# Leasing Activities Information



#### FINAL NOTICE OF OCS SALE 161

#### Western Gulf of Mexico September 25, 1996

Attached is the Final Notice of OCS Sale (FNOS) 161, Western Gulf of Mexico, which is scheduled to be held September 25,1996, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans.

In addition to the Final Notice, this package consists of:

- o Western Gulf of Mexico Leased Lands List dated August 12, 1996
- o Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease
- o Debarment Certification Form
- o Preferred Bid Form and Envelope
- o Phone Numbers/Addresses of Bidders Form
- o Tracts Beyond U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (possibly subject to future treaty agreement with Mexico) Map
- o Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map
- o Royalty Suspension Areas for the Western Gulf of Mexico Map

The Biological Stipulation Map Package referred to in paragraph 13 of the Notice has been included in the sale notice package for the past several years but is not included with this package. There has been <u>one</u> change to <u>one</u> of those maps, but <u>no</u> change to the effect of the Stipulation: The isobath defining the No Activity Zone at Stetson Bank was mis-labeled; this mis-labeling has been corrected (it now indicates **52 meters** instead of 62 meters). Prospective bidders requiring the Map Packages at this time may request them from the MMS Gulf of Mexico (GOM) OCS Region Public Information Unit as indicated in paragraph 14(a) of the Notice. Blocks affected by the biological stipulation are indicated on the "Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map" included in this package.

Prospective bidders are reminded of the requirement to submit a statement notifying MMS of possession of certain geophysical data, and, upon request, providing MMS with those data. See paragraphs 3(b) and 14(j) of the Notice, and the document "Trial Procedures For Access To Certain Geophysical Data And Information In The Gulf Of Mexico" revised January 19, 1996, available from the MMS GOM OCS Region Public Information Unit as indicated in paragraph 14(a) of the Notice.

Certain details of the requirement to perform certain actions within five years of an eight-year lease are further elaborated in this Notice; see paragraph 14(d).

### NEW PROVISIONS: (The following provisions were new for Sale 157 and remain in effect for Sale 161.)

Royalty Relief. See paragraphs 4(c)(3) and 14(l) of the Notice. A new map, "Royalty Suspension Areas for the Western Gulf of Mexico", is provided to indicate areas subject to the various volume relief provisions of Public Law 104-58. The Interim Rule implementing the provisions of that law for this sale was published in the *Federal Register* on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12022).

<u>Increase in Rental and Minimum Royalty Rate</u>. Paragraph 4(b) of the Notice provides for a new yearly rental and minimum royalty rate of \$7.50 per acre (or fraction thereof) for leases resulting from this sale on blocks in water depths of 200 meters and greater. Rentals and minimum royalty rates for all other leases resulting from this sale remain at \$5.00 per acre.

Elimination of Three Bid Rule. Paragraph 9(c) of the Notice changes the way legal high bids are evaluated for adequacy.

<u>Debarment.</u> Paragraph 10(b) of the Notice requires successful bidders to provide, prior to lease award, a certification that the bidder is not excluded from participation by Federal debarment procedures. A certification form is provided in this package for that purpose and is available from the MMS GOM OCS Region Public Information Unit (paragraph 14(a)). For lease issuance purposes, only Part A of the form applies. <u>Bidders who have already filed this certification need not do so again for this sale unless new or revised information applicable to that certification has become available.</u>

Bids in Whole Dollar Amounts Only. Bidders are advised that any bids including amounts other than whole dollars will be truncated (i.e., rounded down) to the lower whole dollar amount. See paragraph 3(a) of the Notice. This provision applies to the bid only; the one-fifth bonus payment, rentals, royalties, and other amounts are not affected.

<u>Payment of Balance of Bonus and First Year's Rental</u>. The Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) instructions for lease payoff have been revised and updated by MMS Royalty Management. Companies may now use either the Fedwire Deposit System or the Automated Clearing House (overnight payments). See paragraphs 10(a) and 14(n) of the Notice.

<u>Disaster Procedures</u>. Paragraph 2(b) of the Notice provides procedures to be followed in the event a natural disaster causes the MMS GOM OCS Regional Office to be closed on the day of the Bid Submission Deadline.

<u>Lease Instrument Changes</u>. Bidders are advised that the lease instrument (Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended) has been modified to reflect royalty relief provisions (paragraph 4(c)(3) of the Notice) and 8-year lease cancellation provisions (paragraph 14(d) of the Notice).

<u>Lease Terms and Bidding Systems Lines</u>. New bathymetric data have recently become available which has required slight modification of the lines delineating the zones for different lease terms and royalty rates. Bidders are advised to examine closely the "Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map" provided with the Notice.

NOTE:

The following blocks have become available for leasing since publication of the latest "Gulf of Mexico Leasing Activity Update List (July 23, 1996)": North Padre Island Block 908; High Island Block 164; High Island, East Addition, South Extension, Block A-373; East Breaks Blocks 430 and 431; Alaminos Canyon Blocks 766, 767, 810, 811, 813, 854, 857, 900, and 901; and Keathley Canyon Blocks 583 and 584.

