

entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Devon Energy Corporation to develop information on coal bed methane resources in North Central Louisiana.

Inquiries: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact Peter Warwick, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 956, Reston, VA 21092, phone: (703) 648-6469.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is submitted to meet the USGS policy requirements stipulated in Survey Manual Chapter 500.20.

December 5, 2001.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Associate Director for Geology.

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BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986; Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) Negotiations.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with OptiQuest Technologies, LLC to develop a water quality model and automated systems for quality control and visualization.

Inquiries: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: Paul A. Conrads, USGS South Carolina District, Stephenson Center Suite, 129 720 Gracern Road, Columbia, SC 29210 phone: (803) 750-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is submitted to meet the USGS policy requirements stipulated in Survey Manual Chapter 500.20.

Dated: December 7, 2001.

Robert M. Hirsch,

Associate Director for Water.

[FR Doc. 01-32065 Filed 12-28-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986; Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) Negotiations.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Sequoia Scientific, Inc. for development of a laser sensor system for collecting fluvial sediment data in rivers.

Inquiries: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: John R. Gray, USGS Office of Surface Water, 415 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192; phone (703) 648-5318.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is submitted to meet the USGS policy requirements stipulated in survey Manual Chapter 500.20.

Dated: December 7, 2001.

Robert M. Hirsch,

Associate Director for Water.

[FR Doc. 01-32066 Filed 12-28-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Proposed Use of Floating, Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) Systems on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf, Western and Central Planning Areas

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: ROD on the use of FPSO systems.

SUMMARY: The MMS has completed a ROD for the EIS on the proposed use of FPSO systems in the deepwater areas (generally beyond 650 feet or 200 meters water depth) of the Western and Central Planning Areas of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf.

ADDRESSES: The ROD has been posted on the MMS website <http://www.mms.gov>. Copies of the ROD are available upon request from the Public Information Office (MS 5034), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico

OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the ROD should be directed to Ms. Deborah Cranswick, Leasing and Environment, at (504) 736-2744. The mailing address is Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS has examined the concept of allowing the use of FPSOs in the Central and Western GOM Planning Areas and found no compelling environmental reason why development and production plans proposing to use this method of production should not be submitted by the oil and gas industry for evaluation by the agency. The EIS prepared for MMS under contract found that FPSO systems do not pose a greater threat to the environment than do currently accepted development and production systems, given that proper mitigation measures, keyed to the specific proposed operations and location, be applied. Further technical and environmental evaluation will be required for specific FPSO proposals. The MMS will evaluate the potential emissions and impacts of any proposed use of an FPSO within 100 km of the Breton NWA, and will impose emission restrictions and mitigation requirements to ensure that no significant air quality impacts to the Class I area occurs from any proposed FPSO operations. Any proposed FPSO operations that are not within the range of operations evaluated in the programmatic EIS will require more extensive technical and environmental review to demonstrate equivalence to what was investigated by the EIS.

The MMS will defer to U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) jurisdiction and will not accept proposals for the use of FPSOs within the Lightering Prohibited Areas established by USCG (33 CFR Part 156 Subpart C) for 2 years. The 2-year period will allow additional discussions with USCG on the potential use and impacts of FPSO operations within the Lightering Prohibited Areas. The time will allow for a fuller discussion of what measures might be necessary to protect the environment should FPSOs be considered for use within the Lightering Prohibited Areas, and review of the applicability of the environmental assessment completed 10 years ago by USCG in support of the rulemaking that established the Lightering Prohibited Areas. The MMS will continue to work with USCG to delineate jurisdictional

issues based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

The ROD is the last step in the National Environmental Policy Act process. The ROD summarizes the proposed action and the alternatives evaluated in the EIS, the conclusions of the EIS impact analyses, and other information considered in reaching the decision.

