

contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and will be subject to:

1. Easements in accordance with the Clark County Transportation Plan.

2. Those rights for water pipeline purposes which have been granted to Las Vegas Valley Water District by Permit No. N-61268 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

3. Those rights for highway purposes which have been granted to Nevada Department of Transportation by Permit Nev-031066 under the Act of November 9, 1921 (42 Stat. 0216).

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

On November 22, 2000, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws, and disposal under the mineral material disposal laws.

On or before January 8, 2001, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the Las Vegas Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

#### Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a high school. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

#### Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to

the suitability of the land for a high school. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification of the land described in this Notice will become effective on January 22, 2001. The lands will not be offered for lease/conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Dated: November 14, 2000.

**Rex Wells,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Division of Lands, Las Vegas, NV.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Exploratory Drilling Activities in Federal Waters Offshore Santa Barbara County, California

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and announcement of public scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify and assess potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with multiple projects. The projects include the sequential drilling of 5-8 delineation wells from a single mobile offshore drilling unit on existing leases in Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) waters in the Santa Maria Basin and western Santa Barbara Channel. Previously, 28 exploration wells have been drilled in the area where activities are proposed. The purpose of the proposed drilling is to further delineate oil and gas resources on leases or units that have previous commercial discoveries of oil and gas. Delineation wells are a type of exploration well. Notice is hereby given that the public scoping process has been initiated to prepare an EIS that will address the impacts of and alternatives to the proposal. The purpose of the scoping process is to solicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of issues and concerns, including a suitable range of alternatives, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures that should be addressed in

the EIS process. It is anticipated that a draft EIS will be available in Summer 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Questions concerning the draft EIS should be directed to Mr. Maurice Hill, Office of Environmental Evaluation, Pacific OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010-6064; phone 805.389.7815.

#### Background

Pursuant to the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations at 30 Code of Federal Regulations, § 250.203 (Exploration Plan), the MMS reviews Exploration Plans (EP's) and revisions to those EP's to decide whether those plans or revisions should be approved; should be modified to be consistent with the provisions of the lease, the OCS Lands Act, and the implementing regulations; or should be disapproved. To meet the agency's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), MMS is preparing an EIS that will provide an assessment of the environmental effects of drilling 5-8 delineation wells offshore the Santa Barbara County coast in Federal waters.

#### Proposed Action

In accordance with 30 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 250.110(a)(1) (Suspension of Production or Other Operations), the MMS approved the lease operator's requests for suspension of production or operations and established milestones for the operators to submit revisions to their existing EP's by September 2001. All of the leases on which drilling could occur have EP's that have been previously approved by the MMS and granted consistency by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) according to 15 CFR 930.79. The approved EP's identify proposed well locations that have received CCC consistency concurrence but, to date, have not been drilled. Because a number of years have elapsed since these approvals, the MMS has established milestones for the operators of the leases to update their previously approved EP's through revisions. The EIS will address all the proposed delineation drilling activities on several leases. The multi-project activities will be subject to existing laws, regulations, and other requirements. The activities include sequential drilling of 5-8 delineation wells by a single mobile offshore drilling unit. The operators need the information from these wells to identify oil and gas characteristics, reservoir characteristics, and reservoir extent in

order to determine the location, size, and type of facilities that may be required to develop the resources and thus could be proposed at a future time.

The delineation drilling would occur on units where there have been commercial oil and gas discoveries, and where MMS believes that development could occur in the future. Therefore, the EIS will also include a discussion of the potential impacts of the buildout of production facilities as part of the cumulative analysis. The cumulative analysis will also cover other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the area of the proposed exploratory drilling. Subsequent to the delineation drilling, detailed Development and Production Plans (DPP's) would be prepared by the operators for the development of the leases in the future and are expected to be submitted to the MMS and subjected to separate NEPA analyses. The DPP's would also be submitted to the California Coastal Commission to ensure their consistency with the California Coastal Management Plan.

#### Alternatives

Alternatives will include (1) the action of drilling 5–8 delineation wells on undeveloped leases in the Santa Maria Basin and western Santa Barbara Channel, and (2) no action. Other possible alternatives that may be considered include variations on the proposed action and alternatives identified during the scoping process.

#### Scoping

Scoping is an open process for determining the scope of the EIS and for identifying significant issues related to the proposed action. Scoping also provides an opportunity to identify alternatives to the proposed action and appropriate mitigation measures. All interested persons, organizations and agencies wishing to provide comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the activities may do so as follows:

(1) Send input to Minerals Management Service, Attn: Exploratory Activities EIS, Office of Environmental Evaluation, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA 93010–6064;

(2) Attend and provide comment at the public scoping meetings the MMS will conduct in Santa Barbara County as follows: (a) December 6, 2000, 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort, 633 East Cabrillo Blvd., Sierra Madre Room, Santa Barbara, California; (b) January 22, 2001, 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. at Allan Hancock College, Marian Theatre, Bldg. D, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria, California. Further details of the meetings will be

posted on the MMS, Pacific Region, homepage at <http://www.mms.gov/omm/pacific> and will be advertised in the local media; and

(3) Email input to ExplorationEIS@mms.gov.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EIS for public review and comment will be announced by the MMS and the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**; on the MMS, Pacific Region, homepage; and in the local media. We anticipate that a draft EIS will be available for review in Summer 2001, and a final EIS will be completed in Fall 2001. Public hearings will be held in the local area following release of the draft EIS. Dates and locations are to be determined.

Dated: November 17, 2000.

**Carolita U. Kallaur,**

*Associate Director, Offshore Minerals Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects in the Possession of the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, IA**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.9, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects in the possession of the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History, Davenport, IA.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of these Native American human remains and associated funerary objects. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Onondaga Nation of New York and the Haudenosaunee

Standing Committee on Burials and Regulations.

At an unknown time prior to 1960, human remains representing one individual were removed from an unknown location in Clifton Springs, NY, by unknown persons. They were donated to the Palmer School of Chiropractic prior to 1960 by an unknown person. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

Museum records and osteological characteristics identify these human remains as Native American. The degree of preservation of these remains indicates a date of burial within the last millennium. Consultation with representatives of the Onondaga Nation of New York indicates that Clifton Springs, NY, is located within the traditional territory of the Onondaga Nation of New York, and indicates that a relationship exists between these human remains and the Onondaga Nation of New York. Officials of the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History have found it reasonable to affiliate these human remains, based on consultation results, with the Onondaga Nation of New York.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(1), the human remains listed above represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry. Officials of the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between these Native American human remains and the Onondaga Nation of New York.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Onondaga Nation of New York and the Haudenosaunee Standing Committee on Burials and Regulations. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these human remains should contact Alana Callender, Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History, Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803, telephone (319) 884-5404, before December 22, 2000. Repatriation of the human remains to the Onondaga Nation of New York may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.