



## Media Advisory

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MMS Holds Public Hearings on Draft Supplemental Environmental Statement**

*New acreage included in Central Gulf Sale Area*

**NEW ORLEANS** — The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has scheduled public hearings to accept comments on a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on seven proposed oil and gas sales in the Gulf of Mexico through 2012.

The SEIS was prepared as a result of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which mandated that approximately 5.8 million acres in the southeastern part of the Central Gulf Planning Area be offered for lease. This acreage, which is known as the "181 South Area," has never been leased before.

As part of the review process, MMS will hold public hearings on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2008, Larose Civic Center, Larose Regional Park, Larose, Louisiana, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 14, 2008, Center for Energy Studies, 1077 Energy, Coast and Environment Building at the LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 15, 2008, Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama, 6:00 p.m.

Once the environmental review is complete on the 181 South Area, MMS will be able to make the decision whether to offer it for lease in March 2009 as part of the proposed Lease Sale 208 and all subsequent Central Gulf Sales.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft SEIS was published in the April 11, 2008 *Federal Register*. Copies are available through the MMS Public Information Unit at 1-800-200-GULF, or via the MMS website at [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov).

Comments on the NOA must be received no later than June 10, 2008 and may be submitted electronically to the MMS e-mail address: [environment@mms.gov](mailto:environment@mms.gov). Comments may also be enclosed in an envelope labeled “Comments on the Supplemental EIS” and mailed or hand carried to:

Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410)  
Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region,  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

—MMS—

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