DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska
OCS Region, Chukchi Sea Planning
Area, Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale
237 (Lease Sale 237) MMAA104000

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Correction; Call for Information
and Nominations.

SUMMARY: This Notice is a correction of
the notice published as docket number
2013–23670. The only correction is
the addition of the map entitled “Chukchi
Sea Planning Area for Information
and Nominations Lease Sale 237”. This
Call for Information and Nominations
(“Call”) is the initial step in the prelease
process for Lease Sale 237 in the
Chukchi Sea Planning Area, scheduled
to be held in 2016, as included in the
Proposed Final OCS Oil and Gas
Leasing Program 2012–2017 (“Five Year
Program”). The purpose of this Call is
to obtain nominations and information
on oil and gas leasing, exploration, and
development that might result from an
OCS oil and gas lease sale for the
Chukchi Sea Planning Area. The lease
sale area addressed in this Call
(“Program Area”) is located offshore
Alaska in the Chukchi Sea Planning
Area. As identified in the Five Year
Program, the Program Area is a sub-area
of the larger Chukchi Sea Planning Area.

DATES: All responses to the Call must be
received no later than November 18,
2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Michael S. Rolland, Chief, Leasing
Section, BOEM, Alaska OCS Region,
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500,
Anchorage, Alaska 99503–5823, or at
(907) 334–5271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Five
Year Program states: While BOEM has
determined that it is appropriate to
continue areawide leasing in the GOM
* * * BOEM will not be conducting
areawide leasing in the Arctic,
consistent with rigorous internal
analysis as well as a number of outside
recommendations to develop alternative
leasing approaches for Arctic areas.
Rather, potential sales are deliberately
set late in the five year program
schedule to allow for further analysis
and information-gathering. These would
be geographically targeted in scope, in
order to achieve an appropriate balance
between making resources available
while limiting conflicts with
environmentally sensitive areas and
subsistence use by making certain
determinations from the outset about
which blocks within the planning areas
are most suitable for leasing. See,
Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf
Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2012–
2017, page 94.

In light of the targeted leasing strategy
for the Arctic in the current Five Year
Program, this Call differs in two ways
from Calls issued in the Gulf of Mexico
and in earlier Calls issued in the Alaska
OCS Region under previous Five Year
Programs: (1) Because the leasing will
not be areawide, BOEM is requesting
more specific nominations within the
Program Area (as defined below),
including specific support of those
nominations in terms of geological and
gyophysical data, and (2) this Call is not
accompanied by a Notice of Intent to
Prepare an Environmental Impact
Statement (NOI). After BOEM identifies
the area for the proposed lease sale
based upon the information and
nominations received from this Call,
BOEM will initiate the formal National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
process through publication of an NOI.
By proceeding in this order, BOEM will
be able to use the information obtained
through this Call in developing the
proposed action and possible
alternatives to be identified and scoped
in the NOI.

In addition to seeking area
nominations, this Call is requesting
information concerning geological
conditions, including bottom hazards;
archaeological sites on the seabed or
nearshore; multiple uses of the Program
Area, including navigation, recreation,
and fisheries; and other socioeconomic,
biological, and environmental
information, including but not limited
to, information regarding oil and gas
resource potential, sensitive habitats,
subsistence use, unique conditions,
and important other uses of the Program
Area. This Call and targeted leasing
strategy also embraces the principles of
an Integrated Arctic Management (IAM)
approach as defined by the Interagency
Working Group on Coordination of
Domestic Energy Development and
Permitting in Alaska in its Report to the
President: Managing for the Future in a
Rapidly Changing Arctic dated March
2013. The IAM approach was also
adopted as a key component of the
President’s National Strategy for the
Arctic Region, dated May 2013.

Call for Information and Nominations

1. Authority

This Call is published pursuant to the
Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
(OCSLA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331–
1356), and the regulations issued
thereunder (30 CFR part 556).

2. Purpose of This Call

The purpose of this Call is to gather
information to determine the Area
Identification under 30 CFR 556.26 for
Lease Sale 237 in the Program Area.
BOEM seeks information and
nominations on oil and gas leasing,
exploration, development, and
production in the Program Area from all
interested parties. This early planning
and consultation step is important to
ensure that all interests and concerns
are communicated to the U.S.
Department of the Interior for
consideration in future decisions in the
leasing process pursuant to OCSLA and
the regulations at 30 CFR part 556.

