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NEWS RELEASE

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MMS Issues Proposed Notice of Western Gulf Lease Sale 207

NEW ORLEANS – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has scheduled the next oil and gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico. Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 207 will be held in New Orleans on August 20, 2008. The Proposed Notice of Lease Sale (PNOS) 207 was published in today's *Federal Register*.

The proposed lease sale encompasses about 3,400 unleased blocks covering approximately 18 million acres in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area offshore Texas. The blocks are located from 9 to about 250 miles offshore in water depths of 16 to more than 10,978 feet (5 to 3,347 meters).

MMS estimates the proposed lease sale could result in the production of 242 to 423 million barrels of oil and 1.64 to 2.64 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Also, the Notice of Availability of the Gulf of Mexico, OCS, Western Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 207 (2008) Environmental Assessment is complete and ready for review in today's *Federal Register*.

Terms and conditions for Sale 207 can be found in the Proposed Notice of Sale posted on the MMS Website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>. In addition, copies of the document are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123. Telephone (504) 736-2591, toll free 1-800-200-GULF.

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