

may be obtained on the BOEM Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-244/> under the heading "Notification of EFT 1/5 Bonus Liability" after 1:00 p.m. on the day of the lease sale. All payments must be deposited electronically into an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury by 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day following the bid reading (no exceptions). Account information is provided in the "Instructions for Making Electronic Funds Transfer Bonus Payments" found on the BOEM Web site identified above.

BOEM requires bidders to use EFT procedures for payment of the one-fifth bonus bid deposits for Cook Inlet Sale 244 following detailed instructions contained on the ONRR Payment Information Web page at <https://onrr.gov/ReportPay/payments.htm#EPO>. Acceptance of a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

#### *Withdrawal of Blocks*

The United States reserves the right to withdraw any block from this lease sale prior to issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the block.

#### *Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids*

The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids. No bid will be accepted, and no lease for any block will be awarded to any bidder, unless:

- (1) The bidder has complied with all requirements of the Final NOS, including those set forth in documents contained in the Final NOS Package and applicable regulations;
- (2) the bid submitted is the highest valid bid; and
- (3) the amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer.

Any bid submitted that does not conform to the requirements of the Final NOS and Final NOS Package, OCSLA, or other applicable statute or regulations, will be rejected and returned to the bidder. The U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission will review the results of the lease sale for antitrust issues prior to the acceptance of bids and issuance of leases.

#### *Bid Adequacy Review Procedures for Cook Inlet Sale 244*

To ensure that the U.S. Government receives a fair return for the issuance of leases from this lease sale, high bids will be evaluated in accordance with BOEM's bid adequacy procedures, which are available at <http://www.boem.gov/Bid-Adequacy-Procedures/>.

#### *Lease Award*

BOEM requires each bidder awarded a lease to:

- (1) Execute all copies of the lease (Form BOEM-2005 (February 2017), as amended);
- (2) pay by EFT the balance of the bonus bid amount and the first year's rental for each lease issued in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 1218.155, 30 CFR 556.520(a)(2) and 30 CFR 556.520(a)(3); and
- (3) satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR part 556, subpart I, as amended.

ONRR requests that bidders use only one transaction for payment of the balance of the bonus bid amount and first year's rental.

#### **XI. Delay of Sale**

The BOEM Alaska OCS RD has the discretion to change any date, time, and/or location specified in the Final NOS Package in case of an event the BOEM Alaska OCS RD deems may interfere with the carrying out of a fair and orderly lease sale process. Such events could include, but are not limited to, natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes or floods), wars, riots, acts of terrorism, fires, strikes, civil disorder, or other events of a similar nature. In case of such events, bidders should call (907) 334-5200, or access the BOEM Web site at <http://www.boem.gov> for information regarding any changes.

Dated: May 18, 2017.

**Walter D. Cruickshank,**

*Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

[FR Doc. 2017-10509 Filed 5-19-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

**[Docket No. BOEM-2014-0001; MMAA104000]**

#### **Alaska Outer Continental Shelf, Cook Inlet Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Record of Decision.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is announcing the availability of the Record of Decision for the Cook Inlet Planning Area, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244 (Lease Sale 244). This Record of Decision identifies the Bureau's selected alternative for holding

Lease Sale 244, which is analyzed in the *Alaska OCS: Cook Inlet Planning Area Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244 in the Cook Inlet, Alaska; Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)* (OCS/EIS EA BOEM 2016-069). The Record of Decision and associated information are available on BOEM's Web site at <https://www.boem.gov/Sale-244/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information on the Record of Decision, you may contact Sharon Randall, Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-334-5235.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Cook Inlet Lease Sale Area is located offshore of the State of Alaska in the northern portion of the Federal waters of Cook Inlet and is comprised of 224 OCS blocks, which encompass an area of approximately 442,500 hectares or 1.09 million acres. There are currently no active OCS oil and gas leases in the Cook Inlet Planning Area. The unleased OCS blocks within Cook Inlet that BOEM will offer for lease are listed in the document entitled, "List of Blocks Available for Leasing," which is included in the Final Notice of Sale for Cook Inlet Lease Sale 244. The estimated resource potential of the Lease Sale is 215 million barrels of oil and 571 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

#### **Decision**

After careful consideration, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has selected the Preferred Alternative identified and analyzed in the Lease Sale 244 FEIS. In selecting the Preferred Alternative for Lease Sale 244, BOEM will offer for lease 224 unleased OCS blocks subject to mitigation measures adopted to reduce potential impacts to sensitive biological resources and other uses of the OCS, including, but not limited to, the beluga whales and their critical habitat and feeding areas, sea otters and their critical habitat, and the gillnet fishery. The Preferred Alternative combines the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) with several mitigations analyzed as alternatives in the Lease Sale 244 FEIS. In holding Lease Sale 244, DOI is implementing Alternative 3B (Beluga Whale Critical Habitat Mitigation), Alternative 3C (Beluga Whale Nearshore Feeding Areas Mitigation), Alternative 4B (Northern Sea Otter Critical Habitat Mitigation) and Alternative 5 (Gillnet Fishery Mitigation), as described in the FEIS.

