

regulations, and to allow the public an opportunity to participate in the NEPA process, the earliest MMS would be able to offer this area for leasing would be approximately March 2008. Postponing the sale to be held as "soon as practicable" while complying with all applicable laws is in the best interests of all parties, including the American public as owners of these resources. It also is more economical and efficient for the Government and industry to hold this sale in conjunction with Central GOM Sale 206 at the same time and location. The area to be offered in Sale 224 is small, approximately 130 tracts, whereas recent Central Gulf 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.

This NOA follows the Call for Information and Nominations and the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in the prelease process for the sale. The draft 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." The MMS plans to complete the requirements of NEPA, the OCS Lands Act, and CZMA coverage for the proposed lease sale.

**SEIS Availability:** To obtain a single, printed or CD-ROM copy of the draft SEIS, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico 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 draft 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 draft SEIS. To find out which libraries, and their locations, have copies of the draft 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>.

**Public Hearings:** The MMS will hold public hearings to receive comments on

the draft SEIS. The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- July 24, 2007, Larose Civic Center, Larose Regional Park, Larose, Louisiana, 7 p.m.
- July 26, 2007, Florida New World Landing, 600 South Palafox Street, Pensacola, Florida, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

If you wish to present testimony at a hearing, you should register one hour prior to the meeting. Each hearing will briefly recess when all speakers have had an opportunity to speak. If there are no additional speakers, the hearing will adjourn immediately after the recess. Written statements submitted at a hearing will be considered part of the hearing record. If you are unable to attend the hearings, you may submit written statements.

**Comments:** Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties are requested to send their written comments on the draft 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](mailto:environment@mms.gov).

Comments should be submitted no later than 45 days from the publication of this NOA.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Minerals Management Service, Mr. Dennis Chew, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, (504) 736-2793.

Dated: June 19, 2007.

**James F. Bennett,**

*Acting Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Availability of revised North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that effective with this publication, the

following NAD 27-based Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams, with revision dates as indicated, are available for information only, in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Office, New Orleans, Louisiana. Copies are also available for download at <http://www.mms.gov/ld/maps.htm>. The Minerals Management Service in accordance with its authority and responsibility under Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, is updating the basic record used for the description of mineral and oil and gas lease sales in the geographic areas they represent.

#### Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams in the Central and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas

##### Description/Date

NH16-05 (Pensacola)—February 28, 2007.

NH16-08 (Destin Dome)—February 28, 2007.

NH16-11 (De Soto Canyon)—February 28, 2007.

NG16-02 (Lloyd Ridge)—February 28, 2007.

NG16-05 (Henderson)—February 28, 2007.

NG16-08 (Florida Plain)—February 28, 2007.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) and Leasing Maps are \$2.00 each. These may be purchased from the Public Information Unit, Information Services Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Telephone (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Official Protraction Diagrams and Leasing Maps may be obtained in two digital formats: *gra* files for use in ARC/INFO and *.pdf* files for viewing and printing in Adobe Acrobat.

Dated: May 29, 2007.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

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