**DEFERRALS**:

High Island Area Block 170; Galveston Area, South Addition, Block A-125 (under appeal)

High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Blocks A-375 and A-398 (Flower Gardens Banks)

Mustang Island Area Blocks 793, 799, and 816 (Naval Mine Warfare training areas)

NOTE:

Certain tracts which are beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone are offered for leasing but they may later be subject to a treaty agreement with Mexico. See paragraph 12(b) of the Notice and the "Tracts Beyond U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (possibly subject to future treaty agreement with Mexico) Map" provided with this package.

### **STATISTICAL INFORMATION (Sale 161)**

o SIZE:

5,168 Unleased blocks; 28.4 Million acres

• LEASE TERMS:

5 Year - 1,802 Blocks - Water depths less than 400 meters 8 Year - 622 Blocks - Water depths between 400-900 meters 10 Year - 2,744 Blocks - Water depths greater than 900 meters

O BIDDING SYSTEMS:

12 1/2% Royalty - 3,366 Blocks 16 2/3% Royalty - 1,802 Blocks

**ROYALTY SUSPENSION AREAS:** 

200-400 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 219 Blocks 400-800 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 414 Blocks

800 Meter and Greater Royalty Suspension Area - 2,952 Blocks

o MINIMUM BID:

\$25 per acre or fraction thereof

For more information on this Final Notice of Sale, potential bidders are advised to contact Mr. Charles Hill of the MMS GOM OCS Region Sales and Support Unit at (504) 736-2795.

NOTE:

Interested parties are reminded of the Call for Information regarding future Central Gulf of Mexico sales published in the *Federal Register* on August 1, 1996 (61 FR 40245); comments on this Call are due by September 16, 1996.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 161

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service

ACTION: Final Notice

- 1. Authority. This Notice is published pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, as amended) and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR Part 256).
- Filing of Bids. Sealed bids will be received by the Regional Director (RD), Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service (MMS), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. be delivered in person to that address during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Standard Time (c.s.t.)) until the Bid Submission Deadline at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, 1996. Hereinafter, all times cited in this Notice refer to c.s.t. unless otherwise stated. not be accepted the day of Bid Opening, Wednesday, September 25, 1996. Bids received by the RD later than the time and date specified above will be returned unopened to the bidders. Bids may not be modified or withdrawn unless written modification or written withdrawal request is received by the RD prior to 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, 1996. Bid Opening Time will be 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. All bids must be submitted and will be considered in accordance with applicable regulations, including 30 The list of restricted joint bidders which applies to this sale appeared in the Federal Register at 61 FR 15968, published on April 10, 1996.
- (b) In the event a natural disaster (such as widespread flooding) or other occurrence causes the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office to be closed on Tuesday, September 24, 1996, bids will be accepted until 9 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at the site of bid opening specified above. Under these conditions, bids may be modified or withdrawn upon written notification up until 9 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, 1996. Closure of the office may be determined by calling (504) 736-0557 and hearing a recorded message to that effect.

#### 3. Method of Bidding.

(a) <u>Submission of Bids</u>. A separate signed bid in a sealed envelope labeled "Sealed Bid for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 161, not to be opened until 9 a.m., c.s.t., Wednesday, September 25, 1996" must be submitted for each

tract bid upon. The sealed envelope and the bid should contain the following information: the company name, Gulf of Mexico Company Number (GOM Company Number), area number and/or name (abbreviations acceptable), and the block number of the tract bid upon. In addition, the total amount bid to be considered by MMS must be in whole dollar amount. Any cent amount above the whole dollar will be ignored by MMS.

Bidders must submit with each bid 1/5th of the cash bonus, in cash or by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check, payable to the order of the U.S. Department of the Interior--Minerals Management Service. For identification purposes, the following information must appear on the check or draft: company name, GOM Company Number, and the area and block bid on (abbreviation acceptable). No bid for less than all of the unleased portion(s) of a block will be considered.

All documents must be executed in conformance with signatory authorizations on file in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office. Partnerships also need to submit or have on file a list of signatories authorized to bind the partnership. Bidders submitting joint bids must state on the bid form the proportionate interest of each participating bidder, in percent to a maximum of five decimal places, e.g., 33.33333 percent. Other documents may be required of bidders under 30 CFR 256.46. Bidders are warned against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860 prohibiting unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders.

Submission of Statement(s) Regarding Certain Geophysical Data. Each company submitting a bid, or participating as a joint bidder in such a bid, shall submit, prior to the Bid Submission Deadline specified in paragraph 2 of this Notice, a statement or statements identifying any processed or reprocessed pre and post stack depth migrated geophysical data in their possession or control pertaining to each and every block on which they are participating as a bidder. The existence, extent, type of such data, and identification of specific lines or 3D surveys must be clearly In addition, the statement shall certify that no such data are in their possession for any other blocks on which they participate as a The statement shall be submitted in an envelope separate from those containing bids and shall be clearly marked; an example of a preferred format for the statement and the envelope is included in the document titled "Trial Procedures for Access to Certain Geophysical Data in the Gulf of Mexico" (revised January 19, 1996). Only one statement per bidder is required for each sale, but more than one may be submitted if desired, provided that all tracts bid on by that company are covered in the one or more statements.

Paragraph 14(j), <u>Information to Lessees</u>, contains additional information pertaining to geophysical data.

