



Offshore Sand & Gravel Facts

Minerals Management Service – Offshore Minerals Management Program

REQUESTS FOR OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF MINERALS FOR PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

- ✚ Under Title 30, Part 281, Section 281.11 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any person, entity, or company can request that outer continental shelf (OCS) minerals be offered for lease. The material would be offered under lease under a competitive system and a lease sale would be held.
- ✚ A request that OCS minerals be offered for lease should be sent to the Director, Minerals Management Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 4230, Washington, DC 20240 and should contain the following information:
 - The area to be offered for lease.
 - The OCS minerals of primary interest.
 - The available OCS mineral resource and environmental information pertaining to the area of interest to be offered for lease which supports the request.
- ✚ Within 45 days after receipt of such a request the MMS Director shall either initiate steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease and notify the applicant of the action taken or inform the applicant of the reasons for not initiating steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease.
- ✚ When considering whether to offer OCS minerals for lease, the Interior Department may issue in the Federal Register a Request for Information specific to the lease request. Requests may be for comments concerning geological conditions or archaeological resources on the seabed; multiple uses of the area proposed for leasing, including navigation, recreation and fisheries; and other socioeconomic, biological, and environmental information relating to the area proposed for leasing. Such information will be considered in the decision whether to proceed with additional steps leading to the offering of OCS minerals for lease.
- ✚ After considering the available OCS mineral resources and environmental data and information and comments received from interested parties, the MMS shall select the tracts to be considered for offering for lease. The selected tracts will be considered in the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed lease offering.
- ✚ The MMS will determine the type of environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will inform the requestor as to what further procedures/information should be followed or are required.

- ✦ If an Environmental Impact Statement is required, the process will involve scoping and public meetings, announcements in the Federal Register, allowance for official comment periods for draft and final documents, etc. The process could take upwards of two years or more.
- ✦ The applicant may be required to provide environmental information in support of the project.
- ✦ Further information can be obtained by contacting Ms. Maureen Bornholdt, Chief, MMS Marine Minerals Branch at 703-787-1300, or by email at Maureen.bornholdt@mms.gov.

MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America