

Electronic Access and Filing Address

Speakers may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: Mary_Knapp@blm.gov or mknapp@wo.blm.gov. Please include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Henri R. Bisson,

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

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BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 174

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final Notice of Sale 174.

On August 25, 1999, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in Sale 174, Western Gulf of Mexico, pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, as amended) and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR Part 256). Bidders can obtain a "Final Notice of Sale 174 Package" containing this Notice of Sale and several supporting and essential documents referenced herein, from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF, or via the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region's Internet site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>. The MMS also maintains a 24-hour Fax-on-Demand Service at (202) 219-1703. The "Final Notice of Sale 174 Package" contains information essential to bidders, and bidders are charged with the knowledge of the documents contained in the package.

Location and Time

Public bid reading will begin at 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 25, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center (Cabildo Rooms), 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana. All times referred to in this document are local New Orleans time.

Filing of Bids

Bidders must submit sealed bids to the Regional Director (RD), MMS Gulf of Mexico Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, during normal business

hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) prior to the Bid Submission Deadline at 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 24, 1999. If the bids are mailed, mark on the envelope containing all the sealed bids the following:

Attention: Mr. John Rodi

Contains Sealed Bids for Sale 174

If the RD receives bids later than the time and date specified above, he will return the bids unopened to bidders. Bidders may not modify or withdraw their bids unless the RD receives a written modification or written withdrawal request prior to 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 24, 1999. In the event of widespread flooding or other natural disaster, the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office may extend the bid submission deadline. Bidders may call (504) 736-0537 for information about the possible extension of the bid submission deadline due to such an event.

Areas Offered for Leasing

The MMS is offering for leasing all the blocks and partial blocks listed in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing, Sale 174" included in the Sale Notice Package. All of these blocks are shown on the following Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams (which may be purchased from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit).

Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Maps—Texas, Nos. 1 through 8 (latest revisions are dated March 15, 1999). This is a set of 16 maps which sells for \$18.00.

Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams (these diagrams sell for \$2.00 each):

- NG 14-3 Corpus Christi (rev. 01/27/76)
- NG 14-6 Port Isabel (rev. 09/09/98)
- NG 15-1 East Breaks (rev. 01/27/76)
- NG 15-2 Garden Banks (rev. 03/15/99)
- NG 15-4 Alaminos Canyon (rev. 04/27/89)
- NG 15-5 Keathley Canyon (rev. 09/09/98)
- NG 15-8 (No Name) (rev. 04/27/89)

Acreage of all blocks is shown on these Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. The available Federal acreage of all whole and partial blocks in this sale is shown in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing, Sale 174" included in the Sale Notice Package. Some of these blocks may be partially leased, or transected by administrative lines such as the Federal/State jurisdictional line, or partially included in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (in accordance with the President's June 1998 withdrawal directive, portions of

blocks lying within National Marine Sanctuaries are no longer available for leasing). Information on the unleased portions of such blocks, including the exact acreage, is found in the document titled "Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 174—Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease," included in the Sale Notice Package.

Areas not Available for Leasing

The following blocks in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area are not available for leasing: blocks currently under lease; and the following unleased blocks or partial blocks:

High Island Area Block 170, and Galveston Area, South Addition, Block A-125 (which are currently under appeal); and

High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Blocks A-375 and A-398 (at the Flower Garden Banks), and the portions of other blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary: portions of High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Block A-401; High Island Area, South Addition, Block A-513; and Garden Banks Area Block 135; and

Mustang Island Area Blocks 793, 799, and 816 (blocks located off Corpus Christi which have been identified by the Navy as needed for testing equipment and training mine warfare personnel); and

The following blocks which are beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and have been temporarily deferred from leasing by the Department of the Interior due to ongoing negotiations with the Government of Mexico:

Keathley Canyon (area NG 15-05)	Area NG 15-08
Blocks:	Blocks:
722 through 724	11 through 34.
764 through 770	56 through 81.
807 through 816	102 through 128.
849 through 861	148 through 173.
892 through 907	194 through 217.
934 through 953	239 through 261.
978 through 999	284 through 305.
	336 through 349.