- 4. <u>Bidding, Yearly Rental, and Royalty Systems</u>. The following bidding, yearly rental, and royalty systems apply to this sale:
- (a) <u>Bidding Systems</u>. All bids submitted at this sale must provide for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof.
- (b) Yearly Rental. All leases awarded on tracts in water depths of 200 meters and greater as depicted on the map "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Western Gulf Of Mexico" provided with this Notice (i.e., tracts in any of the three royalty suspension areas) will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$7.50 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.
- All leases awarded on other tracts (i.e., those in water depths of less than 200 meters) will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$5.00 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.
- (c) <u>Royalty Systems</u>. After initial production is obtained, leases will provide for a minimum royalty of the amount per acre or fraction thereof as specified as the yearly rental in paragraph 4(b) above, except during periods of royalty suspension as discussed in paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice. The following royalty systems will be used in this sale:
- (1) Leases with a 12 1/2-Percent Royalty. This royalty rate applies to tracts in water depths of 400 meters or greater; this area is shown on the Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map applicable to this Notice (see paragraph 13). Leases issued on the tracts offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate of 12 1/2 percent, except during periods of royalty suspension (see paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice).
- (2) <u>Leases with a 16 2/3-Percent Royalty</u>. This royalty rate applies to tracts in water depths of less than 400 meters (see aforementioned map). Leases issued on the tracts offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate of 16 2/3 percent, except during periods of royalty suspension for leases in water depths 200 meters or greater (see paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice).
- (3) Royalty Suspension. In accordance with Public Law 104-58, signed by the President on November 28, 1995, MMS has developed procedures providing for the suspension of royalty payments on production from eligible leases issued as a result of this sale. MMS will allow only one royalty suspension volume per field regardless of the number of eligible leases producing the field. For purposes of this paragraph, an eligible lease is one that: is located in the Gulf of Mexico in water depths 200 meters or deeper; lies wholly west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude; and is offered subject to a royalty suspension volume authorized by statute.

An eligible lease from this sale may receive a royalty suspension volume only if it is in a field where no currently active lease produced oil or gas (other than test production) before November 28, 1995. The following applies only to eligible leases in fields meeting this condition.

- (i) The royalty suspension volumes are:
- 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent (mmboe) in 200 to 400 meters of water;
  - 52.5 mmboe in 400 to 800 meters of water; and
  - 87.5 mmboe in 800 meters of water and greater.

A map titled "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Western Gulf Of Mexico" (March 1996) depicting blocks in which such suspensions may apply is currently available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

- (ii) When production first occurs from any of the eligible leases in a field (not including test production), MMS will determine the royalty suspension volume applicable to eligible lease(s) in that field. The determination is based on the royalty suspension volumes and the map specified in paragraph 4(c)(3)(i) above.
- (iii) If a new field consists of eligible leases in different water depth categories, the royalty suspension volume associated with the deepest eligible lease applies.
- (iv) If an eligible lease is the only eligible lease in a field, royalty is not owed on the production from the lease up to the amount of the applicable royalty suspension volume.
- (v) If a field consists of more than one eligible lease, payment of royalties on the eligible leases' initial production is suspended until their cumulative production equals the field's established royalty suspension volume. The royalty suspension volume for each eligible lease is equal to each lease's actual production (or production allocated under an approved unit agreement) until the field's established royalty suspension volume is reached.
- (vi) If an eligible lease is added to a field that has an established royalty suspension volume, the field's royalty suspension volume will not change even if the added lease is in deeper water. The additional lease may receive a royalty suspension volume only to the extent of its production before the cumulative production from all eligible leases in the field equals the field's previously established royalty suspension volume.

- (vii) If MMS reassigns a well on an eligible lease to another field, the past production from that well will count toward the royalty suspension volume, if any, specified for the new field to which it is assigned. The past production will not be counted toward the suspension volume, if any, from the first field.
- (viii) An eligible lease may receive a royalty suspension volume only if the entire lease is west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude. A field that lies on both sides of this meridian will receive a royalty suspension volume only for those eligible leases lying entirely west of the meridian.
- (ix) An eligible lease may obtain more than one royalty suspension volume. If a new field is discovered on an eligible lease that already benefits from the royalty suspension volume for another field, production from that new field receives a separate royalty suspension.
- (x) A lessee must measure natural gas production subject to the royalty suspension volume as follows: 5.62 thousand cubic feet of natural gas equals one barrel of oil equivalent, as measured fully saturated at 15.025 psi, 60 degrees F.
- (xi) In any year during which the arithmetic average of the closing prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange for light sweet crude oil exceeds \$28.00 per barrel, royalties on the production of oil must be paid at the lease stipulated royalty rate (see paragraphs 4(c)(1) and (2) above), and production during such years counts toward the royalty suspension volume.

In any year during which the arithmetic average of the closing prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange for natural gas exceeds \$3.50 per million British thermal units, royalties on the production of natural gas must be paid at the lease stipulated royalty rate (see paragraphs 4(c)(1) and (2) above), and production during such years counts toward the royalty suspension volume.

These prices for oil and natural gas are as of the end of 1994 and must be adjusted for subsequent years by the percentage by which the implicit price deflator for the gross domestic product changed during the preceding calendar year.

