

Activity/operator	Location	Date
Seagull Energy Corporation, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-143.	North Padre Island Area, Block A-72, Lease OCS-G 11213, 39 miles east of Padre Island, Texas.	10/15/97
Forest Oil Corporation, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-146A.	Vermilion Area, Block 275, Lease OCS-G 10678, 73 miles from the Louisiana coastline.	11/07/97
Chevron U.S.A. Production, Co., Structure Removal Operations, SEA Nos. ES/SR 97-155 and 97-156.	Bay Marchand Area, Block 2; South Timbalier Area, Block 23; Leases OCS 0386 and 0369; 7 miles south of the Louisiana coastline.	11/12/97
Seneca Resources Corporation, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-170.	Galveston Area, Block 211, Lease OCS-G 6094, 13 miles south of the Texas coastline.	12/18/97
Sonat Exploration Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-177.	High Island Area, Block 39, Lease OCS-G 4078, 17 miles south of the Texas coastline.	10/27/97
Forcenergy, Inc., Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-179.	East Cameron Area, Block 300, Lease OCS-G 6643, 90 miles south of the Louisiana coastline.	12/19/97
Seagull Energy E&P Inc., Structure Removal Operations, SEA Nos. ES/SR 97-180 through 97-185.	Eugene Island Area, Block 45, Lease OCS-G 3991, 14 miles south of Iberia Parish Louisiana.	10/10/97
Houston Oil & Mineral Corporation, Structure Removal Operations, SEA Nos. ES/SR 97-188 and 97-189.	Galveston Area, Blocks 330 and 349, Leases OCS-G 7251 and 13314, 25 miles from the Texas coastline.	01/21/98
Forest Oil Corporation, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 97-190.	Eugene Island Area, Block 53, Lease OCS 0479, 13 miles southwest of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.	10/10/97
IP Petroleum Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA Nos. ES/SR 97-191 & 97-192.	High Island Area, Block 108, Lease OCS-G 15776, 16 miles southeast of Chambers County, Texas.	10/10/97
Hall-Houston Oil Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-001.	West Cameron Area, Block 342, Lease OCS-G 10576, 51 miles south-southeast of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.	10/27/97
Hall-Houston Oil Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-002.	West Cameron Area, Block 359, Lease OCS-G 14329, 54 miles south-southwest of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.	10/21/97
Burlington Resources, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-004.	Brazos Area, Block 435, Lease OCS-G 7219, 18 miles southeast of Matagorda County, Texas.	11/14/97
Newfield Exploration Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-005.	Galveston Area, Block 296, Lease OCS 0714, 30 miles southeast of Galveston Island, Texas.	12/15/97
The Houston Exploration Company, Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-006.	East Cameron Area, Block 44, Lease OCS-G 5022, 15 miles south of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.	11/26/97
Energy Resources Technology, Inc., Structure Removal Operations, SEA No. ES/SR 98-007.	West Cameron Area, Block 277, Lease OCS-G 4761, 65 miles south of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.	12/15/97

Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposals listed above or obtaining information about EA's and FONSI's prepared for activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS are encouraged to contact the MMS office in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Public Information Unit, Information Services Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Telephone (504) 736-2519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS prepares EA's and FONSI's for proposals which relate to exploration for and the development/production of oil and gas resources on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. The EA's examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the

significance of those effects. Environmental Assessments are used as a basis for determining whether or not approval of the proposals constitutes major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA Section 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where the MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the EA.

This notice constitutes the public notice of availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA Regulations.

Dated: February 2, 1998.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
[FR Doc. 98-2968 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

NPS Franchise Fee Determination Guidelines

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Consideration of public comments on NPS franchise fee determination guidelines.

SUMMARY: On December 5, 1997, the National Park Service (NPS) again published for public comment that portion of its concession management staff manual (NPS-48) dealing with guidelines for concession contract franchise fees. Comments were invited on, among other matters, specific proposed changes in concept or in detail, for dealing with concession contract franchise fees. The comment period has closed and NPS has duly considered the comments received.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 6, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Yearout, Program Manager, Concession Program, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The franchise fee guidelines contained in NPS-48 were adopted by NPS on December 31, 1986, after receipt and consideration of public comments pursuant to **Federal Register** notification. The guidelines were amended on July 20, 1995, after consideration of public comment pursuant to **Federal Register** notification. In addition, the guidelines were clarified on August 11, 1997, after consideration of public comment pursuant to **Federal Register** notification. NPS is presently considering the possibility of significantly revising the guidelines. If it chooses to do so, the proposed revisions will be made available for public comment through **Federal Register** notification.

