



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service**



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

**Environmental Assessments
and Findings of No Significant Impact
For Granting Suspensions of Production or Operations
February 11, 2005**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announces the availability of six Environmental Assessments (EA's) and Findings of No Significant Impact for processing applications for Suspensions of Production or Operations for nine units and one non-unitized lease located on the Pacific OCS. Each EA provides an analysis of activities that would occur during the suspensions and includes three alternatives: 1) Grant Suspension(s) (Proposed Action), 2) Deny Suspension(s), and 3) No Action.

The six available EA's are:

1. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspensions of Production for Aera Energy LLC's Lease OCS-P 0409, Lion Rock Unit, Purisima Point Unit, Point Sal Unit, and Santa Maria Unit, Central Santa Maria Basin, Offshore Northern Santa Barbara County and Southern San Luis Obispo County, California.
2. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspension of Production for Plains Exploration and Production Company's Bonito Unit, Southern Santa Maria Basin, Offshore Santa Barbara County, California.
3. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspension of Production for Arguello Inc.'s Rocky Point Unit, Southern Santa Maria Basin, Offshore Santa Barbara County, California.
4. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspension of Production for Samedan Oil Corporation's Sword Unit, Southern Santa Maria Basin, Offshore Santa Barbara County, California.
5. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspension of Production for Samedan Oil Corporation's Gato Canyon Unit, Western Santa Barbara Channel, Offshore Southern Santa Barbara County, California.

6. Environmental Assessment (Final) for the Minerals Management Service to Grant Suspension of Operations for Venoco Inc.'s Cavern Point Unit, Eastern Santa Barbara Channel, Offshore Ventura County, California.

A decision by MMS on the suspensions will not take place until after they have been subject to the consistency review process set forth in the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) an EA serves as an information document for government decision makers and the public. Detailed information concerning NEPA may be found at <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm>. Frequently asked questions about compliance with the NEPA are provided at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/faqs/nepa/index.html>.

The EA's can be accessed through MMS's web site (<http://www.mms.gov/omm/pacific>) in a downloadable format. Members of the public who cannot electronically access the documents can request a Compact Disc or a hardcopy of the document(s) by calling the MMS Public Information Office at 800.672.2627 or by mailing a request to the following address.

Minerals Management Service
Attn: Suspension EA's
Office of Environmental Evaluation
770 Paseo Camarillo
Camarillo, CA 93010-6064

Questions regarding the EA's should be directed to Mr. Maurice Hill (805.389.7815) and questions concerning the operators' suspension requests should be directed to Ms. Joan Barminski (805.389.7707). Written questions can be sent to Mr. Hill or Ms. Barminski at the above address.