(xii) A royalty suspension will continue until the end of the month in which the cumulative production from eligible leases in the field reaches the royalty suspension volume for the field.

Paragraph 14(1), <u>Information to Lessees</u>, contains additional information pertaining to royalty suspension matters.

- 5. Equal Opportunity. The certification required by 41 CFR 60-1.7(b) and Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, on the Compliance Report Certification Form, Form MMS-2033 (June 1985), and the Affirmative Action Representation Form, Form MMS-2032 (June 1985) must be on file in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office prior to lease award (see paragraph 14(e)).
- 6. <u>Bid Opening</u>. Bid opening will begin at the bid opening time stated in paragraph 2. The opening of the bids is for the sole purpose of publicly announcing bids received, and no bids will be accepted or rejected at that time.
- 7. <u>Deposit of Payment</u>. Any cash, cashier's checks, certified checks, or bank drafts submitted with a bid may be deposited by the Government in an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury during the period the bids are being considered. Such a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.
- 8. <u>Withdrawal of Tracts</u>. The United States reserves the right to withdraw any tract from this sale prior to issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the tract.
- 9. Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids. The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In any case, no bid will be accepted, and no lease for any tract will be awarded to any bidder, unless:
- (a) the bidder has complied with all requirements of this Notice and applicable regulations;
  - (b) the bid is the highest legal bid; and
- (c) the amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer.

No bonus bid will be considered for acceptance unless it provides for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof. Any bid submitted which does not conform to the requirements of this Notice, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and other applicable regulations may be returned to the person submitting that bid by the RD and not considered for acceptance.

To ensure that the Government receives a fair return for the conveyance of lease rights for this sale, the MMS has modified its two-phased process for bid adequacy determination. The MMS will not automatically accept legal high bids on confirmed and wildcat tracts which receive three or more bids. Such tracts will be evaluated in accordance with the remaining elements of the MMS bid adequacy procedures. This modification was described in the <u>Federal Register</u> on March 29, 1996 (61 FR

- 14162). A copy of the revised bid adequacy procedures ("Summary of Procedures for Determining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Effective April 1996, with Sale 157") is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).
- 10. <u>Successful Bidders</u>. The following requirements apply to successful bidders in this sale:

#### (a) Lease Issuance.

Each person who has submitted a bid accepted by the authorized officer will be required to execute copies of the lease (Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended), pay the balance of the cash bonus bid along with the first year's annual rental for each lease issued by electronic funds transfer in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 218.155, and satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR 256, Subpart I, as amended.

Paragraphs 14(m) and (n), <u>Information to Lessees</u>, contain additional information pertaining to this matter.

(b) <u>Certification Regarding Nonprocurement Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters -- Primary Covered Transactions.</u>

Each person involved as a bidder in a successful high bid must have on file, in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Adjudication Unit, a currently valid certification that the person is not excluded from participation in primary covered transactions under Federal nonprocurement programs and activities. A certification previously provided to that office remains currently valid until new or revised information applicable to that certification becomes available. In the event of new or revised applicable information, a subsequent certification is required before lease issuance can occur. Persons submitting such certifications should review the requirements of 43 C.F.R., Part 12, Subpart D, as amended in the Federal Register of June 26, 1995, at 60 CFR 33035.

Copies of the certification form are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit. See Paragraph 14(a) of this Notice for directions on how to obtain the forms.

- 11. <u>Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams</u>. Tracts offered for lease may be located on the following Leasing Maps or Official Protraction Diagrams which may be purchased from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)):
- (a) Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Maps--Texas, Nos. 1 through 8. This is a set of 16 maps which sells for \$18.00.

- (b) Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams. These diagrams sell for \$2.00 each.
  - NG 14-3 Corpus Christi (rev. 01/27/76)
  - NG 14-6 Port Isabel (rev. 01/15/92)
  - NG 15-1 East Breaks (rev. 01/27/76)
  - NG 15-2 Garden Banks (rev. 10/19/81)
  - NG 15-4 Alaminos Canyon (rev. 04/27/89)
  - NG 15-5 Keathley Canyon (rev. 04/27/89)
  - NG 15-8 (No Name) (rev. 04/27/89)

#### 12. Description of the Areas Offered for Bids.

(a) Acreage of blocks is shown on Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. Some of these blocks, however, may be partially leased, or transected by administrative lines such as the Federal/State jurisdictional line. Information on the unleased portions of such blocks, including the exact acreage, is included in the following document as a part of this Notice and is currently available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office:

Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 161 - Final Notice. Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease.

- (b) Tracts not available for leasing. The areas offered for leasing include all those blocks shown on the OCS Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams listed in paragraph 11(a) and (b), except for those blocks or partial blocks already under lease. A list of Western Gulf of Mexico tracts currently under lease is included in the Sale Notice Package available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)).
- (1) Although they are currently unleased, no bids will be accepted on High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Blocks A-375 and A-398 (at the Flower Garden Banks).
- (2) Although they are currently unleased, no bids will be accepted on the following blocks located off Corpus Christi which have been identified by the Navy as needed for testing equipment and training mine warfare personnel: Mustang Island Area Blocks 793, 799, and 816.
- (3) Although they are currently unleased, no bids will be accepted on the following blocks which are currently under appeal: High Island Area Block 170, and Galveston Area, South Addition, Block A-125.
- NOTE: As noted in the Final Notice of Sale for Sale 157, tracts or portions of tracts beyond the United States Exclusive Economic

Zone are offered based upon provisions of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, and could be subject to a continental shelf delimitation agreement between the United States and Mexico.

