



## NEWS RELEASE

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

For Release: March 23, 2006  
Release: 3485

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### **MMS to Hold Scoping Meetings and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Western and Central Lease Sales in Gulf of Mexico**

**NEW ORLEANS** – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for 11 proposed oil and gas lease sales in the Western and Central Planning Areas (WPA and CPA) of the Gulf of Mexico. These sales are scheduled for 2007-2012 in the draft proposed *Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2007-2012*. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on March 7, 2006. The sales are proposed WPA Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218, and proposed CPA Sales 205 (portion), 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222.

MMS offers three ways interested parties to provide written comments on the scope of the EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, and alternatives that should be considered.

The preferred method is to use MMS's Public Connect on-line commenting system at <https://ocsconnect.mms.gov>. Select "WPA and CPA Multisale EIS 2007-2012" from the "Projects Open for Comment" menu.

Written comments can also be mailed or hand carried in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Multisale EIS" to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Finally, comments may be submitted electronically to the MMS e-mail address: [environment@mms.gov](mailto:environment@mms.gov).

Comments should specifically address factors related to the scope of the draft EIS and are due by April 21, 2006.

The MMS will hold scoping meetings to obtain additional comments and information regarding the scope of the EIS. The scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, March 28, 2006, Wyndham Greenspoint, 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, Texas, 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 29, 2006, Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans-Elmwood, 5150 Mounes Street, Harahan, Louisiana, 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 30, 2006, Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 6, 2006, Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 1:00p.m.

In addition, MMS is preparing a separate EIS for the new 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for proposed lease sales to be held from 2007-2012. The MMS will also use the scoping meetings on the multisale EIS as an opportunity to solicit comments on the scope of the 5-year program EIS. Information concerning the 5-year program and EIS can be accessed at <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/2007-2012main.htm>.

**MMS Main Website: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)**  
**Gulf of Mexico Website: [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)**

**\* \* \* MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America \* \* \***