

with all pertinent laws, rules, and regulations, and to allow the public an opportunity to participate in the NEPA process. It also is more economical and efficient for the Government and industry to hold this sale in conjunction with Central Planning Area Sale 206 at the same time and location. The area to be offered in Sale 224 is small, approximately 118 tracts, whereas recent Central Planning Area sales have offered over 4,000 tracts. The logistics of holding a sale are intensive and relatively costly; therefore, it makes sense to hold the smaller sale in conjunction with a larger sale. Additionally, holding Sale 224 in conjunction with Sale 206 would help ensure that a sufficient number of companies would be represented in bidding, which may enhance the number of bids and possibly the revenue generated by more competitive bidding.

The final SEIS associated with this NOA updated the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sale 181, Eastern Planning Area Final EIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2001-051)*, which addressed the original "Sale 181 Area."

SEIS Availability: To obtain a single, printed or CD-ROM copy of the final SEIS, you may contact the MMS, GOM OCS Region, Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF). An electronic copy of the final SEIS is available at the MMS Internet Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/nepa/nepaprocess.html>. Many libraries along the Gulf Coast have been sent copies of the final SEIS. To find out which libraries, and their locations, have copies of the final SEIS for review, you may contact the MMS Public Information Office or visit the MMS Internet Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/libraries.html>.

Comments: Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties are requested to send their written comments on the final SEIS in one of the following two ways:

1. In written form enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Lease Sale 224 SEIS" and mailed (or hand carried) to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

2. Electronically to the MMS e-mail address: environment@mms.gov.

Comments should be submitted no later than 30 days from the publication of this NOA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dennis Chew, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, or by phone at (504) 736-2793.

Dated: October 12, 2007.

Chris C. Oynes,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 206 in the Central Planning Area (CPA) in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Sale 206.

SUMMARY: The MMS announces the availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Sale 206 in the CPA. This notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected States the opportunity to review the proposed Notice. The proposed Notice sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

DATES: Comments on the size, timing, or location of proposed Sale 206 are due from the affected States within 60 days following their receipt of the proposed Notice. The final Notice of Sale will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for March 19, 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Notice of Sale for Sale 206 and a "Proposed Sale Notice Package" containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Telephone: (504) 736-2519.

Dated: October 23, 2007.

Randall B. Luthi,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 224 in the Eastern Planning Area (EPA) in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed sale 224.

SUMMARY: The MMS announces the availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Sale 224 in the EPA. This notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected States the opportunity to review the proposed Notice. The proposed Notice sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

DATES: Comments on the size, timing, or location of proposed Sale 224 are due from the affected States within 60 days following their receipt of the proposed Notice. The final Notice of Sale will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for March 19, 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Notice of Sale for Sale 224 and a "Proposed Sale Notice Package" containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Telephone: (504) 736-2519.

Dated: October 23, 2007.

Randall B. Luthi,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

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