Leasing Terms and Conditions

Primary lease terms, minimum bids, annual rental rates, royalty rates, and royalty suspension areas are shown on

the map "Lease Terms and Economic Conditions, Sale 174, Final" for leases resulting from this sale:

Primary lease terms: 5 years for blocks in water depths of less than 400 meters; 8 years for blocks in water depths of 400 to 799 meters; and 10 years for blocks in water depths of 800 meters or deeper;

Minimum bids: \$25 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths of less than 800 meters and \$37.50 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths of 800 meters or deeper;

Annual rental rates: \$5 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths of less than 200 meters and \$7.50 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths of 200 meters or deeper, until initial production is obtained;

Royalty rates: 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent royalty rate for blocks in water depths of less than 400 meters and a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent royalty rate for blocks in water depths of 400 meters or deeper, except during periods of royalty suspension;

Royalty Suspension Areas: Royalty suspension *may* apply for blocks in water depths of 200 meters or deeper; see the map for specific areas. See 30 CFR 203 for the final rule specifying royalty suspension terms.

The map titled "Stipulations and Deferred Blocks, Sale 174, Final" depicts the blocks where the Topographic Features, Military Areas, and Naval Mine Warfare Area stipulations apply. The texts of the lease stipulations are contained in the document "Lease Stipulations for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 174, Final" included in the Sale Notice Package. Also shown on this map are the deferred blocks noted above.

Rounding

The following procedure must be used to calculate minimum bid, rental, and minimum royalty on blocks with fractional acreage: Round up to the next whole acre and multiply by the applicable dollar amount to determine the correct minimum bid, rental, or minimum royalty.

Note: For the minimum bid only, if the calculation results in a decimal figure, round up to the next whole dollar amount (see next paragraph). The minimum bid calculation, including all rounding, is shown in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing, Sale 174" included in the Sale Notice Package.

Method of Bidding

For each block bid upon, a bidder must submit a separate signed bid in a sealed envelope labeled "Sealed Bid for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 174, not to be opened until 9 a.m., Wednesday, August

25, 1999." The total amount bid must be in a whole dollar amount; any cent amount above the whole dollar will be ignored by the MMS. Details of the information required on the bid(s) and the bid envelope(s) are specified in the document "Bid Form and Envelope" contained in the Sale Notice Package.

The MMS published a list of restricted joint bidders, which applies to this sale, in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 14751, on March 26, 1999 (revised at 64 FR 19193 on April 19, 1999). Bidders must execute all documents in conformance with signatory authorizations on file in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office. Partnerships also must submit or have on file a list of signatories authorized to bind the partnership. Bidders submitting joint bids must state on the bid form the proportionate interest of each participating bidder, in percent to a maximum of five decimal places, e.g., 33.33333 percent. The MMS may require bidders to submit other documents in accordance with 30 CFR 256.46. The MMS warns bidders against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860 prohibiting unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders. Bidders are advised that the MMS considers the signed bid to be a legally binding obligation on the part of the bidder(s) to comply with all applicable regulations, including paying the $\frac{1}{5}$ th bonus on all high bids. A statement to this effect must be included on each bid (see the document "Bid Form and Envelope" contained in the Sale Notice Package).

Bid Deposit

Bidders will have the option of submitting the $\frac{1}{5}$ cash bonus by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check with the bid, or by using electronic funds transfer (EFT) procedures. Detailed instructions for submitting the $\frac{1}{5}$ bonus payment by EFT are contained in the document "Instructions for Making EFT $\frac{1}{5}$ Bonus Payments" included in the Sale Notice Package. Any payments will be deposited by the Government in an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury during the period the bids are being considered. Such a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

Note: Bidders submitting the $\frac{1}{5}$ bonus payment by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check with their bid(s) must make the check payable to the order of the United States Department of the Interior—Minerals Management Service. For identification purposes, the following information must appear on the check or draft: company name,

GOM Company Number, and the area and block bid on (abbreviation acceptable).

Withdrawal of Blocks

The United States reserves the right to withdraw any block from this sale prior to issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the block.

Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids

The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In any case, no bid will be accepted, and no lease for any block will be awarded to any bidder, unless the bidder has complied with all requirements of this Notice, including the documents contained in the associated Sale Notice Package and applicable regulations; the bid is the highest valid bid; and the amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer. Any bid submitted which does not conform to the requirements of this Notice, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and other applicable regulations may be returned to the person submitting that bid by the RD and not considered for acceptance. To ensure that the Government receives a fair return for the conveyance of lease rights for this sale, high bids will be evaluated in accordance with MMS bid adequacy procedures. A copy of the current procedures, "Modifications to the Bid Adequacy Procedures" (64 FR 37560), is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit.

