

projects and the cumulative effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. The proposed action discussed in this draft EIS is the sequential drilling of 4 or 5 delineation wells on four separate OCS units using a semi-submersible drilling vessel, commonly referred to as a mobile offshore drilling unit. A unit is a number of leases grouped together to prevent waste, conserve natural resources, and protect Federal royalty interests. Each of the four subject units has been previously explored under Exploration Plans (EP) approved by the MMS and found consistent with the California Coastal Management Plan by the California Coastal Commission. Operators are expected to submit to the MMS revisions to 4 to 5 existing EP's in September 2001. The operators of these units, Nuevo Energy Company, Aera Energy LLC, and Samedan Oil Corporation, propose to drill delineation wells to complete their data on reservoir configuration and characteristics. It would take 68 to 92 days to drill and test each well. The first well would commence drilling in May 2002 and the last well in May 2003. The data received from these wells would assist the operators in determining how to develop and produce the oil and gas reserves underlying these and possibly adjacent units.

The Notice of Intent to prepare this EIS (**Federal Register**, Vol. 65, No. 226, pages 70361–70362, November 22, 2000) referred to “exploratory drilling activities.” We have renamed the document to more specifically reflect the fact that “delineation drilling activities” are the focus of the draft EIS. As discussed above, and defined in the Notice of Intent, delineation is a type of exploration drilling activity that involves drilling a well to gather additional information about the nature and extent of the hydrocarbon reservoirs in areas where a discovery has already been made.

EIS Availability: The draft EIS is available on our web site at www.mms.gov/omm/pacific. In addition, you may obtain single copies of the draft EIS by writing the Minerals Management Service, Pacific OCS Region, Attention: Delineation Drilling Activities Draft EIS, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010–6064, or by calling Janice Hall at 1–800–672–2627. Please indicate whether you would like to receive a paper copy of the draft EIS or a CD–ROM. To avoid excess printing and mailing costs, we will not accept e-mail requests for hard copies or CD–ROM's.

The draft EIS will also be available at the following California libraries:

Camarillo Public Library, 3100 Ponderosa Drive, Camarillo;
Cambria Library, 900 Main Street, Cambria;
Carpinteria Public Library, 5141 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria;
Goleta Public Library, 500 N. Fairview, Goleta;
Davidson Library, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara;
Robert F. Kennedy Library, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo;
Santa Barbara Central Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara;
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Library, 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road, Santa Barbara;
U.S. National Park Service Library, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura;
Ventura College Library, 4667 Telephone Road, Ventura.

Public Hearings: The MMS will hold two public hearings to receive comments on the draft EIS. The hearings present one of the opportunities to provide us with information that will help in the evaluation of the potential effects of the proposed action. The second is direct mail or email comments on the document.

Hearings will be held in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria on the following dates and times: July 10, 2001, 1–5 p.m. and 6–9 p.m., Fess Parker Doubletree Hotel, 633 East Cabrillo Boulevard, Santa Barbara; and July 12, 2001, 1–5 p.m. and 6–9 p.m., Ethel Pope Auditorium, 901 S. Broadway Street Santa Maria.

If you wish to testify at a hearing, you may register at the hearing site from noon to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes and will speak in the order of their registration. Elected officials will be given preference.

Written statements submitted at a hearing will be considered part of the hearing record. If you are unable to attend the hearing, or prefer to provide written comments separately, you may submit your comments until Monday, August 13, 2001, the closing date for public comments. Send written comments to the Minerals Management Service, Pacific OCS Region, Attention: Delineation Drilling Activities Draft EIS, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010–6064. Written comments may be provided by e-mail to DelineationDrilling@mms.gov. Please provide your name and address when commenting by mail or e-mail.

Dated: June 18, 2001.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 01–15639 Filed 6–20–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA, and in the Control of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge, LA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA, and in the control of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge, LA, that meet the definition of “unassociated funerary objects” under Section 2 of the Act.

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 cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

The one object from the Mill Creek site, Bienville Parish, LA, is a Maddox Engraved vessel.

This object was removed in 1960s, during archeological excavations conducted by Dr. Clarence H. Webb, who donated it to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. In 1971, the object was transferred to the Williamson Museum.