Two comments were received in response to the December 5, 1997, **Federal Register** notice. One commenter expressed concern that franchise fee adjustments made as part of a concession contract fee reconsideration are neither easily quantifiable nor subject to any "cap" as to how much a fee may be raised as a result of the reconsideration. The commenter considers that franchise fees should be quantifiable for the term of a contract. The commenter suggested that this would allow better calculation of prospective financial returns, increase the ability to obtain financing, and decrease the risk of bidding to obtain a concession contract. Specifically, the commenter suggested that the basis for fee adjustments should be a pre-determined formula established at the outset of the contract.

NPS considers that this comment has merit in some respects. However, it notes that under current concession contract provisions, franchise fees may be adjusted upwards or downwards as circumstances warrant during the term of the contract. The present system, accordingly, treats the concessioner and the Government alike with respect to franchise fee adjustments.

The commenter also suggested that in analyzing franchise fees, the complete financial history of the operation should be considered. NPS notes that its current guidelines permit analysis of as many years of financial history as is appropriate and that during a franchise fee consideration the concessioner is likewise able to provide analysis as it

sees fit with respect to the operation's financial returns and history.

Finally, the commenter noted that, although, in theory, the NPS consideration of industry ratios would seem equitable in analyzing franchise fees, published statistics in this regard are not readily comparable to NPS concession operations in light of their more extensive mix of facilities and services and other factors related to operations in areas of the national park system. In addition, the commenter suggested that the ratios provided in industry statistics have such a wide swing in results that any assignment of ranking would be purely subjective on the part of NPS in attempting to recommend a new franchise fee. NPS has received similar criticisms of using published industry statistics in franchise fee analysis on other occasions, including in prior responses to **Federal Register** requests for public comment on NPS franchise fee guidelines.

NPS agrees that consideration of published industry statistics in and of itself would not be an appropriate means to establish a franchise fee. However, the NPS guidelines only contemplate consideration of published statistics as one starting point for franchise fee analysis. The guidelines call for analysis of such statistics to account for differences between the general industry and the particular circumstances of the concession operation in question. In addition, industry statistics as part of a franchise fee reconsideration process are shared with the concessioner which may dispute their validity and provide alternative statistics. A decision on an adjusted franchise fee is made on the basis of all the information developed during the reconsideration process, including discussions with the concessioner. In addition, if NPS and the concessioner cannot agree on an adjustment to the franchise fee, up or down as the case may be, the concessioner is entitled to request advisory arbitration on the issue and a final decision from the Secretary of the Interior based upon the entire record of the matter and the views of the arbitration panel. In short, NPS appreciates that published statistics cannot be the exclusive means of analyzing franchise fees and that they have shortcomings which must be taken into account. Nonetheless, NPS considers it appropriate to use published statistics, with appropriate adjustment and consideration of their limitations, as a franchise fee analytical tool.

The other comment received was concerned that NPS should permit public comment on the specifics of its proposed changes to its franchise fee guidelines. This NPS intends to do through **Federal Register** notification if significant changes are proposed.

Having considered the comments received, and similar comments received in response to past **Federal Register** notification, NPS believes that its present franchise fee guidelines are adequate and hereby re-adopts them to the extent legally necessary. However, NPS does consider that there may be other and perhaps better ways to deal with concession contract franchise fees and may suggest significant revisions to the present guidelines in the near future. If this occurs, further public comment will be invited on the revisions and the comments received in response to the December 5, 1997, notice and prior notices will be taken into due account as well in reaching a final decision on any proposed revisions.

Dated: January 23, 1998.

Wendelin M. Mann,

Acting Concession Program Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-2977 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct a Public Tour and Meetings Initiating a General Management Plan Amendment for the Green Spring Unit of Colonial National Historical Park

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public tour and meetings and notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces upcoming public scoping meetings and a site tour initiating a General Management Plan Amendment for the Green Spring unit of Colonial National Historic Park and the intent to publish an Environmental Impact Statement in association with the General Management Plan Amendment.

Public Tour

Date and Time: Sunday, February 22, 1998 from 2 to 4 PM.

Address: Meet at Jamestown Visitor Center on Jamestown Island, 1368 Colonial Parkway, Jamestown, VA 23081.