

Mail Stop 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Hand deliveries may be made to the Department of the Interior, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 4227, Washington, DC 20240. Envelopes or packages should be marked "2002-2007 Oil and Gas Program Draft EIS." The MMS will also accept comments submitted by e-mail to MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov.

Public Comment Procedures: Our practice is to make comments, including the names and home address of respondents, available for public review. An individual commenter may ask that we withhold name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must state so prominently at the beginning of your submission.

We will not consider anonymous comments, and we will make available for inspection in their entirety all comments submitted by organizations and businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations and businesses.

EIS Availability: To learn which libraries in Alaska have copies of the draft EIS contact the Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, telephone 1-800-764-2627 or (907) 271-6438. On the Pacific coast contact the Pacific OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010-6064, telephone (805) 389-7520. For availability of the draft EIS along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts contact the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, telephone (504) 736-2595. Information on the availability of the draft EIS can also be obtained from the Minerals Management Service, Attention: Mr. Richard Wildermann, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817, telephone (703) 787-1670.

The list of libraries and their locations is also available on the MMS Homepage on the Internet at <http://www.mms.gov>.

After the public hearing testimony and written comments on the draft EIS have been reviewed and analyzed, a final EIS will be prepared.

Dated: October 16, 2001.

Thomas A. Readinger,
Acting Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

Dated: October 17, 2001.

Willie R. Taylor,
Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 01-27033 Filed 10-25-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of the Dates, Times, and Locations of Public Hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002 to 2007

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Announcing the dates, times, and locations of public hearings on the Draft EIS for the Proposed OCS 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002 to 2007.

SUMMARY: The MMS has prepared a draft EIS on the Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002 to 2007 pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Public hearings will be held in Alaska, Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama to receive comments from the public on the contents of the EIS.

DATES: Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates and times at the following locations:

December 3, 2001

Anchorage, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the Wilda Marston Theater, ZJ Loussac Public Library, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070.

December 4, 2001

Soldotna, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Conference Room, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070;

Kotzebue, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the North West Arctic Borough Assembly Room, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070.

December 5, 2001

Homer, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the Homer City Council Chamber, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070;

Nome, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM at the North West Campus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070.

December 7, 2001

Kodiak, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly Chambers, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070;

Barrow, Alaska from 7 to 10 PM in the North Slope Borough Assembly Room, phone contact: Robin Cacy at (907) 271-6070.

December 10, 2001

Houston, Texas from 1 to 3 PM at the Houston Airport Marriott, 18700 Kennedy Boulevard, phone contact: Janet Diaz at (504) 736-2540.

December 11, 2001

New Orleans, Louisiana from 1 to 3 PM at the Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, phone contact: Janet Diaz at (504) 736-2540.

December 12, 2001

Mobile, Alabama from 1 to 3 PM and 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Adams Mark Hotel, 64 South Water Street, phone contact: Janet Diaz at (504) 736-2540.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Wildermann, Minerals Management Service, Branch of Environmental Assessment, at (703) 787-1670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested individuals, representatives of organizations, and public officials who wish to testify at the hearings are requested to contact the person listed as the contact for the hearing at the particular location they wish to attend at least 5 days prior to the hearings. Time limitations may make it necessary to limit the length of each oral presentation to 10 minutes or less. An oral statement may be supplemented, however, by a more complete written statement that should be submitted to the hearing panel at the time of the oral presentation. After the presentation of oral statements by those who have pre-registered, if time is still available other individuals will be given an opportunity to be heard. Each hearing will begin at the specified time and will recess when all speakers have had an opportunity to testify. If there are no additional speakers, the hearing will adjourn immediately after the recess. Written comments on the draft EIS, including comments from individuals unable to present oral statements or to attend the hearings, will be accepted until January 24, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft EIS and written materials prepared as part of testimony at the public hearings should be mailed to the Minerals Management Service, Attention: Mr.

Richard Wildermann, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Hand deliveries may be made to the Department of the Interior, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 4227, Washington, DC 20240. Envelopes or packages should be marked "2002-2007 OCS Oil and Gas Program Draft EIS." The MMS will also accept comments submitted by e-mail to MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov.