### Lease Stipulations

The following mitigation measures will be applied to Lease Sale 244 as lease stipulations. The full text of the lease stipulations that will be included in leases issued as a result of the sale and the list of blocks to which they apply are available in the Final Notice of Sale Package for Lease Sale 244. The Final Notice of Sale Package is available on BOEM's Web site at: <https://www.boem.gov/Sale-244/>.

**Beluga Whale Critical Habitat Mitigation:** This mitigation measure applies to 10 OCS blocks that overlap with the "Area 2" beluga whale critical habitat at the northern tip of the Lease Sale Area. Lessees will be prohibited from conducting on-lease seismic surveys or exploration drilling from November 1 through April 1 in the affected blocks. The Protection of Beluga Whale Critical Habitat Stipulation will be included in any leases issued for those blocks. **Beluga Whale Nearshore Feeding Areas Mitigation:** This mitigation measure creates temporal restrictions for on-lease seismic survey activities within the Lease Sale Area. On all 224 OCS blocks, no on-lease marine seismic surveys will be conducted between November 1 and April 1, when beluga whales are most likely to be present and distributed across the Lease Sale Area. The Protection of Beluga Whales Stipulation will be included in any leases issued pursuant to Lease Sale 244.

Additionally, for blocks within 10 miles of major anadromous streams, lessees are prohibited from conducting on-lease marine seismic surveys between July 1 and September 30, when beluga whales are migrating to and from their summer feeding areas. The Protection of Beluga Whale Nearshore Feeding Areas Stipulation will be included in any leases issued for these blocks.

**Northern Sea Otter Critical Habitat Mitigation:** This mitigation measure prohibits lessees from discharging drilling fluids and cuttings and conducting seafloor disturbing activities (including anchoring and placement of bottom-founded structures) within 1,000 m of areas designated as northern sea otter critical habitat. The Protection of Northern Sea Otter Critical Habitat Stipulation will be included in any leases issued on the 14 OCS blocks within 1,000 m of areas designated as northern sea otter critical habitat.

**Gillnet Fishery Mitigation:** This mitigation measure applies to the 117 whole or partial OCS blocks located north of Anchor Point within the Lease Sale Area to reduce the potential for

conflicts with the drift gillnet fishery. Lessees are prohibited from conducting on-lease seismic surveys during the drift gillnetting season as designated by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) (approximately mid-June to mid-August). Lessees are required to notify the United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) of any temporary or permanent structures planned during the drift gillnetting season. Lessees are required to coordinate with the UCIDA to avoid conflicts. The Protection of Gillnet Fishery Stipulation will be included in any leases issued for these blocks.

The above measures would be implemented through lease stipulations, which would apply to some or all of the OCS blocks offered for lease. For each of the mitigation measures described above, lessees may request a waiver or variance to these lease stipulations at the time of filing an ancillary activities notice, an exploration plan, or a development and production plan with BOEM's Alaska Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Plans. Such requests must identify alternative methods for providing commensurate protection and analyze the effectiveness of those methods.

While not analyzed as specific alternatives in the FEIS, DOI is implementing four additional lease stipulations in the Cook Inlet Lease Sale 244. These stipulations will be added as lease terms as applicable to all or a subset of the OCS blocks being offered for lease, and will therefore be enforceable as part of the lease.

**Protection of Fisheries Stipulation:** Exploration, development, and production operations must be conducted in a manner that minimizes or prevents conflicts with fishing communities and gear (including, but not limited to subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing). The lessee's Exploration Plan (EP) and Development and Production Plan (DPP) must include a summary of fishing activities in the area of proposed operations, an assessment of effects on fishing from the proposed activity, and measures to be taken by the lessee/operator to minimize or prevent conflicts. The assessment of effects and measures to minimize or prevent conflicts must be described under the environmental impact analysis, as required by 30 CFR 550.227 for EPs and 30 CFR 550.261 for DPPs. BOEM may restrict lease-related activities if the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Plans (RSLP) determines that the lessee's/operator's proposed measures will not minimize or prevent conflicts. The RSLP will work with directly affected parties, if necessary, to

ensure that potential conflicts are identified and efforts are taken to minimize or prevent these conflicts.

**Protection of Biological Resources Stipulation:** If biological populations or habitats that may require additional protection are identified by BOEM in the leased area, the RSLP may require the lessee/operator to conduct biological surveys to determine the extent and composition of such biological populations or habitats. Based on any surveys that the RSLP required of the lessee/operator, or based on other information available to the RSLP regarding special biological resources, the RSLP may require the lessee/operator to: relocate the site of operations; establish to the satisfaction of the RSLP, on the basis of a site-specific survey, either that such operations will not have a significant adverse effect upon the resource identified or that a special biological resource does not exist; operate only during those periods of time, as established by the RSLP, that do not adversely affect the biological resources; and/or modify operations to ensure that significant biological populations or habitats deserving protection are not adversely affected.