Successful Bidders

The MMS will require each person who has submitted a bid accepted by the authorized officer to execute copies of the lease (Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended), pay the balance of the cash bonus bid along with the first year's annual rental for each lease issued by EFT in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 218.155, and satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR 256, Subpart I, as amended. Each person involved as a bidder in a successful high bid must have on file, in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Adjudication Unit, a currently valid certification that the person is not excluded from participation in primary covered transactions under Federal nonprocurement programs and activities. A certification previously provided to that office remains currently valid until new or revised information applicable to that certification becomes available. In the event of new or revised applicable information, the MMS will require a subsequent certification before lease issuance can occur. Persons submitting such certifications should

review the requirements of 43 CFR, Part 12, Subpart D. A copy of the certification form is contained in the Sale Notice Package.

Equal Opportunity

The certification required by 41 CFR 60-1.7(b) and Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, on the Compliance Report Certification Form, Form MMS-2033 (June 1985), and the Affirmative Action Representation Form, Form MMS-2032 (June 1985) must be on file in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office prior to lease award.

Information to Lessees

The Sale Notice Package contains a document titled "Information to Lessees." These Information to Lessees items provide information on various matters of interest to potential bidders.

WC Rosenbusch,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Dated: July 12, 1999.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 99-18155 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate a Cultural Item in the Possession of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate a cultural item in the possession of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology which meets the definition of "unassociated funerary object" under Section 2 of the Act.

The one cultural item is an iron spoon.

In 1869, this spoon was excavated from a burial by George Hachenberg of the United States Army on behalf of the U.S. Army Medical Museum. In 1876, this iron spoon was gifted to the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology by the U.S. Army Medical Museum.

Primary accession and catalog documents for this iron spoon, currently on file at the Smithsonian, indicate this

cultural item was removed from a Brule Indian grave located 15 miles up the east bank of the Missouri River from Fort Randall Dakota Territory in present-day South Dakota. Catalog records indicate the human remains with whom this cultural item was associated are in the possession of the Smithsonian Institution. Brule Sicangu Sioux oral traditions and historical documents indicate the Fort Randall area was part of the Brule Sicangu Sioux traditional territory during the time of this burial in the mid-19th century. The attribution of such a specific cultural affiliation to the human remains by the collector, as well as the presence of an iron object indicate the interment post-dates sustained contact between indigenous groups and Europeans beginning in the 18th century. Based on this evidence, the age of this cultural item and the occupation of the area by the Brule Sicangu Sioux coincide. The Brule Sicangu Sioux are represented by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Because the human remains associated with this cultural item are in the possession of the Smithsonian Institution, which operates under its own repatriation statute, this cultural item is considered an unassociated funerary object.

Based on the above mentioned information, officials of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(2)(ii), this one cultural item is reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from a specific burial site of an Native American individual. Officials of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology have also determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between this item and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these objects should contact Barbara Issac, Repatriation Coordinator, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, MA 022138; telephone (617) 495-2254 before

August 16, 1999. Repatriation of these objects to the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Francis P. McManamon,

Departmental Consulting Archeologist, Manager, Archeology and Ethnography Program.

[FR Doc. 99-18124 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains in the Possession of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.9, of the completion of an inventory of human remains in the possession of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, CA.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by Southwest Museum professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Organized Village of Kasaan.

In 1919, human remains representing one individual were recovered from "an old Indian graveyard" at Old Kasaan, AK by Dr. M.A. Winningham while on a hunting and fishing trip in Alaska. No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

In 1946, Dr. Winningham gave these human remains to L.S. Keeton, and were housed at the L.S. Keeton Museum in Edmonds, WA. In 1985, these human remains were donated to the Southwest Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Curtis (L.S. Keeton was the maternal grandfather of Mr. Curtis). Ethnographic sources indicate Kasaan village existed at the time of European contact and was abandoned in 1902, when its inhabitants were persuaded by the Kasaan Bay Mining Company to move to the vicinity of the mining operation, which led to the establishment of the present-day Kasaan.

Based on the above mentioned information, officials of the Southwest Museum have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(1), the human remains listed above represent the physical remains of one individual