

Summary of Early Notification Information

Launch Barge Waiver Request

Walter Oil & Gas Corporation has asked the Maritime Administration for permission to use a foreign vessel in transporting and launching a Platform Jacket on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. The Platform Jacket will be loaded at a facility to be determined along the Gulf of Mexico Coast and will be unloaded at a point in the Ewing Bank Area on the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico.

Please let the applicant and MARAD know if you have a coastwise qualified vessel suitable for this purpose or are considering building or modifying a vessel for this task. Under the current schedule, the vessel would need to be completed and have operational capability and schedule availability to accept the load-out of the Platform Jacket by September 1, 2015. Please provide your comments by May 1, 2013 so that MARAD can work with the applicant to determine whether or not a coastwise qualified vessel will be available or foreign vessel may be used so that contracts for this project can be finalized due to the necessary lead time associated with this project.

The vessel used for this project needs to accommodate a Platform Jacket of 1,223 feet in length with dimensions of 45 feet by 150 feet at the top of the Platform Jacket, and 330 feet by 330 feet at the bottom of the Platform Jacket. When installed the object will be 1,186 feet below sea level and 25 feet above sea level. The Platform Jacket is estimated to weigh 27,679 long tons, and is being designed on the basis of 110.17 ft. (33.579m) center to center spacing of the launch ways on the launch barge.

A typically suitable vessel for this project will be a launch barge of 853 feet in length, 206.7 feet in breadth, with a depth of 49.2 feet. The vessel would need to have launch rail spacing of 110.17 ft. (33.579m) center to center spacing

If the Maritime Administration cannot identify an available U.S.-flag coastwise qualified vessel suitable for this project after an adequate time period following the submission of an application for this project by the applicant, we may grant a waiver allowing a foreign vessel to load, transport, and launch the Platform Jacket.

The party requesting this waiver is:

Walter Oil & Gas Corporation
1100 Louisiana, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77002

Any questions or additional information requested of the applicant may be directed to:

David St. Amand
Navigistics Consulting
1740 Massachusetts Avenue
Boxborough, MA 01719
978-266-1882
Davest@Navigistics.com

If you would like to see the technical requirements for this project or, if you have other questions regarding this matter please contact:

Michael Hokana
Office of Cargo Preference and Domestic Trade
(202) 366-0760
michael.hokana@dot.gov.

Per 46 C.F.R. Part 389 of the "Platform Jacket Legislation" requires timely notification when a current or operator of any type of offshore exploration, development, or production structure expects to require the use of a non-coastwise qualified vessel to transport a platform jacket.