

**Louisiana Sand Management Working Group Meeting  
Thursday, November 29, 2007**

**Meeting Notes**

**University of New Orleans  
Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center  
2045 Lakeshore Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70122**

Thank you for your participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Sand Management Working Group Meeting.

**Working Group Presentations**

PowerPoint presentations from the meeting are contained on the CD-ROM enclosed.

- New MMS Sand Leasing Process (Geoffrey Wikel, MMS)
- Current MMS Sand Leasing Requests in the GOM (Geoffrey Wikel, MMS)
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program Status (Robert Martinson, MMS)
- LCA/LACPR Update (Bob Bosenberg, USACE)
- GOM Regional Sediment Management Alliance Status (Larry Parsons, USACE)
- Update on Barataria Bay Restoration Project (Rachel Sweeney, NOAA)
- Update on Whiskey Island Project (Tim Landers, USEPA)
- Update on Raccoon Island Project (Loland Broussard, NRCS)
- Update on CMI Ship Shoal Physical Studies (Greg Stone, LSU)
- Update on CMI Ship Shoal Biological Studies (Richard Condrey, LSU)
- Exploration for offshore sand on Tiger and Trinity Shoals (Harry Roberts, LSU)

**New Sand Leasing Application Protocol**

All environmental analyses to support future use of OCS sand and gravel resources, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will be provided by the applicant or lead federal agency. All necessary environmental information, including, but not limited to, hazard and cultural resource surveys and supporting site-specific environmental studies, will also be the responsibility of the applicant/lead federal agency. Any funding for site-specific environmental studies and data collection efforts to support the issuance of future sand leases is unavailable at this time.

Application guidance has been developed that describes MMS' negotiated agreement process and recommends contents for effective NEPA documents. That guidance was distributed at the meeting, and individual feedback was requested of attendees. The Leasing Division requests that any feedback be submitted no later than January 31, 2008 to Colleen.Finnegan@mms.gov.

### **Pipelines**

The MMS policy on oil and gas infrastructure, or its effect on offshore dredging operations, continues to be a grave concern. Issues raised by participants range from the accuracy of pipeline data to the establishment of infrastructure free corridors.

Many of these same issues were first raised in the initial working group meeting in March 2003. While MMS intended to prepare a position paper on these issues prior to this meeting, MMS has not been able to do so because of competing demands and staffing constraints. The Sand and Gravel Program plans on working with the Pipeline Section to develop this paper within the next 6 months.

In the interim, concerned participants are urged to contact the GOMR Director directly with their concerns. Participants may voice their concerns through the Section 19 Provision of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (*Coordination and Consultation with Affected States and Local Governments*). Participants may also make public comment on new draft Pipeline Regulations (30 CFR 250 Subpart J) available at [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/) by searching for Docket ID: MMS-2007-OMM-0059. As currently written, the new regulations do not contain any provisions to address the longstanding concerns over use conflict between energy development and sand mining operations.

### **Sand Needs Inventory**

MMS reminded participants that, without advance coordination, sand will likely be distributed to the first request and not necessarily conveyed to the best use. Some participants commented on the poor representation by the State of Louisiana and the importance of the State's continued participation in the working group. LDNR, federal agencies, and other potential applicants must be sure to communicate their needs early in process so MMS can balance potential uses of OCS resources. MMS may develop a list of priority projects and an accompanying schedule to ensure staff will be able to handle the anticipated workload. Please contact [Roger.Amato@mms.gov](mailto:Roger.Amato@mms.gov) to discuss anticipated projects.

### **Existing Lease Blocks with Sand Resource Designation**

Several participants asked how and which lease blocks are designated for future sand dredging activities. This information is provided to potential bidders in lease sales via Information to Lessees (ITL) documents. The most recent notice occurred for Lease Sale 206: [http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/206/c206p\\_lt.pdf](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/206/c206p_lt.pdf). Only blocks in the Central Planning Area (Ship Shoal, South Pelto, West Delta, Eugene Island Area, Vermilion Area, and South Marsh Island North Addition Area) have this designation. Note that this designation does not reserve the space, but only indicates the possibility of multiple use. MMS maintains a proprietary database that includes the bounding limits of potential sand resource areas, and this is used to map potential conflicts with proposed infrastructure plans of pipeline operators and identified sand resource areas.

**Action Items**

- MMS will look into getting the LA SMWG recognized as the official DOI representative to the Louisiana Coastal Assessment Task Force.
- MMS will post downloadable maps to the Sand and Gravel website of the OCS lease block areas that have special sand dredging designation in Notice for Sale ITLs.
- MMS will revisit an existing position paper for multiple use of sand resource areas and engage LDNR for priority of lease requests for same borrow areas.
- MMS will provide a white paper explaining pipeline and other OCS infrastructure rights-of-way. The proposed paper will cover MMS procedures for keeping track of pipelines, procedures related to storms and pipeline movement. HQ will engage the GOM region Pipeline Section to make sure this is a priority.
- Meeting participants will review the draft applicant package and provide MMS with comments or questions by January 30, 2008.
- MMS will provide CDs of the Baird buried channel report and/or the SMWG presentations as requested.
- MMS will look into and develop a guidance for the current requirements for archaeology and hazards surveys for sand and gravel prospecting