A list of these tracts or portions of tracts and a map are included in the Sale Notice Package available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)).

#### 13. Lease Terms and Stipulations.

- (a) Leases resulting from this sale will have initial terms as shown on the Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map applicable to this Notice and will be on Form MMS-2005 (March 1986). Copies of the map and lease form are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)).
- (b) The applicability of the stipulations which follow is as shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a) and as supplemented by references in this Notice.

#### Stipulation No. 1--Topographic Features.

(This stipulation will be included in leases located in the areas so indicated in the Biological Stipulation Map Package associated with this Notice which is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a).)

The banks that cause this stipulation to be applied to blocks of the Western Gulf are:

No Activity Zone Defined by

<u>Bank Name</u>

<u>Isobath (meters)</u>

#### Shelf Edge Banks

West Flower Garden Bank[1] 100 (defined by 1/4 1/4 1/4 system) East Flower Garden Bank[1] 100 (defined by 1/4 1/4 1/4 system) MacNeil Bank 82 29 Fathom Bank 64 Rankin Bank 85 Geyer Bank 85 Elvers Bank 85 Bright Bank[2] 85 McGrail Bank[2] 85 Rezak Bank[2] 85

Sidner Bank[2]	85
Parker Bank[2]	85
Stetson Bank	52
Appelbaum Bank	85

#### Low Relief Banks[3]

Mysterious Bank	74,76,78,80,84
Coffee Lump	Various
Blackfish Ridge	70
Big Dunn Bar	65
Small Dunn Bar	65
32 Fathom Bank	52
Claypile Bank[4]	50

#### South Texas Banks [5]

Dream Bank	78,82
Southern Bank	80
Hospital Bank	70
North Hospital Bank	68
Aransas Bank	70
South Baker Bank	70
Baker Bank	70

- [1] Flower Garden Banks--In paragraph (c) a "4-Mile Zone" rather than a "1-Mile Zone" applies.
- [2] Central Gulf of Mexico bank with a portion of its "1-Mile Zone" and/or "3-Mile Zone" in the Western Gulf of Mexico.
- [3] Low Relief Banks--Only paragraph (a) applies.
- [4] Claypile Bank--Paragraphs (a) and (b) apply. In paragraph (b) monitoring of the effluent to determine the effect on the biota of Claypile Bank shall be required rather than shunting.
- [5] South Texas Banks--Only paragraphs (a) and (b) apply.
- (a) No activity including structures, drilling rigs, pipelines, or anchoring will be allowed within the listed isobath ("No Activity Zone" as shown in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package) of the banks as listed above.
- (b) Operations within the area shown as "1,000-Meter Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom.
- (c) Operations within the area shown as "1-Mile Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by

shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom. (Where there is a "1-Mile Zone" designated, the "1,000-Meter Zone" in paragraph (b) is not designated.)

(d) Operations within the area shown as "3-Mile Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids from development operations to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom.

#### Stipulation No. 2 -- Military Areas.

(This stipulation will be included in leases located within the Warning Areas as shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a).)

#### (a) Hold and Save Harmless

Whether compensation for such damage or injury might be due under a theory of strict or absolute liability or otherwise, the lessee assumes all risks of damage or injury to persons or property, which occur in, on, or above the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), to any persons or to any property of any person or persons who are agents, employees, or invitees of the lessee, its agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors doing business with the lessee in connection with any activities being performed by the lessee in, on, or above the OCS, if such injury or damage to such person or property occurs by reason of the activities of any agency of the United States Government, its contractors or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents or employees, being conducted as a part of, or in connection with, the programs and activities of the command headquarters listed in the following table.

Notwithstanding any limitation of the lessee's liability in Section 14 of the lease, the lessee assumes this risk whether such injury or damage is caused in whole or in part by any act or omission, regardless of negligence or fault, of the United States, its contractors or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents, or employees. The lessee further agrees to indemnify and save harmless the United States against all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by the lessee, or to indemnify and save harmless the United States against all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by the agents, employees, or invitees of the lessee, its agents, or any independent contractors or subcontractors doing business with the lessee in connection with the programs and activities of the aforementioned military installation, whether the same be caused in whole or in part by the negligence or fault of the United States, its contractors, or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents, or employees and whether such claims might be sustained under a theory of strict or absolute liability or otherwise.

#### (b) <u>Electromagnetic Emissions</u>

The lessee agrees to control its own electromagnetic emissions and those of its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors emanating from individual designated defense warning areas in accordance with requirements specified by the commander of the command headquarters listed in the following table to the degree necessary to prevent damage to, or unacceptable interference with, Department of Defense flight, testing, or operational activities, conducted within individual designated warning areas. Necessary monitoring control, and coordination with the lessee, its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors, will be effected by the commander of the appropriate onshore military installation conducting operations in the particular warning area; provided, however, that control of such electromagnetic emissions shall in no instance prohibit all manner of electromagnetic communication during any period of time between a lessee, its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors and onshore facilities.