Museum records indicate that this vessel was removed from a grave; no remains from the grave are held in the museum. Maddox Engraved pottery is dated to Caddo III–IV (A.D. 1200–1500) periods.

The two objects from the Allen Plantation site, Natchitoches Parish, LA, are one Hickory Engraved bottle and one bowl.

These objects were removed in 1935–41, during archeological excavations conducted by Dr. Clarence H. Webb, who donated them to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. In 1979, the objects were transferred to the Williamson Museum.

Museum records and consultation with the Caddo Tribe identified these vessels as unassociated funerary objects. The objects were salvaged from a grave in a road cut; no remains from the grave

are held in the museum. Typologically, these vessels fall into the Caddo I period (A.D. 900–1000), and are not associated with the nearby historic Allen Site.

The 53 objects from the Mounds Plantation site (16CD12), Caddo Parish, LA, are 50 cane mat fragments, 1 pottery jar, 1 bois d'arc wand/staff, and 1 bois d'arc fragment.

These objects were removed in the 1960s, during archeological excavations conducted by Dr. Clarence H. Webb, who donated them to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. In 1979, the objects were transferred to the Williamson Museum.

The Mounds Plantation site is one of the earliest Caddoan ceremonial centers (circa A.D. 900–1000). The objects were found in a log tomb; no remains from the tomb are held in the museum. Consultation with the Caddo, supplemented by museum records, established that these were funerary objects.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(2)(ii), these 56 cultural items are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from specific burial sites of Native American individuals. Officials of the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CAR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between these unassociated funerary objects and the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these unassociated funerary objects should contact Dr. Pete Gregory, Director, Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA 71497, telephone (318) 357–8170, or Dr. Tom Eubanks, Louisiana Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, telephone (504) 342–8170, before July 23, 2001. Repatriation of these unassociated funerary objects to the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: May 25, 2001.

John Robbins,

Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships.

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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 Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA

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 Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA.

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 the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma.

In the 1960s, human remains representing a minimum of one individual were recovered from the Cedar Bluff site (16WN1), Winn Parish, LA, by Clint Pine and H.F. Gregory, who donated these remains to the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

Cedar Bluff is located within 12–15 miles of sites known to have been inhabited by two historic Caddoan speaking groups, the Natchitoches and Doustioni. The archeological sequence derives these tribal entities directly from a long occupation of northwestern Louisiana by these Caddoan tribal groups. Surface collections including sherds and projectile points suggest a

Caddo II–III (Belcher-Bossier phase, circa A.D. 1200–1500) affiliation for this site.

In 1939–40, human remains representing one individual were recovered from the Lawton Gin site, Natchitoches Parish, LA, by an unknown person. In the 1960s, the remains were donated to the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, by Caroline Dormon. Information in the Dormon Papers in Northwestern State University of Louisiana Archives indicates that these remains were taken from the Lawton Gin site. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

The Lawton Gin site is a postcontact site, dating to the 1700s. Consultation with the Caddo Tribe has identified these remains as Caddo. In addition, archeological evidence from this and contemporaneous sites was used to define the Lawton Phase (A.D. 1714–1800), which has been culturally identified with the Natchitoches confederacy of the Caddo. Lawton Phase sites cluster around Natchitoches, which was established as a French trading post in 1714. While other tribes visited the area to trade, the Native American settlements were Caddoan. The archeological evidence for the cultural continuity between Lawton Phase sites and the Caddo Tribe consists primarily of ceramic styles, vessel forms, and geographical locations. The historical record includes documentary and cartographic materials describing the Natchitoches confederacy of the Caddo Tribe, which lived along the Red River near Natchitoches.

In the 1970s, human remains representing a minimum of one individual were recovered from the J.C. LaCaze site, Natchitoches Parish, LA, by Northwestern State University of Louisiana students, who donated them to the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

The remains were collected from the surface of a plowed field. Sherd collections suggest that this midden site dates to Caddo I period (A.D. 900–1200). Archeological evidence in northwestern Louisiana, eastern Texas, and southwestern Arkansas suggests that the contemporary Caddo people are the descendants of peoples whose cultural development began in the Caddo I period.

In the 1980s, human remains representing a minimum of one individual were recovered from the Luster site (16NA403), Bayou Terre