

MINUTE ITEM

21. \*REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMITS, SHELL OIL COMPANY, OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF - W.O. 3877.

Following presentation of Calendar Item 33 attached, Commissioner Carr raised a question as to advantages to the State Lands Commission in knowing exploration results from Federal submerged lands adjoining State submerged lands. During the general discussion which ensued, the Executive Officer reported that requests for such information might be unenforceable, and that a demand by the State for such information from Federal lands could affect the cooperative relationships which have existed between the State and the U. S. Geological Survey.

The Chairman directed the Executive Officer to obtain an opinion from the office of the Attorney General as to the State's legal right to information obtained as a result of geophysical exploration permits issued by the State Lands Commission for exploration operations covering Outer Continental Shelf lands adjacent to the State of California.

The Commission questioned whether the Federal Government's reported lack of interest in exploration information had been reviewed by the new administration in Washington, and deferred action on the staff recommendation pending review with the Secretary of the Interior. The Executive Officer was directed to prepare a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, reviewing reasons for the State's interest in the result of geophysical exploration in offshore Federal lands adjacent to lands owned by the State of California, and possible bases for Federal interest.

The Executive Officer suggested that, in order to permit exploration operations to continue currently, authorization should be given to modify existing exploration permits so that they will be compatible with permits issued by the Department of Fish and Game as to authorized explosive usages.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO MODIFY SECTION 6 OF GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMITS P.R.C. 2485.1(A), (B), AND (C), AND P.R.C. 2607.1 TO PERMIT THE USE, FOR SEISMIC WORK, OF EXPLOSIVES AS AUTHORIZED BY THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 1961, OR SUBSEQUENTLY, ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PERMITS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Attachment

Calendar Item 33 (3 pages)

CALENDAR ITEM

33.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMITS, SHELL OIL COMPANY, OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF - W.O. 3877.

On April 6, 1955, the Secretary of the Interior executed a cooperative agreement with the State Lands Commission and the Department of Fish and Game, authorizing said agencies to issue permits (in accordance with Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Act of August 7, 1953) (Exhibit "B" attached) for exploration operations covering Outer Continental Shelf lands adjacent to the State of California.

The Regional Oil and Gas Supervisor, U. S. Geological Survey, was appointed to represent the Secretary in all matters concerning operations under this cooperative permit. Pursuant to this agreement, the State Lands Commission has issued geological and geophysical exploration permits covering the offshore area, including areas in title dispute and Outer Continental Shelf lands extending between the Oregon and Mexican Border, and has maintained inspection on such operations. The Department of the Interior has received from this Division copies of all State permits and permit extensions issued, and information as to the location and depth of all core holes drilled.

The Shell Oil Company, a current permittee, has submitted an application requesting a waiver of the State inspection requirements in geophysical permits covering the Outer Continental Shelf lands, which are not under the jurisdiction of or claimed by the State. However, a Department of Fish and Game inspector would continue to observe operations for the protection of marine life. The Regional Oil and Gas Supervisor has advised that a recommendation will be made to the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey for approval of the modification of geophysical exploration permits covering operations on Outer Continental Shelf lands.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE:

1. THE ISSUANCE OF A MODIFIED FORM OF GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMIT (EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED) FOR THE CONDUCT OF EXPLORATION OPERATIONS ON OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS NOT CLAIMED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. SUCH PERMIT WILL NOT REQUIRE STATE LANDS COMMISSION INSPECTION OF OPERATIONS OR STATE ACCESS TO EXPLORATION DATA FROM LANDS NOT CLAIMED BY THE STATE.
2. THE MODIFICATION OF EXISTING SHELL OIL COMPANY PERMITS P.R.C. 2485.1(A) (B) (C) AND P.R.C. 2607.1 TO CONFORM WITH THE FOREGOING FOR OPERATIONS ON OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS NOT CLAIMED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
3. THE MODIFICATION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Attachment  
Exhibit "A"

EXHIBIT "A"

W.O. \_\_\_\_\_

P.R.C. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT FOR THE CONDUCT OF GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION OPERATIONS ON  
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMERGED LANDS OFFSHORE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Permission is hereby granted to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for the conduct of submarine seismic exploration work during the period  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ inclusive, on  
those submerged lands described as follows:

The conduct of any operations under this permit is subject to the following specific conditions:

1. Specific compliance must be had with any and all requirements of any permit issued by the State Department of Fish and Game for operations in the permitted area.
2. Explosive charges may be placed only in areas of water sufficiently clear of kelp to minimize physical damage from the detonation of any submarine geophysical exploration shots.
3. The permittee agrees to indemnify the State against any and all losses, damages, claims, demands, or actions caused by, arising out of, or connected with the operations of the permittee hereunder.
4. This permit shall be effective only when a concurrent permit for the same operating area specified herein is authorized by the State Fish and Game Commission.

This permit is revocable at any time by the State Lands Commission.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

F. J. HORTIG  
Executive Officer

All terms, conditions and provisions  
of the foregoing permit are accepted  
by the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_