

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN**

**THE PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY  
OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

**AND**

**THE MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Petroleum Safety Authority of the Kingdom of Norway and the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America (herein referred to as the "Participants") have reached the following understandings:

**SECTION I: SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION**

1. The objectives of this Memorandum are to establish closer and more regular contacts, promote cooperative activities related to the principles and methods of ensuring safe operations in exploration for and the development of offshore mineral resources, and to promote the sharing of scientific and technical information including information on management and administrative procedures and practices, safety, and emergency preparedness. All objectives should be pursued in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations of Norway and the United States.
2. This Memorandum is in implementation of and subject to any applicable science and technology agreements between the respective countries of the Participants.
3. The Participants may undertake to provide enhanced opportunities to exchange information, including ideas, skills, and techniques; consult regularly; make use of special facilities; and address problems of mutual interest related to offshore oil, gas, and mineral activities.
4. For cooperation requested by either Participant that extends into subjects outside the scope of expertise of the Participants, either Participant may, subject to applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies of each country, endeavor to enlist the participation of other entities. Such actions should be coordinated between the Participants. Either Participant may include the participation of other organizations from its nation in the development of activities within the scope of this Memorandum. Participation by other organizations should be governed by this Memorandum.

## **SECTION II: COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Cooperative activities may include exchanges of scientific and technical information, mutually beneficial cooperative research, and exchange visits of individuals sponsored by either Participant.

## **SECTION III: SOURCE OF FUNDING**

Each Participant is expected to cover its own costs subject to the funds and personnel resources available to it. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to constitute a commitment to allocate, now or in the future, funds for cooperative activities under this Memorandum or annexes hereto.

## **SECTION IV: REPORTS, DOCUMENTS, AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

1. Subject to the applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the respective countries, information, data and reports of cooperative activities carried out under this Memorandum may be released by either Participant in coordination with the other or as otherwise provided by conditions and circumstances in connection with any project arranged pursuant to this Memorandum.

2. Any understanding between the Participants to preserve the confidentiality of information is subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the respective countries.

## **SECTION V: REVIEW AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES**

The Participants may designate representatives who, at times mutually decided upon, should review and coordinate the activities under this Memorandum.

## **SECTION VI: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Provisions for the protection and distribution of intellectual property created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this Memorandum and future projects should be in accordance with applicable international agreements.

## **SECTION VII: DISCLAIMER**

Information transmitted by one Participant to the other under this Memorandum should be accurate, but the transmitting Participant does not intend to warrant the suitability of information transmitted for any particular use or application by the receiving Participant or by any third-party. Neither Participant should be held responsible for any consequences of the use of or reliance upon such information.

This Memorandum is not intended to create legal obligations of any kind. Cooperation under this Memorandum should be undertaken in accordance with laws of the Participants and is subject to the availability of funds.

### **SECTION VIII: PROJECTS**

Any activity carried out under this Memorandum should be determined jointly by the Participants in writing before being undertaken. Whenever more than the exchange of scientific and technical information or exchange visits of individuals is planned to take place, such mutually arranged activity should be described in a project proposal which is to set forth as appropriate to the activity, a work plan, staffing requirements, cost estimates, funding source, and other undertakings, obligations, or conditions not included in this Memorandum.

### **SECTION IX: COMMENCEMENT AND DISCONTINUATION**

This Memorandum is intended to commence upon signature of both Participants and is intended to cease after 5 years. It may be modified as determined jointly by the Participants. This Memorandum may be discontinued at any time by either Participant. A Participant should endeavor to provide advance notice of its intent to discontinue the Memorandum. The discontinuation of this Memorandum may not affect the validity or duration of projects under this Memorandum which are initiated prior to such discontinuation.

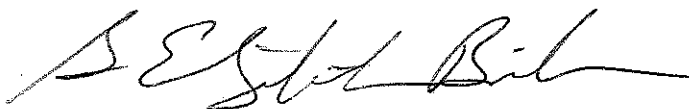
Signed at Washington, DC on the tenth day of December 2009 in duplicate, each in the English language.

**FOR THE PETROLEUM SAFETY  
AUTHORITY OF THE KINGDOM OF  
NORWAY**



**Name: Magne Ognedal  
Designation: Director General**

**FOR THE MINERALS  
MANAGEMENT SERVICE OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA**



**Name: S. Elizabeth Birnbaum  
Designation : Director**