



## NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior  
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### **MMS Issues Final Multisale Environmental Statement**

*Notice of Availability in Federal Register*

**NEW ORLEANS** — A final environmental impact statement (EIS) for upcoming oil and gas sales in the Gulf of Mexico is now available for public review. The EIS covers eleven lease sales proposed by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007 – 2012. The notice was published in today's [Federal Register](#).

“Because proposed sales and projected activities follow a similar track, MMS has prepared a single multisale EIS covering five western Gulf and six central Gulf sales,” explained MMS Gulf of Mexico acting regional director, Lars Herbst.

The comment period on the Final EIS will end on May 14, 2007. The Department of the Interior will review the EIS and all of the comments received on the final EIS and prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will summarize the proposed actions and the alternatives evaluated in the EIS, the conclusions of the impact analyses, and other information considered in reaching the decision. All comments received on the Final EIS will be considered in the preparation of the ROD.

At the completion of this EIS process, decisions will be made only for the 2007 proposed lease sales – number 204 in the Western Gulf and number 205 in the Central Gulf. Before decisions are made on each subsequent sale through 2012, a National Environmental Policy Act review and consultations with other federal agencies, the affected states, and the public will be conducted to determine whether the analyses in the multisale EIS remain valid.

The EIS is available on the MMS website at:

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/nepa/nepaprocess.html>. For a printed copy or CD-ROM, or a list of libraries with a copy for review, contact the MMS Public Information Office at 1-800-200-GULF.

Written comments will be accepted until May 14, 2007 electronically at [environment@mms.gov](mailto:environment@mms.gov) or by mail to: Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410)  
Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

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