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts as a result of the proposed operations.

1.16 Dead end canals.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any linear facility related development activity which would require use of dead end canals. Therefore, there should not be any adverse impacts as a result of the proposed operations.

D. Guidelines for Dredged Spoil Deposition

4.1 Best practical techniques.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities.

4.2 Beneficial use of soil.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities, which would result in reviewing the beneficial use of soil deposition.

4.3 Preventing impounding or draining wetlands.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities which would result in reviewing techniques and options available for preventing impounding or draining of wetlands.

4.4 Disposal restrictions.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities which would result in restrictions to soil disposal.

4.5 Preventing navigation, fishing, and timber growth hindrances.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities which could impact navigation, fishing and/or timber growth hindrances.

4.6 Spoil retention techniques.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities which would result in review of spoil retention techniques.

4.7 DNR Consent for State-Owned Property.

The proposed activities do not provide for any potential dredging activities which would require approval from the Department of Natural Resources on state-owned property.

F. Guidelines for Surface Alterations

1.1 Industrial, commercial, urban, residential, and recreational use guidelines.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include surface alterations within the coastal zone (i.e., lands 5 feet or more above sea level, and/or have foundation conditions sufficiently stable to support the use).

Related onshore support base activities will be from an existing infrastructure in the Venice, Louisiana area.

G. Guidelines for Hydrologic and Sediment Transport Modifications

7.1 Controlled diversion of sediment-laden waters to initiate marsh building.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, occurring in OCS Waters only, and should not result in the controlled diversion of sediment-laden waters.

7.3 Undesirable deposition of sediments.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and should not result in the undesirable deposition of sediments.

7.9 Withdrawal of surface and ground water.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and should not result in the withdrawal of surface and ground water.

H. Guidelines for Disposal of Wastes

8.1 Location and operation of waste storage, treatment, and disposal facilities.

Wastes generated from the proposed activities which cannot be discharged overboard, will be manifested and transported by an offshore supply vessel to an existing approved facility within the State of Louisiana.

Prior to transporting these wastes, Mariner will manifest same utilizing the Department of Environmental Quality Form UIC-28.

8.2 Generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Waste generated from the proposed activities which cannot be discharged overboard, will be manifested and transported by an offshore supply vessel to an existing approved facility within the state.

Prior to transporting and/or prior to disposal of same, Mariner will manifest same utilizing the Department of Environmental Quality Form UIC-28, and conduct any required testing for toxicity, naturally occurring radioactivity.

8.8 Approved disposal sites.

Waste generated from the proposed activities which cannot be discharged overboard, will be manifested and transported by an offshore supply vessel to an existing approved facility within the State of Louisiana.

8.9 Radioactive waste.

Mariner does not anticipate any radioactive wastes associated with the proposed activities.

I. Guidelines for Uses that Result in the Alteration of Waters Draining into Coastal Waters

9.2 Developed area runoff.

The proposed activities are temporary and speculative in nature, and do not include any permanent installations which may have an impact on area runoff in coastal waters.

J. Guidelines for Oil, Gas, and other Mineral Activities

10.3 Siting of exploration, production and refining activities.

The proposed activities are located approximately 75 miles from the nearest shoreline, and will not impact any critical wildlife and/or vegetation areas.

10.5 Access to sites.

The related crew and supply vessels will utilize existing waterways to access the surface locations proposed in this Plan. Therefore, we do not anticipate any adverse impacts on critical wildlife and/or vegetation areas.

10.6 Best practical techniques for drilling and production sites.

Mariner has adopted industry standards for conducting the proposed exploratory operations. Such standards are adopted to prevent unanticipated occurrences such as a well blowout or oil spill release, which could potentially cause adverse water/air environmental consequences. Such anticipated occurrences will be handled as quickly as possible by Mariner implementing their Regional Oil Spill Response Plan and/or well control standards and procedures.

Anticipated operations will include the overboard discharge of generated waste from the proposed activities; which are regulated by the EPA NPDES General Permit GMG290000, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard's MARPOL.

Refer to ***Sections B, E, F and G*** of this Plan for more comprehensive details to these issues.

10.10 Guidelines for drilling and production equipment for preventing adverse effects.

Mariner has selected the proposed surface locations addressed in the Plan based on the results of shallow hazards assessments.

The proposed activities will be conducted in accordance with industry standards to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Refer to ***Sections B and C*** of this Plan for more comprehensive details to these issues.

10.11 Effective environmental protection and emergency or contingency plans.

The proposed activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, supplemented with Mariner Regional Oil Spill Response Plans, Emergency Evacuation Plan, and Waste Management Plan.