



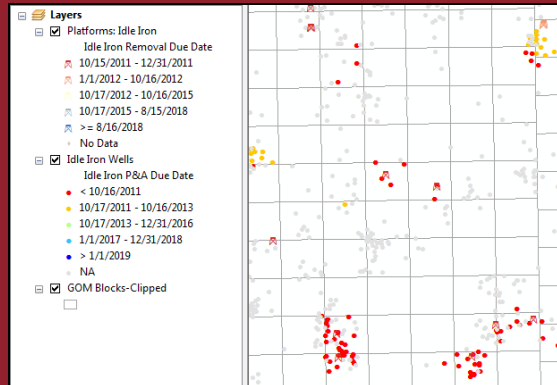
## August 2011 Monthly Newsletter

### Idle Iron in GOM<sup>3</sup>

In September of 2010, the BOEMRE issued a Notice to Lessees regarding the decommissioning of platforms and wells. NTL No. 2010-G05, which became effective 10/15/2010, will have an immediate impact on costs associated with wells and structures that have sat idle for many years. While short-term costs will be high due to the large number of wells that have not been plugged and abandoned, the long-term savings of fewer unplanned decommissioning projects (due to events like hurricanes or accidents) should be significant.

In order to display the Idle Iron information in GOM<sup>3</sup>, dates were calculated based on this NTL's definition of "no longer useful" as it applies to platforms and wells. Wells on past leases and platforms on past leases without authorization for Rights of Use and Easement or pipeline Right-of-Way must be decommissioned within one year of the lease termination (or expiration, relinquishment, etc.). On current leases, wells must be plugged and abandoned within three years after they are no longer useful; platforms must be removed within five years after no longer being useful. Those calculations are now integrated into the attributes of wells and platforms in GOM<sup>3</sup>.

To access the data, new tabs were added to the respective dialogs in ArcMap. For instance, under GOM-Cubed→Map Layers→Wells,



a new tab is available named Idle Iron Wells which allows you to choose a range of dates and map only those wells that are required to be plugged by a particular date. In the Facilities dialog, a similar tab is available to load platforms by a

particular removal date. Both include a legend choice to color the locations by the due date for decommissioning. A few clicks can create a map displaying all idle iron in the Gulf.

GOM<sup>3</sup>smart displays the same data in the Multiple-Feature Reports section of the site. From the main window, click the Multi-Feature Reports button at the bottom of the window to display a list of reports. The Idle Iron Platforms report is the first choice in the list. The Idle Iron Wells report is available under the Wells tab. Both take input on the range of dates by which either the platforms or wells must be decommissioned. Both reports provide a simple way of extracting the liability for a particular company throughout the gulf.

The wells and platforms that have sat idle past the initial deadline must be decommissioned by October 15, 2011. Because of the short time frame for so much work, additional guidelines may be instituted by the BOEMRE regarding the deadlines. We will adjust the formulas to calculate these Idle Iron dates as any new information is released.

Earth Science Associates (562) 428-3181

### GOM<sup>3</sup> Calendar

TeachMeGIS  
October 12, 2011  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

GOM<sup>3</sup> End-User Conference  
October 27, 2011  
Noble Energy in Houston

GOM<sup>3</sup> GIS-Support Conference  
October 27, 2011  
Noble Energy in Houston

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