



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT**  
Nicolette Nye, 703/623-9082  
Debra Winbush, 504/650-0991

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, October 27, 2006

### **Minerals Management Service to Hold Public Hearing in New Orleans 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 New Orleans, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 31, 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 Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans-Elmwood, 5150 Mounes Street, Harahan, Louisiana 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-06-3562**