#### (c) Operational

The lessee, when operating or causing to be operated on its behalf, boat, ship, or aircraft traffic into the individual designated warning areas shall enter into an agreement with the commander of the individual command headquarters listed in the following list, upon utilizing an individual designated warning area prior to commencing such traffic. Such an agreement will provide for positive control of boats, ships, and aircraft operating into the warning areas at all times.

W-228 - Chief, Naval Air Training, Naval Air Station, Office No. 206, Corpus Christi, Texas 78419-5100, Telephone: (512) 939-3862/2621

W-602 - Headquarters ACC/DORR, Detachment 1, Operations Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Offutt AFB, Nebraska 68113-5550, Telephone: (402) 294-2334

#### Stipulation No. 3--Operations in the Naval Mine Warfare Area.

(This stipulation will apply to Mustang Island Area East Addition Blocks 732, 733, and 734.)

(a) The placement, location, and planned periods of operation of surface structures on this lease during the exploration stage are subject to approval by the Regional Director (RD), Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Region, after the review of the operator's Exploration Plan (EP). Prior to approval of the EP, the RD will consult with the Commander, Mine

Warfare Command, in order to determine the EP's compatibility with scheduled military operations. No permanent structures nor debris of any kind shall be allowed in the area covered by this lease during exploration operations.

To the extent possible, sub-seafloor development operations for resources subsurface to this area should originate outside the area covered by this lease. Any above-seafloor development operations within the area covered by this lease must be compatible with scheduled military operations as determined by the Commander, Mine Warfare Command. The lessee will consult with and coordinate plans for above-seafloor development activities (including abandonment) with the Commander, Mine Warfare Command. Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD) must contain the locations of any permanent structures, fixed platforms, pipelines, or anchors planned to be constructed or placed in the area covered by this lease as part of such development operations. The DOCD must also contain the written comments of the Commander, Mine Warfare Command on the proposed activities. Prior to the approval of the DOCD, the RD will consult with the Commander in order to determine the DOCD's compatibility with scheduled military operations.

For more information, consultation, and coordination, the lessee must contact:

Commander, Mine Warfare Command, 325 Fifth Street, SE., Corpus Christi, Texas 78419-5032, Phone: (512) 939-4895

#### 14. <u>Information to Lessees</u>

- (a) <u>Supplemental Documents</u>. For copies of the various documents identified as available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, prospective bidders should contact the Public Information Unit, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, either in writing or by telephone at (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF. For additional information, contact the Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Environment at that address or by telephone at (504) 736-2759.
- (b) <u>Navigation Safety</u>. Operations on some of the blocks offered for lease may be restricted by designation of fairways, precautionary zones, anchorages, safety zones, or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permits are required for construction of any artificial islands, installations, and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed located on the OCS in accordance with Section 4(e) of the OCS Lands Act, as amended.

For additional information, prospective bidders should contact Lt. Commander Ken Parris, Assistant Marine Port Safety Officer, 8th Coast Guard District, Hale Boggs Federal Building, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 589-6901. For COE information, prospective bidders should contact Mr. Dolan Dunn, Chief Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch, Post Office Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553, (409) 766-3935.

- (c) Offshore Pipelines. Bidders are advised that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Transportation have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, dated May 6, 1976, concerning the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of offshore pipelines. Bidders should consult both Departments for regulations applicable to offshore pipelines.
- (d) 8-Year Leases. Bidders are advised that any lease issued for a term of 8 years will be canceled shortly after the end of the fifth year, following notice pursuant to the OCS Lands Act, as amended, if within the initial 5-year period of the lease, the drilling of an exploratory well has not been initiated; or if initiated, the well has not been drilled in conformance with the approved exploration plan criteria; or if there is not a suspension of operations in effect. Furthermore, a rental payment for the sixth year will be due despite the cancellation. Bidders are referred to 30 CFR 256.37 and the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Letter to Lessees and Operators of February 13, 1995.
- (e) Affirmative Action. Revision of Department of Labor regulations on affirmative action requirements for Government contractors (including lessees) has been deferred, pending review of those regulations (see Federal Register of August 25, 1981, at 46 FR 42865 and 42968). Should changes become effective at any time before the issuance of leases resulting from this sale, section 18 of the lease form (Form MMS-2005, March 1986), would be deleted from leases resulting from this sale. In addition, existing stocks of the affirmative action forms described in paragraph 5 of this Notice contain language that would be superseded by the revised regulations at 41 CFR 60-1.5(a)(1) and 60-1.7(a)(1). Submission of Form MMS-2032 (June 1985) and Form MMS-2033 (June 1985) will not invalidate an otherwise acceptable bid, and the revised regulations' requirements will be deemed to be part of the existing affirmative action forms.
- (f) Ordnance Disposal Areas. Bidders are cautioned as to the existence of two inactive ordnance disposal areas in the Corpus Christi and East Breaks areas, shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a). These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown composition and quantity. These areas have not been used since about 1970. Water depths in the Corpus Christi area range from approximately 600 to 900 meters. Water depths in the East Breaks area range from approximately 300 to 700 meters. Bottom sediments in both areas are generally soft, consisting of silty

clays. Exploration and development activities in these areas require precautions commensurate with the potential hazards.