3. Description of Program Area

The Program Area is located offshore
Alaska in the Chukchi Sea Planning
Area. The Chukchi Sea Planning Area
extends from the 3-nautical mile (4.8-
kilometer) limit of State of Alaska
waters, northward from approximately
latitude 68°30’ N to latitude 75° N, and
from longitude 156° W (roughly north of
the village of Barrow) on the east to the
United States-Russia Provisional
Maritime Boundary on the west at
longitude 168°58’ 37” W. As identified in
the Five Year Program, the Program
Area is a sub-area of the larger Chukchi
Sea Planning Area. As depicted on the
page-size map accompanying this Call,
the southern boundary of the Program
Area generally begins about 25 nautical
miles offshore along the coastline,
except near Barrow, where it begins
approximately 50 nautical miles
offshore. The northern boundary of
the Program Area is approximately 300
nautical miles from shore. Water depths
vary from approximately 65 feet (20
meters) to more than 13,100 feet (4,000
meters) in the Program Area. This
Program Area consists of approximately
10,128 whole and partial blocks (about
55.16 million acres, or 22.32 million
hectares). A larger scale Call map
showing the boundaries and blocks of
the Program Area is available without
charge on the BOEM Web site at
Copies of Official Protraction Diagrams
also are available without charge on the
Web site at http://www.boem.gov/Oil-
and-Gas-Energy-Program/Mapping-and-
Data/Alaska.aspx.

4. Nominations on This Call

Written nominations must be received
no later than November 18, 2013. In
their letters of nomination, interested
parties should describe explicitly their
interest by ranking the areas nominated
according to priority using five interest
classifications: (1) Critical interest, (2)
high interest, (3) general interest, (4) low interest, or (5) no interest. The area(s) nominated must be described accurately and shown on the large-scale Call map available at http://www.boem.gov/leasesale237. An interested party nominating areas for inclusion in the sale must provide a detailed explanation of the basis for classifying each nominated area as (1) through (5), including a summary of the relevant geologic, geophysical, and economic information. Interested parties are encouraged to be as specific as possible in prioritizing blocks and supporting nominations of specific blocks in the Program Area with detailed data and/or information. Interested parties should be prepared to discuss their range of interest classifications and anticipated activity regarding the nominated area(s). Interested parties are requested to provide the telephone number and name of the individual to contact. BOEM’s Alaska OCS Region office will contact this individual to set up a mutually agreeable meeting date and time to review more fully the interested parties level of interest where an area is classified as critical interest or high interest, and possibly as general interest. Submittals should indicate “Nominations to Call for Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 237.”

To avoid inadvertent release of proprietary information, interested parties should mark all documents and every page containing such information with “Confidential—Contains Proprietary Information.” To the extent a document contains a mix of proprietary and nonproprietary information, interested parties should mark clearly which portion of the document is proprietary and which is not. The OCSLA states that the “Secretary shall maintain the confidentiality of all privileged or proprietary data or information for such period of time as is provided for in this subchapter, established by regulation, or agreed to by the parties” (43 U.S.C. 1344(g)). BOEM considers each interested party’s written nominations of specific blocks to be proprietary, and it will not release such information to the public.

5. Exclusion Areas and Other Comments

BOEM is seeking recommendations either to exclude specific blocks or areas from oil and gas leasing, or to be leased under special conditions due to conflicting values, uses or environmental concerns (hereinafter referred to as “proposed exclusion areas”). Interested parties should indicate proposed exclusion areas on the large-scale Call map available at http://www.boem.gov/leasesale237. Interested parties also may use the interactive map tool for the Arctic at http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Leasing/Five-Year-Program/Lease-Sale-Schedule/Interactive-Maps.aspx. Interested parties are encouraged to be as specific as possible in explaining why the area should be excluded or leased under special conditions, provide supporting information, and be prepared to discuss the proposed exclusion areas with BOEM. Interested parties are requested to provide the telephone number and name of the individual to contact. BOEM’s Alaska OCS Region office may contact this individual to set up a mutually agreeable meeting date and time to review more fully the proposed exclusion areas.

BOEM also is seeking comments and information from all interested parties regarding areas that should receive more detailed consideration and analysis; geological conditions, including bottom hazards; archaeological sites on the seabed or nearshore; other uses of the Program Area, including navigation and subsistence; and other socioeconomic, biological, or environmental information. BOEM previously had received comments on the Program Area as part of the Five Year Program process. Those comments included information on the importance of Hanna Shoal and Herald Shoal. While already excluded from the Program Area, comments were also received on the Pt. Barrow area, Kaseguluk Lagoon, Peard Bay, the nearshore lead system, and the bowhead whale migration area. While BOEM will consider information submitted previously on the Five Year Program, BOEM also encourages interested parties who submitted comments on the Five Year Program to refine their earlier comments and provide greater detail or new information, where appropriate, concerning the importance of these areas or associated activities.

