

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility

Wallops Island, VA 23337



July 23, 2018

Reply to Attn of: 800

Kelly Hammerle
National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop VAM-LD
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), I submit for your consideration, our 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program mission impact assessment. Enclosed are NASA-prepared maps, as well as the geographic information system (GIS) source files showing the magnitude of potential mission impact that oil and gas development could have to WFF's launch range operations.

NASA's overarching concern is that future oil and gas development would result in the need to protect additional persons and property when conducting launch operations at either WFF in coastal Virginia, or at the University of Alaska Fairbanks's Poker Flat Research Range (PFRR) in interior Alaska. The areas of greatest concern to NASA are the mid and south Atlantic and Beaufort Sea planning areas. As such, the enclosed assessment considers only the OCS waters of the U.S. Atlantic coast and North Slope of Alaska. We did not assess the Gulf of Mexico or the U.S. Pacific coast as we have no current or foreseeable mission equities in either area.

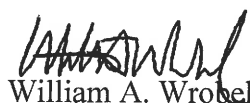
To develop the enclosed assessment, we employed the same GIS-based analytical methodology as when we prepared the 2017-2022 National Oil and Gas Leasing Program assessment several years ago. Therefore, I assume you are familiar with our approach. However, if you wish to discuss our methodology in greater detail, I will make my staff available to meet with your team. A key to our assessment's scoring is provided below for your convenience.

Color Code	OCS Area Relative Usage	Potential for Impact on NASA Operations
Red	Most Frequent Recent or Foreseeable	Greatest
Orange	Moderate Recent or Foreseeable	
Yellow	Occasional Recent or Foreseeable	
Green	No Recent or Foreseeable	Least

We would like to strongly encourage the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to scrutinize future lease sales in those areas that may be most impactful to WFF or PFRR operations. Opportunities to both quantitatively assess potential risk and develop site-specific lease conditions will be of utmost importance to ensuring mutually-acceptable oil and gas activities on the OCS, should they come to pass.

NASA appreciates BOEM's continued collaboration regarding offshore oil and gas leasing in the OCS. If you have questions or require additional information on this matter, please contact Mr. Joshua Bundick at (757) 824-2319 or Joshua.A.Bundick@nasa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Wrobel', is positioned above the printed name.

William A. Wrobel
Director, Wallops Flight Facility

Enclosures