If populations or habitats of biological significance are discovered during the conduct of any operations on the lease, the lessee/operator must immediately report such findings to the RSLP and make every reasonable effort to preserve the biological resource and protect it from damage. The lessee/operator may take no action that might affect the biological populations or habitats surveyed until the RSLP provides written directions to the lessee/operator with regard to permissible actions. The RSLP will provide a written response outlining permissible actions within 30 days.

**Orientation Program Stipulation:** An EP or DPP submitted under 30 CFR 550.211 or 30 CFR 550.241, respectively, must include a proposed orientation program for all personnel involved in the Proposed Action (including personnel of the lessee's/operator's agents, contractors, and subcontractors). The program must be designed in sufficient detail to inform individuals working on the project of specific types of environmental, safety, social, and cultural concerns that relate to the area that could be affected by the operation or its personnel. The program must address the importance of not disturbing archaeological and biological resources and habitats, including endangered species, fisheries, bird colonies, and marine mammals, and provide guidance on how to avoid or

minimize disturbance. The program must address Safety and Environmental Management System elements including, but not limited to: Stop Work Authority; Ultimate Work Authority; Employee Participation Program (Safety); and Reporting Unsafe Working Conditions. The program must be designed to increase the sensitivity and understanding of personnel to community values, customs, and way-of-life in areas where such personnel will be operating. The orientation program also must include information concerning avoidance of conflicts with subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing activities.

*Transportation of Hydrocarbons Stipulation:* Pipelines may be required for transporting produced hydrocarbons to shore if BOEM determines that: (a) Pipeline rights-of-way can be determined and obtained; (b) laying such pipelines is technologically feasible and environmentally preferable; and (c) pipelines can be laid without net social loss, taking into account any incremental costs of pipelines over alternative methods of transportation and any incremental benefits in the form of increased environmental protection or reduced multiple-use conflicts.

After careful consideration, DOI has selected the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS to hold Lease Sale 244, including the mitigations described above. DOI's selection of the preferred alternative meets the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, as identified in the Cook Inlet Lease Sale 244 FEIS, and reflects an informed decision balancing orderly resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments while also ensuring that the public receives fair market value for these resources and that free-market competition is maintained.

**Authority:** This Notice of Availability is published pursuant to regulations (40 CFR part 1506) implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 18, 2017.

**Walter D. Cruickshank,**

*Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

[FR Doc. 2017-10506 Filed 5-19-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Antitrust Division

#### Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Notice is hereby given that, on April 10, 2017, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (“ASME”) has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing additions or changes to its standards development activities. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, since November 11, 2016, ASME has published one new standard, established one new consensus committee, redesignated one consensus committee, initiated four new standards activities, withdrawn four standards activities, and discontinued one standard activity within the general nature and scope of ASME's standards development activities, as specified in its original notification. More detail regarding these changes can be found at [www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org).

On September 15, 2004, ASME filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on October 13, 2004 (69 FR 60895).

The last notification was filed with the Department on November 14, 2016. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on January 11, 2017 (82 FR 3361).

**Patricia A. Brink,**

*Director of Civil Enforcement, Antitrust Division.*

[FR Doc. 2017-10341 Filed 5-19-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Antitrust Division

#### Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—ODVA, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that, on April 20, 2017, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), ODVA, Inc.

(“ODVA”) has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Analog Devices, Inc., Norwood, MA; Willowglen Systems, Inc., Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA; Wipotec Wiege-und Positioniersysteme GmbH, Kaiserslautern, GERMANY; Systec Systemtechnik und Industrieautomation GmbH, Bergheim-Glessen, GERMANY; KEB America, Inc., Shakopee, MN; Dong IL Vision, Gyeonggi-do, REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Utthunga Technologies Pvt Ltd., Bangalore, INDIA; InterTech Development Company, Skokie, IL; Perle Systems Limited, Markham, Ontario, CANADA; and Criterion NDT, Inc., Auburn, WA, have been added as parties to this venture.

Also, PCN Technology, San Diego, CA; Welding Technology Corporation, Farmington Hills, MI; Control Technology Corporation, Hopkinton, MA; Hiprom Technologies, Randburg, SOUTH AFRICA; Prozess Technologie, Inc., St. Louis, MO; ADTEC Plasma Technology Co., Ltd., Hiroshima, JAPAN; Shanghai MRDcom Co., Ltd., Shanghai, CHINA; and Mencom Corporation, Oakwood, GA, have withdrawn as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and ODVA intends to file additional written notifications disclosing all changes in membership.

On June 21, 1995, ODVA filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on February 15, 1996 (61 FR 6039).

The last notification was filed with the Department on February 3, 2017. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on March 6, 2017 (82 FR 12638).

**Patricia A. Brink,**

*Director of Civil Enforcement, Antitrust Division.*

[FR Doc. 2017-10356 Filed 5-19-17; 8:45 am]

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