



# Minerals Management Service

*People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy*

## FACT SHEET

January 16, 2009

### **2010-2015 Draft Proposed Program**

([http://www.mms.gov/5-year/PDFs/2010-2015/DPP%20FINAL%20\(HQPrint%20with%20landscape%20maps\).pdf](http://www.mms.gov/5-year/PDFs/2010-2015/DPP%20FINAL%20(HQPrint%20with%20landscape%20maps).pdf))

- The Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, routinely referred to as the Five-Year Program, specifies the size, timing and location of the areas to be considered for Federal offshore leasing during a five year period. The program is then reviewed by Congress and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
- The current five-year program is the 7<sup>th</sup> program prepared since Congress passed the OCS Lands Act Amendments in 1978. It proposes 21 lease sales in 8 of the 26 OCS planning areas in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and the Atlantic during the 5 year period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2012.
- The Minerals Management Service issued a Request for Information for a new 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program on August 1, 2008 after the President lifted the Executive Withdrawal on offshore lands on July 14<sup>th</sup> and called for Congress to lift the annual moratorium and enact legislation to allow states to have a say on what happens off their shore and provide for the sharing of revenues with those states that want to proceed with development.
- More than 150,000 comments were received in response to the Request for Information. The Draft Proposed Program has been prepared using input from those comments.
- On October 1, 2008, the Congressional moratorium was allowed to expire. This allowed all OCS areas to be considered for leasing but according to the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978, an area must be included in the 5-Year OCS Leasing Program to be offered for leasing. (The only areas remaining under congressional restrictions are the majority of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and a small portion of the Central Gulf within 100 miles of Florida. These areas are under restriction until 2022 pursuant to the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.)
- For the draft proposed program, the Secretary proposes 31 OCS lease sales in all or some portion of 12 of the 26 planning areas—4 areas off Alaska, 2 areas off the Pacific coast, 3 areas in the Gulf of Mexico, and 3 areas off the Atlantic coast.
- The OCS currently produces about 27% of domestic oil and 14% of natural gas and is estimated to contain significant quantities of yet-to-be-discovered energy resources.

- MMS is managing offshore resources in a manner that is responsive to the public's concerns and respects the diverse needs of the communities where exploration and/or development may occur.
- MMS strives to protect human, marine and coastal environments. Environmental protection and safety are vital considerations in developing and executing the five-year program. Therefore, development of resources is balanced against potential environmental impacts. Safety is a priority for both MMS and for the operations that occur under MMS regulation. Last year MMS conducted more than 25,000 inspections.
- Initiating the process for a new 5-Year Program provides the next Administration with the maximum decision-making flexibility.
- As we did with the Request for Information in August 2008, contact is being made with all 50 Governors making them aware of the 60-day comment period available to them.
- We are creating the maximum opportunity for the people of the United States to plan for strategic energy development on the OCS with the inclusion of areas that have previously been unavailable for consideration due to Executive Withdrawal and Congressional moratorium.
- With this second step in a two-year process to develop a new leasing program, MMS is seeking comments on all aspects of the new program including energy development, and economic and environmental issues in the OCS areas.
- Comments are being specifically requested on the subjects of size, timing, and location of sales and on the issues of buffer zones, revenue-sharing, and the use of unitization to limit the number of structures.
- The public comment period will remain open for 60 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.
- The DPP will be published in the Federal Register on January 21, 2009. The public may submit comments during the next 60 days by using the online commenting system, <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail to:

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