Dated: December 13, 2001.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 01-32094 Filed 12-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska Region, Cook Inlet, Oil and Gas Lease Sales 191 and 199 for Years 2004 and 2006

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Call for Information and Nominations and Notice of Intent (CALL/NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Secretary's preliminary decision to consider two sales in the Cook Inlet area in the Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002-2007 provides for the first sale to be held in 2004, with a second sale in 2006. The MMS has modified its prelease planning and decision process for proposed Cook Inlet sales included in the proposed program. This Call/NOI reflects that change and is in keeping with the Secretary's preliminary decision to analyze these two sales in a multi-sale EIS. The Secretary's preliminary decision is to offer only the Cook Inlet portion of the Cook Inlet/Shelikof Strait planning area as the program area for this 5-year program. The sale process for this first sale will require a minimum of 2½ years to complete. In order to meet the requirements of that schedule, we are issuing this Call/NOI at this time, recognizing that the final decision on the 2002-2007 5-year program has not been made and final delineation of the program areas and number of sales may change from that included in the proposed program.

The multi-sale review process is based on over 25 years of leasing in the Cook Inlet/Shelikof Strait area. The process will incorporate planning and analysis for two sales: Sales 191 and 199. From the initial step in the process

(the Call for Information and Nominations) through the final EIS/Consistency Determination (CD) step, this process will cover multiple sale proposals. However, there will also be complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), OCS Lands Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act coverage for each sale after the first sale—either an Environmental Assessment or Supplemental EIS, CD, and a proposed and final Notice of Sale. The environmental analysis and the CD for the subsequent sale, Sale 199, will focus primarily on new issues or changes in the State of Alaska's federally-approved coastal management plan.

This process will:

- Focus the environmental analysis by making impact types and levels that change between sales more easily recognizable for all reviewers,
- Result in new issues being more easily highlighted for the public,
- Eliminate issuance and public review of repetitive, voluminous EIS's for each sale a practice that has resulted in "review burnout" in Federal, state, local and tribal governments, and the public,
- Result in a more efficient and responsive application of NEPA.

This Call does not indicate a preliminary decision to lease in the area described below. Final delineation of the areas for possible leasing will be made at a later date in the presale process for each sale in compliance with the final 5-year program and with applicable laws including all requirements of the NEPA and the OCS Lands Act.

DATES: Nominations and comments must be received on or before February 14, 2002 in envelopes labeled "Nominations for Proposed 2002-2007 Lease Sales in the Cook Inlet," or "Comments on the Call for Information and Nominations for Proposed 2002-2007 Lease Sales in the Cook Inlet," as appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please call Tom Warren at (907) 271-6691 in MMS's Alaska OCS Region regarding questions on the Call/NOI.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Call for Information and Nominations

1. Authority

This Call is published pursuant to the OCS Lands Act as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, (1994)), and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR 256); and in accordance with the Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002 to 2007.

2. Purpose of Call

The purpose of the Call is to gather preliminary information for the following tentatively scheduled OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales in the Cook Inlet area:

Sale No.	Tentative sale date
191	May 2004.
199	May 2006.

Information and nominations on oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development and production within the Cook Inlet area are sought from all interested parties. This early planning and consultation step is important for ensuring that all interests and concerns are communicated to the Department of the Interior for future decisions in the leasing process pursuant to the OCS Lands Act and regulations at 30 CFR 256.

Responses are requested relative to all sales included herein. This Call/NOI is being issued in accordance with the Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002 to 2007 released on October 26, 2001. The proposed program offers three options for leasing in the Cook Inlet area in the 2002-2007 5-year program: two sales, one sale, or no sales.

3. Description of Area

The area that is the subject of this Call is located offshore the State of Alaska in Cook Inlet as depicted on the map that accompanies this Call. This area consists of approximately 517 whole and partial blocks (about 2.5 million acres). A page size map of the area accompanies this Notice. A large scale Call map showing the boundaries of the area on a block-by-block basis is available without charge from the Records Manager at the address given below, or by telephone request at (907) 271-6438 or 1-800-764-2627. Copies of Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) are also available for \$2 each.

Alaska OCS Region, Minerals

Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508-4302,
akwebmaster@mms.gov

4. Instructions on Call

The Call for Information Map and indications of interest and/or comments must be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment, at the above address.

The Call map delineates the area that is the subject of this Call. Respondents are requested to indicate interest in and comment on any or all of the Federal