

U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Office of Public Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT Gary Strasburg, 202 208-3985 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, April 21, 2008

MMS Issues Lease Form for Alternative Energy Resource Data Collection and Technology Testing Activities

WASHINGTON - The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has issued the lease form that, with OMB approval, it will use to authorize alternative energy resource data collection and technology testing for activities permitted under the Department's interim policy announced in November last year.

The new Form MMS-0001, Lease of Submerged Lands for Alternative Energy Activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), is printed in a Federal Register notice published today. This notice provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burdens associated with the lease form.

You may submit comments within 30 days by any of the following methods listed below.

In a related move, the MMS yesterday announced via a Federal Register Notice its designation of five areas on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf as priority areas for the research. The five areas are offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Georgia, Florida and California. Additional information about the announcement may be found at:

http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2008/press0417.htm. The related Federal Register Notice can be found at:

http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-8387.htm

To submit comments on the lease form:

1. By fax (202) 395-6566 or email (<u>OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov</u>) directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-NEW).

2. Electronically: go to http://www.regulations.gov. Under the tab "More Search Options," click "Advanced Docket Search", then select "Minerals Management Service" from the agency dropdown menu, then click "submit." In the Docket ID column, select MMS-2007-OMM-0072 to submit public comments and to view available supporting and related materials. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link. All comments submitted will be published and posted to the docket after the closing period.

3. Mail or hand-carry comments:

Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Attention: Cheryl Blundon 381 Elden Street, MS-4024 Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

Please reference "Information Collection 1010-NEW" in your comment and include your name and return address.

-- MMS -

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