

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

The applicant's mailing address is:

Freeport-McMoRan Energy, LLC
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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 permit modification action for a permit that was issued August 9, 2018 and will expire December 31, 2019. The site operated as a sulphur and brine production terminal when EPA reissued the permit in 2012. 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, expired, a permit renewal was needed for discharges associated with the existing unmanned structures and decommissioning the Main Pass Mine platforms and associated wells and pipelines. EPA reissued a less-than-five-year short period permit in 2018 so that the operator may complete its decommissioning process. The decommissioning activities were expected to be completed by the end of 2019. But, delays in regulatory approval of varied decommissioning activities has moved the potential completion of decommissioning to December 2021.

There is one change of permit conditions in this proposed permit modification from the permit that will expire December 31, 2019:

A. Extend the expiration from December 31, 2019 to September 30, 2023.

Only the proposed modification of the expiration date of the permit is open for comments.