

Sec. 11, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
 Sec. 12, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 13, NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄;
 Sec. 14, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂,
 NE¹/₄NE¹/₄;
 Sec. 15, S¹/₂SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
 Sec. 21, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄,
 N¹/₂SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 22, N¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂NW¹/₄,
 SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄,
 SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
 Sec. 23, N¹/₂NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 24, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 25, lots 2 and 3, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄,
 N¹/₂SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄;
 Sec. 26, lots 3 and 4, NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NW¹/₄,
 portion of HES 235;
 Sec. 27, E¹/₂NE¹/₄.
 T. 3 N., R. 5 W.,
 Sec. 28, S¹/₂;
 Sec. 29, S¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,
 S¹/₂N¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄,
 S¹/₂.

The areas described aggregate approximately 44,575 acres in San Bernardino County.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to conserve listed threatened and endangered species and the habitat upon which they depend. The proposed withdrawal will facilitate implementation of several provisions of a court settlement resulting from a lawsuit filed against the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Endangered Species Act.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the Director, Lands & Minerals Management, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, at the address listed above. Since the Forest Service is requesting this withdrawal, it is responsible for preparing any studies, analyses, and reports that are required by applicable statutes for the processing of this application. Those studies, analyses, and reports will be used by the Secretary of the Interior to make a decision as to whether this withdrawal should be authorized.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the Director, Lands & Minerals Management, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, at the address listed above, within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** at

least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. The temporary uses which may be permitted during this segregative period are those which are determined to be compatible with the use of the lands by Forest Service.

Dated: September 7, 2001.

Angela Williams,

Acting Chief, Branch of Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Vastar Resources Inc.'s Proposed Deepwater Development Plan Offshore Louisiana (Horn Mountain Project)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Preparation of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for a proposed deepwater development plan to develop and produce hydrocarbon reserves about 60 miles offshore Louisiana in Mississippi Canyon, Blocks 126 and 127.

This EA implements the tiering process outlined in 40 CFR 1502.20, which encourages agencies to tier environmental documents, eliminating repetitive discussions of the same issue. By use of tiering from the most recent Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gulf of Mexico Central Planning Area for Lease Sales 169, 172, 175, 178, and 182 and by referencing related environmental documents, this EA concentrates on environmental issues specific to the proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. G. Ed Richardson, telephone (504) 736-2605.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS GOM Region received an Initial Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD) from Vastar

Resources Inc. (Vastar) that proposes to develop and produce hydrocarbon reserves located in Mississippi Canyon, Blocks 126 and 127. The DOCD was assigned a plan control number of N-7195 and the project is referred to as the Horn Mountain Project. Vastar will drill, complete, and produce a total of 10 wells in the subject blocks. All of the wells will share a common surface location (a truss spar floating production system) in Mississippi Canyon, Block 127.

The Horn Mountain truss spar is a manned floating production facility that will be permanently anchored on location by a 9-leg, taut catenary system composed of conventional wire, chain, and anchor piles. The hull portion of the spar measures approximately 106 feet in diameter and has an overall length of 555 feet. During the proposed operations, approximately 35-50 personnel may be engaged in designated activities.

The water depth at the truss spar location is approximately 5,423 feet. The project will use an existing onshore support base in Venice, Louisiana, to support the proposed activities.

Oil and gas produced at the Horn Mountain project will be transported off lease by right-of-way pipelines. These pipelines will connect with existing offshore infrastructure for final transport to shore.

The proposed action analyzed in the EA will be the development plan as proposed by Vastar. Alternatives will include the proposed action with additional mitigations and no action (i.e., disapproval of the plan). The analyses in the EA will examine the potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives.

Public Comments

The MMS requests interested parties to submit comments regarding issues that should be addressed in the EA to Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5410), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Comments must be submitted no later than 30 days from the publication of this Notice.

Dated: September 28, 2001.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.
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