Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 157—Extension

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice to extend postsale evaluation period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157.

SUMMARY: This notice extends by 15 working days to August 12, 1996, the postsale evaluation period for the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157. Because of the unexpected and unprecedented response to Sale 157, MMS needs this extension to properly evaluate the bids received and to ensure the receipt of fair value.

DATES: The postsale evaluation period ends on August 12, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Marshall Rose, Chief, Economic Evaluation Branch, telephone (703) 787-1536.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS published the lease notice for Sale 157 in the Federal Register on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12078). The time to accept or reject bids is established under the regulations at 30 CFR 256.47. Normally, the authorized officer must accept or reject the high bids within 90 days after the bid opening. Any bid not accepted within that period is deemed rejected. This regulation was recently amended to allow the authorized officer authority to extend the time period for 15 working days or longer when circumstances warrant (61 FR 34730, dated July 3, 1996). In amending the rule, we noted that recent examples include floods and furloughs; but specifically stated that other circumstances, such as an excessive unanticipated workload, might arise which could warrant the need for a longer time for bid evaluation.

In the Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 157, held April 24, 1996, we received 1,381 bids on 924 tracts, 632 of which passed to Phase 2 for detailed reviews. This unprecedented response by industry in Sale 157 resulted from the enactment of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (Pub. L. 104-50) and other factors, such as higher natural gas and oil prices. Consequently, MMS is unable to conduct and complete the entire bid review process within the 90 days, i.e., by July 22, 1996. Without an extension before the 90 days expire for Sale 157, dozens of high bids received on tracts offered in this sale might be rejected because of our inability to complete the statutorily mandated review for fair market value. The alternative of rejecting high bids not evaluated because of insufficient time does not serve the overall best interest of the companies or the Government. Therefore, we find an extension to assure that adequate time is available to give all high bids a full and appropriate review, to ensure the receipt of fair market value, and ultimately to increase natural gas and oil supplies is warranted and in the public interest. The MMS will complete evaluating all the bids received in this sale by August 22, 1996.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Chris C. Oynes,
Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.
[FR Doc. 96-18419 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

National Park Service

Channel Islands National Park; Santa Rosa Island Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Resources Management Plan; Notice of Extended Comment Period

EXTENSION FOR COMMENTS: The comment period for the Santa Rosa Island Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Resources Management Plan (DEIS) was originally scheduled to end on July 23, 1996. In deference to public interest expressed to date, the National Park Service is extending the comment period for the DEIS for 45 more days. Written comments and suggestions now must be received no later than September 9, 1996. Comments or/and requests for copies of the DEIS should be addressed to the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

PUBLIC MEETING: To facilitate public review and comment regarding the DEIS, a public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 1996. This public meeting will be held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, beginning at 9 a.m. In addition to oral comments, written responses to the DEIS may also be submitted at the meeting. Additional information may be obtained by phoning the park at (805) 658-5700.

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Stanley T. Albright,
Field Director, Pacific West Area.
[FR Doc. 96-18364 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]
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Cleetwood Cove Development Concept Plan/Environment Impact Statement, Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environment Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Due to water levels dropping in Crater Lake, in June 1992, the National Park Service began studies for the redesign of boat docking facilities at the base of the Cleetwood Cove trail. The studies included the possibility of repair and/or replacement of facilities at the trail head, and the replacement of old and decaying retaining walls along the trail. As the studies progressed, it became clear that the project had potential for significant environmental impacts so a decision was made to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the various alternatives.

Scoping is the term given to the process by which the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS is identified. Representatives of Federal, State and local agencies, American Indian tribes, private organizations and individuals from the general public who may be interested in or affected by the proposed EIS are invited to participate in the scoping process by responding to this Notice with written comments. In addition, a letter seeking ideas on issues involved with this project will be...