(g) Archaeological Resources. Bidders are advised that a Final Rule regarding archaeological resources was published in the Federal Register on October 21, 1994 (59 FR 53091), granting specific authority to each MMS Regional Director to require archaeological surveys and reports (under 30 CFR 250, 256, 260, and 281) and the submission of these reports to the Regional Director prior to exploration, development and production, or installation of lease-term or right-of-way pipelines. MMS Notice to Lessees (NTL) 91-02 (Outer Continental Shelf Archaeological Resources Requirements for the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region) published in the Federal Register on December 20, 1991 (50 FR 66076) effective February 17, 1992, specifies survey methodology, linespacing, and archaeological report writing requirements for lessees and operators in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region.

Two additional documents are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office (see paragraph 14(a)):

"List of Lease Blocks Within the High-Probability Area for Historic Period Shipwrecks on the OCS" dated January 30, 1995. This list supersedes the list promulgated by the MMS Letter to Lessees (LTL) of November 30, 1990.

"List of Lease Blocks Within the High-Probability Area for Prehistoric Archaeological Resources on the OCS" dated January 30, 1995.

Implementation of this Final Rule and NTL 91-02 obviates the need for the Protection of Archaeological Resources Stipulation required for previous issues.

(h) <u>Proposed Rigs to Reefs</u>. Bidders are advised that there are OCS artificial reef sites and planning areas for the Gulf of Mexico. These are generally located in water depths of less than 200 meters. While all existing and proposed sites require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this "Rigs to Reefs" program is implemented through State sponsorship through the following State Coordinators:

Alabama Mr. Walter M. Tatum, (334) 968-7576
Florida Mr. Jon Dodrill, (904) 922-4340
Louisiana Mr. Rick Kasprzac, (504) 765-2375
Mississippi Mr. Mike Buchanan, (601) 385-5860
Texas Ms. Jan Coulbertson, (713) 474-1418

For more information, on artificial reef sites, prospective bidders should contact the above listed State Artificial Reef Coordinators for their areas of interest.

- (i) <u>Proposed Lightering Zones</u>. Bidders are advised that the U.S. Coast Guard has proposed designating certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico (60 FR 1958 of January 5, 1995), as lightering zones for the purpose of permitting single hull vessels to off-load oil within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Such designation may have implications for oil and gas operations in the areas. Additional information may be obtained from Lieutenant Commander Stephen Kantz, Project Manager, Oil Pollution Act (OPA 90) Staff, at (202) 267-6740.
- Statement Regarding Certain Geophysical Data. Sections 18 and 26 of the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder, MMS has a right of access to certain geophysical data and information obtained or developed as a result of operations on the OCS. MMS is sensitive to the concerns expressed by industry regarding the confidentiality of individual company work products and client lists and the potential burden of responding to a myriad of requests from MMS pertaining to the existence and availability of these types of reprocessed geophysical data. To resolve the concerns of both industry and MMS with respect to such cases, MMS has worked with industry to develop the requirements contained within paragraph 3(b) Method of Bidding above. has modified the previous procedure to require that bidders who are in possession of the requested data, now identify the specific data by line name or 3D phase. This will help MMS in identifying time data that may already be in our data base and at the same time not impose undue burden on industry by rerequesting it. These requirements are being imposed on a trial basis to determine their effectiveness and are subject to modification in future sales.

The details of this requirement are specified in the document "Trial Procedures for Access to Certain Geophysical Data in the Gulf of Mexico" (revised January 19, 1996), which is available upon request from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)). In brief, these requirements include:

- (1) In the period for ninety (90) days after the sale, bidders will allow MMS to inspect such data within seven (7) days of a written request from MMS, and upon further written request will transmit to MMS, within ten (10) working days, such data. After this ninety day period, a response time of thirty (30) days following an MMS written request will be considered adequate.
- (2) Successful bidders must retain such data for three (3) years after the sale, and unsuccessful bidders must retain such data for six (6) months after the sale, for possible acquisition by MMS.

For the six (6) month period after the sale, based on a review of the allowable cost of data reproduction to MMS for three-dimensional and two-dimensional data sets, the company providing the reprocessed data will be

reimbursed at a rate of \$480 per block or part thereof for three-dimensional data and \$2 per line mile for two-dimensional data.

Afterwards, reimbursement will be subject to the terms and conditions of 30 CFR 251.13(a).

All geophysical data and information obtained and reviewed by MMS pursuant to these procedures shall be held in the strictest confidence and treated as proprietary in accordance with the applicable terms of 30 CFR 251.14.

For additional information, contact the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office of Resource Evaluation at (504) 736-2720.

