

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES,
NPDES PERMIT NO. GM0000002.

The applicant's mailing address is:

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The facility location of the Main Pass Mine is located in federal waters, Main Pass Block 299, in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) approximately 17 miles off the coast of Louisiana. The known uses of the GOM are marine water, propagation of fish and wildlife, shipping and contact recreation.

This is a reissuance action for a permit that will expire April 30, 2018. The previous 2007 issued permit was for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal licensed under MARAD as authorized by the Deepwater Port Act (DPA). Natural gas price decline since the 2007 permit issuance had negatively affected the LNG importation industry. The record of decision to construct and operate the LNG terminal expired on January 2, 2012, and the LNG terminal was no longer part of the 2012 permit renewal process. The site continued however as a sulphur and brine production terminal. Because Lease OCS-G 09372, which covered the operations associated with the exploration for and production of sulphur and salt at Main Pass Mine, Main Pass Block 299, has expired, this permit renewal is needed for discharges associated with the existing unmanned structures and decommissioning the Main Pass Mine platforms and associated wells and pipelines.

There are two changes of permit conditions proposed in this draft from the permit that expired April 30, 2018:

- A. If a facility has a marine sanitation device (MSD) installed, it must comply with MSD Operation and Maintenance requirements; and
- B. If the discharge rate of salt cavern brine is 0.1 million gallons per day (MGD) or greater, a 7-day toxicity test is required.