



NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 27, 2006

Minerals Management Service to Hold Public Hearing in Houston on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

WASHINGTON – The Interior Department’s Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a public hearing in Houston, Texas on Monday, October 30, 2006 to solicit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012.

The hearing will be held at the Marriott Houston Intercontinental at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, 18700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas at 1:00 p.m. Statements on the DEIS, both oral and written, will be recorded. Speakers are requested to arrive early to allow time to register to testify at the hearing. Time limits may be set on oral testimony to allow time for all speakers to participate.

MMS released the proposed plan for the 2007-2012 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing program and the associated DEIS for comment on August 25, 2006. The DEIS is open for comment until November 22, 2006, and is available for review on the MMS website at: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>.

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R-06-3561