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Public Comments on Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf--Changing Proprietary Term of Certain Geophysical Information:=====

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Submitter Info:

First Name: John
Last Name: Cunniff
Mailing Address: 608 River Oak Circle
City: Lafayette
Country: United States
State or Province: LA
Postal Code: 70508
Organization Name: Geophysical Consultant

Comment Info: =====

General Comment:Gentlemen and ladies:

I am opposed to any extension of the time that proprietary information may be kept confidential. In fact, 25 years is too much in my opinion. The term should be 10 years with a 5 year extension for reprocessing such geophysical data.

The current proposal is an attempt by contractors to extend the proprietary nature of their data indefinitely. In my opinion, this is not in the best interest of the geophysical industry, the oil and gas industry or the nation in general.

If geophysical data are allowed to become public sooner, the effect would be to encourage exploration. In addition, it would allow the scientific community (outside of MMS) access to important data that could be valuable to research.

Additionally, this would benefit students training to be geophysicists. It would give them a much more robust data set with which to hone their reprocessing and interpretative skills.

The MMS should consider geophysical data in the same way as they treat geological data. This is information about the earth's subsurface that should not be kept hidden.

I thank the MMS for everything you do for our industry.

- John Hilford Cunniff
Consulting Geophysicist
Lafayette, July 11, 2007