6. Submissions of Nominations, Requests for Exclusion Areas, and Other Comments

Interested parties who are requesting area(s) for inclusion in the sale should send their recommendations, along with an explanation of the basis of their interest priority, including a summary of the relevant geologic, geophysical, and economic information supporting their nomination, to: Chief, Leasing Section, BOEM, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503–5825. Requests for exclusion areas or general proposed inclusion areas (absent a formal nomination) and all other comments to this Call, including general information from interested parties, Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, and other interested parties, will be accepted only through http://www.regulations.gov, using docket designation BOEM–2013–0015. All comments received via this Web site, including names and addresses of the commenter, are public and will be posted for public review. BOEM will not consider anonymous comments. BOEM will make available all nonproprietary submissions in their entirety on http://www.regulations.gov.

7. Tracking Table and Interactive Map

In the Five Year Program, BOEM established a mitigation/program tracking table (hereinafter referred to as the “Table”), which is designed to track the history and treatment of suggestions for inclusion or exclusion of acreage, temporal deferrals, and/or mitigation from the Five Year Program stage through the lease sale stage of the plan stage. This Table will allow commenters to see how and where their concerns are considered, while ensuring that a reasonable concern not suitable for consideration during one stage will be considered at an appropriate subsequent stage. The Table may be viewed at http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Leasing/Five-Year-Program/Lease-Sale-Schedule/Tracking-Table.aspx. Appropriate suggestions collected during the comment period on this Call will be added to the Table and tracked throughout the process.

Additionally, BOEM has created an interactive map through the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (MMC) Web site for Alaska at http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Leasing/Five-Year-Program/Lease-Sale-Schedule/Interactive-Maps.aspx. The MMC is an integrated marine information system that provides a more comprehensive look at geospatial data and ongoing activities and studies occurring in the area being considered. If interested parties believe that a data layer should be considered for consideration, they should provide this information by following the commenting instructions above.

Questions about the interactive map may be addressed to Donna Dixon, Chief, Leasing Division, at (703) 787–1215.

8. Use of Information From This Call

BOEM is undertaking a strategy of targeted leasing, whereby the BOEM Director will use the information provided in response to this Call to make an Area Identification decision.
BOEM will consider nominations, proposed exclusion areas, and areas proposed to receive special consideration and analysis, in light of resource estimates, information regarding exploratory drilling, environmental reviews, and other relevant information. Using this information, BOEM plans to target leasing by proactively determining which specific portions of the Program Area offer greater resource potential, while minimizing potential conflicts with environmental subsistence considerations.

Information submitted in response to this Call will be used to:

• Determine the Area Identification under 30 CFR 556.26(a) and (b);
• Develop potential lease terms and conditions;
• Identify potential use conflicts and potential mitigation measures; and
• Assist in planning the NEPA scoping process.

9. Existing Information

An extensive Environmental Studies Program, including environmental, social, and economic studies in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, has been underway in the Alaska OCS Region since 1976. The emphasis has been on environmental characterization of biologically sensitive habitats, marine mammals, physical oceanography, ocean-circulation modeling, subsistence uses, and ecological and sociocultural effects of oil and gas activities.

Information on the BOEM Environmental Studies Program, completed studies, and a program status report for continuing studies in this area are available on the BOEM Web site at http://www.boem.gov/akstudies, or it may be obtained from the Chief, Environmental Sciences Management Section, Alaska OCS Region, by telephone request at (907) 334–5200.

NEPA analyses were prepared for previous OCS lease sales held in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area. Previous NEPA analyses for Chukchi Sea lease sales and other actions are available at http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/BOEM-Regions/Alaska-Region/Environment/Environmental-Analysis/Environmental-Impact-Statements-and-Major-Environmental-Assessments.aspx. Currently, there are 460 active OCS oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, encompassing an area of approximately 2.7 million acres (1.0 million hectares). Information on the leases and other lease-related activities is available at http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/BOEM-Regions/Alaska-Region/Leasing-and-Plans/Index.aspx.

Dated: September 26, 2013.

Tommy P. Beaudreau,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[51D1S SS08011000 SX066A000 67F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A000 33F 13XS01520]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Request for Comments for 1029–0049

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing that the information collection request for 30 CFR 822—Special Permanent Program Performance Standards—Operations in Alluvial Valley Floors, has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and reauthorization. The information collection package was previously approved and assigned control number 1029–0049. This notice describes the nature of the information collection activity and the expected burdens.

DATES: OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB by November 1, 2013, in order to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, by telefax at (202) 395–5806, or via email to OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov. Also, please send a copy of your comments to Adrienne L. Alsop, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave NW., Room 203–SIB, Washington, DC 20240, or electronically to aalsop@osmre.gov.