Public Comment Procedures: Our practice is to make comments, including the names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. An individual commenter may ask that we withhold name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must state so prominently at the beginning of your submission. We will not consider anonymous comments, and we will make available for inspection in their entirety all comments submitted by organizations and businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations and businesses.

After the public hearing testimony and written comments on the draft EIS have been reviewed and analyzed, a final EIS will be prepared. The comment period for the draft EIS closes January 24, 2002.

Dated: October 18, 2001.

Thomas A. Readinger,

Acting Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 01-27034 Filed 10-25-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 181

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final notice of sale 181.

SUMMARY: On December 5, 2001, the Minerals Management Service will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in Sale 181, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, as amended) and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR part 256). Bidders can obtain a "Final Notice of Sale 181 Package" containing this Notice of Sale and several supporting and essential documents referenced herein, from the MMS Gulf

of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF, or via the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region's Internet site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>. The "Final Notice of Sale 181 Package" contains information essential to bidders, and bidders are charged with the knowledge of the documents contained in the package.

Location and Time

Public bid reading will begin at 9 a.m., Wednesday, December 5, 2001, in the Versailles Ballroom of the Riverside Hilton Hotel, 2 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. All times referred to in this document are local New Orleans time.

Filing of Bids

Bidders must submit sealed bids to the Regional Director, MMS Gulf of Mexico Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on normal working days, prior to the Bid Submission Deadline at 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2001. If the bids are mailed, mark on the envelope containing all the sealed bids the following:

Attention: Mr. John Rodi, Contains Sealed Bids for Sale 181

If the RD receives bids later than the time and date specified above, he will return the bids unopened to bidders. Bidders may not modify or withdraw their bids unless the RD receives a written modification or written withdrawal request prior to 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2001. In the event of widespread flooding or other natural disaster, the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office may extend the bid submission deadline. Bidders may call (504) 736-0557 for information about the possible extension of the bid submission deadline due to such an event.

Areas Offered for Leasing

The MMS is offering for leasing all the blocks listed in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing, Sale 181" included in the Final Sale Notice Package. All of these blocks lie west of 87°30' West Longitude and are more than 100 miles south of Alabama. See the map in the Final Sale Notice Package: "Lease Terms, Economic Conditions, Stipulations, and Deferred Blocks, Final". All of these blocks are shown on the following Official Protraction Diagrams (which may be purchased from the MMS Gulf of

Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit).

Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams. These diagrams sell for \$2.00 each:

NG16-02 Lloyd Ridge (revised November 1, 2000)

NH16-11 De Soto Canyon (revised November 1, 2000)

Note: A CD-ROM (in ARC/INFO and Acrobat (.pdf) formats) containing all of the Gulf of Mexico Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams, except for those not yet revised to digital format, is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit for a price of \$15.00. The Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams are also available on our Internet site. See also 66 FR 28002, published on May 21, 2001, for the current status of Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams.

Acreage of all blocks is shown on these Official Protraction Diagrams. The available Federal acreage of all blocks in this sale is shown in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing, Sale 181" included in the Final Sale Notice Package.

Areas Not Available for Leasing

The following blocks west of 87°30' West Longitude and more than 100 miles south of Alabama in the Sale 181 area are not available for leasing:

Blocks currently under lease:

De Soto Canyon Blocks 133, 177, 446, 447, 622, 666, 793, 794, 837, 838, 840, 883, 927, 929, 970, 971
Lloyd Ridge Blocks 1, 2, 133, 134, 136, 267, 268

Leasing Terms and Conditions

Primary lease terms, minimum bids, annual rental rates, royalty rates, and royalty suspension areas are shown on the map "Lease Terms, Economic Conditions, Stipulations, and Deferred Blocks, Final" for leases resulting from this sale:

Primary lease terms: 10 years;

Minimum bids: \$37.50 per acre;

Annual rental rates: \$7.50 per acre, to be paid on or before the first day of each lease year until a discovery in paying quantities of oil or gas is made, then at the expiration of each lease year until the start of royalty-bearing production;

Royalty rates: 12½ percent, except during periods of royalty suspension, to be paid monthly on the last day of the month next following the month in which the production is obtained;

Minimum royalty: After the start of royalty-bearing production: \$7.50 per acre per year, to be paid at the expiration of each lease year;

Royalty Suspension Areas: All leases in this sale are being offered subject to