



Offshore Sand & Gravel Facts

Minerals Management Service – Offshore Minerals Management Program

PROCEDURES FOR PURSUING A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

✚ Requesting authority contacts the MMS and provides the following information:

- A description of the proposed project for which the OCS resource is required.
- Maps and coordinates showing the location of the desired resource and intended project.
- Information as to whether or not the project is federally funded or authorized in whole or in part.
- A timetable and information on when the resource is needed.
- A primary point of contact.

Requests for negotiated agreements should be sent to Mr. Tom Readinger, Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 4000, Washington, DC 20240.

- ✚ The MMS will determine if the request qualifies for a negotiated noncompetitive agreement under Public Law 103-426 and will notify the requestor. If the request qualifies, MMS will inform the potential Lessee as to the time necessary to complete and finalize the agreement and will, together with the Lessee, prepare a timetable/schedule of events.
- ✚ If the OCS resource is being used for a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers authorized project, a Memorandum of Agreement will be prepared and signed in order to ensure that all environmental and administrative procedures are being followed properly, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ The applicant will be required to provide environmental information in support of the project.
- ✚ The NEPA process will be initiated and will include analyses to support the required essential fish habitat and endangered species consultations.
- ✚ The completed NEPA document, the recommendations received from NOAA/Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service during the consultation process, and any relevant environmental studies conducted by the MMS or outside sources will be used to develop draft lease terms and conditions which will be sent to the Lessee for review and comment.
- ✚ Once review and comment on the draft lease is complete, a final lease will be completed and sent to the Lessee for signature. Following Lessee signature, MMS will sign the lease and send a copy to the Lessee.
- ✚ 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.