



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Caryl Fagot, 504-736-2590
Eileen Angelico, 504-736-2595

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MMS Issues Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Sales

New acreage to be included in proposed sales

NEW ORLEANS — The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has completed an environmental review of seven proposed oil and gas lease sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) and the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area with the publication of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

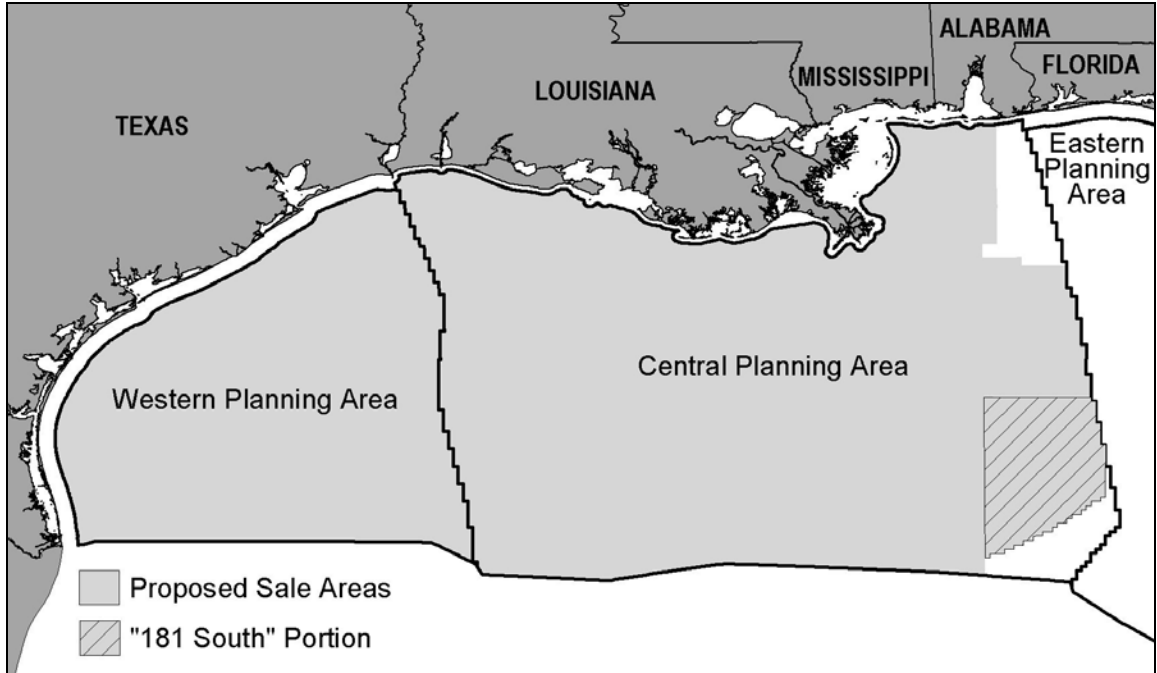
The SEIS is a result of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which mandated approximately 5.8 million acres located in the southeastern part of the CPA be offered for lease. This acreage, known as the 181 South Area, was not analyzed in the original 2007-2012 Multisale EIS. MMS prepared the SEIS to analyze the potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the 181 South Area.

The SEIS also analyzes any new information available for the remaining seven lease sales proposed for 2009-2012 in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico offshore the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Comments from Federal, State, and local government agencies and other interested parties were considered in determining the significant issues and alternatives for analysis in the SEIS.

Copies of the SEIS, *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2009-2012: Central Planning Area Sales 208, 213, 216, and 222; Western Planning Area Sales 210, 215, and 218, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* ([MMS 2008-041](#)), are available at: MMS Public Information Unit
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394,
or telephone 1-800-200-GULF, or via the MMS website at www.mms.gov.

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