**May 1, 2014                                                       For Informational Purposes No Action Is Required at this Time**

**Memorandum to State Lease Operators**

**Force Majeure**

The Hurricane season begins June 1, 2014 and the Office of Mineral Resources would like to remind our lessees to be sure to review the State Mineral and Energy Board policy on force majeure. If there is a need to report a force majeure condition affecting your state lease, you will be prepared to move through the process quickly.

There is a “How-To” guide for reporting force majeure events on the Office of Mineral Resources’ portion of the Department of Natural Resources website ([www.dnr.la.gov](http://www.dnr.la.gov)). The guide will instruct you what to submit and provides copies of the force majeure policy, the sample lease amendment, affidavit, and spreadsheet to assist with reporting.

The short version goes like this:

1. Report all state leases that are shut-in as a result of the storms or for other circumstances described in your lease within 90 days of the event. Be aware, there are a few leases which have 60 day provisions. Be sure to read your lease form.
2. All new reports should be submitted using the online Force Majeure reporting system. Links to this system can be found in the “How to Report Force Majeure” section of our website.
3. All leases that do not include the force majeure language need to be amended to include the current language. Copies of a sample lease amendment are on the website.
4. State leases containing force majeure language, but the cause of the damage, delay, or cessation of operations or production is not covered under the language in the lease, should be treated as if there is no force majeure language in the lease and the lessees/operator should begin the process of amending the lease to include the new force majeure clause.
5. Lessees/operators of leases with provisions to make shut-in and in-lieu royalty payments for oil or gas well(s) on or affecting the lease are required to make shut-in payments in a timely manner.  However, the well must be qualified by the OMR staff prior to the beginning first payment period (normally this is 90 days after the well is shut-in.)
6. On the 1st of each calendar month please submit a monthly status report of all leases shut-in as a result of the force majeure conditions. These reports can be made by email to Charles.Bradbury@la.gov. As wells come back on production, you can submit the spreadsheet updated for the date production is restored.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Charles Bradbury

Office of Mineral Resources

(225) 342-9199