- (k) <u>Information about Indicated Hydrocarbons</u>. Bidders are advised that MMS makes available, about 3 months prior to a lease sale, a list of unleased tracts having well bores with indicated hydrocarbons. Basic information relating to production, well bores, and pay range for each tract is included in the list. The list is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)).
- (1) Royalty Relief. The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Deep Water Royalty Relief Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to offer certain deepwater OCS tracts in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico for lease with suspension of royalties for a volume, value, or period of production the Secretary determines. An interim rule was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 12022; March 25, 1996) that specifies the royalty suspension terms under which the Secretary will make tracts available for this sale. Bidders are advised to review that document for additional details on this matter. For further information, bidders may contact Walter Cruickshank of the MMS Offshore Minerals Analysis Division at (202) 208-3822.

A map titled "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Western Gulf Of Mexico" depicting blocks in which such suspensions may apply is currently available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

The publication "OCS Operations Field Names Master List" depicts currently established fields in the Gulf of Mexico. This document is updated monthly and reprinted quarterly. Copies may be obtained from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

(m) <u>Lease Instrument</u>. Bidders are advised that the lease instrument will include royalty relief provisions (paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice) and 8-year lease cancellation provisions (paragraph 14(d) of this Notice) where applicable. Leases will continue to be issued on Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended.

- (n) <u>Electronic Funds Transfer</u>. Bidders are advised that the 4/5ths and first year rental EFT instructions for lease payoff have been revised and updated by MMS Royalty Management. Companies may now use either the Fedwire Deposit System or the Automated Clearing House (overnight payments). See paragraph 10(a) of this Notice.
- (o) Minimizing Oil and Gas Structures Near the Flower Garden Banks. Bidders are reminded of Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) 85-8, "Minimizing Oil and Gas Structures in the Gulf of Mexico," dated November 26, 1985. Section II of the NTL sets forth the MMS' policy with regard to the minimization of structures for drilling, development, and production on OCS leases. The policy requires that such structures including lease-term pipelines be placed in a manner that causes minimum interference with other significant uses of the OCS. Please be advised that the MMS will strictly adhere to this policy when reviewing Exploration Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents which propose the use or installation of such structures within the "Four-Mile Zone" and adjacent areas surrounding the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Director, Minerals Management Service Cynthia Quarterman

Approved:

Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

0/7/1

Date

#### WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO LEASED LANDS

Descriptions of blocks listed represent all Federal acreage leased unless otherwise noted.

South Padre	A-72	868	A-122	656
Island	Maratana Internal	875	A-124	657
4040	Mustang Island	879	A-152	664
1040	707	A-1	A-153	665
1052	737	A-2		668
1059	738	(E1/2NE1/4;	Matagorda Island	669
1060	739	SE1/4NW1/4	_	670
1063	740	NE1/4;	487	671
1064	742	SW1/4NE1/4;	518	672
1069	752	W1/2NW1/4;	519	673
1070	754	NW1/4SE1/4	520	676
1073	756	NW1/4;S1/2	526	679
1111	757	SE1/4NW1/4;	527	680
1112	758	S1/2)	528	681
1122	759	A-5	529	682
1125	762	A-6	555	683
1134	763	A-7	556	685
1151	780	A-10	564	686
1166	781	A-11	566	687
	782	A-12	567	688
North Padre	783	A-13	568	689
Island	784	A-14	569	696
	785	A-16	586	697
897	786	A-19	587	699
956	<b>7</b> 87	A-20	588	700
969	788	A-21	589	703
976	789	A-22	591	704
977	791	A-31	599	705
978	801	A-32	600	706
	804	A-33	604	707
North Padre	805		605	708
Island, East	806	Mustang Island,	606	709
Addition	807	East Addition	607	710
7	810	Edick PERSON!	618	711
892	811	733	619	714
912	812	735	620	A-4
913	828	736	622	A-5
996	829	760	623	A-3 A-7
1014	831	A-51	624	P-1
A-6	833	A-52	631	Brazos
A-8	838	A-54	632	DIAZUS
A-10	842	A-54 A-57	633	244
A-12	843	A-58	634	341
A-23	846	A-61		364 365
A-28	847	A-64	(Seaward of 8(g)	365
A-20 A-42			Line)	375
A-43	848 849	A-65	635	376
A-45 A-45		A-85	636	377
A-46	850 851	A-86	638	378
A-48		A-95	639	396
A-46 A-55	852 955	A-110	650	397
	855	A-111	651	399
A-59	858	A-112	653	411
	859	A-121	654	412

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440	F70		205	250
413	576	Cal mater	295	353
415	579	Galveston	(S1/2 NE1/4	355
416	580	40.4	NE1/4; NW1/4	356
417	581	104	NE1/4; W1/2	357
430	585	151	SW1/4 NE1/4;	35 <del>9</del>
431	611	152	NE1/4 SW1/4	360
432	612	180	NE1/4; N1/2	361
434	613	181	SE1/4 NE1/4;	362
435	A-1	189	W1/2; W1/2	363
(Seaward of 8(g)	A-3	190	NW1/4 SE1/4;	379
Line)	A-7	(W1/2)	S1/2 SE1/4)	380
436	A-8	<b>1</b> 91 ′	296 ´	384
437	A-9	(Seaward of 8(g)	(NE1/4; NE1/4	385
439	A-10	line)	NE1/4 NW1/4;	386
450	A-11	192	S1/2 NE1/4	390
451	A-12	209	NW1/4; SE1/4	391
	A-15	210		392
452 (54.6)			NW1/4; S1/2	
(E1/2)	A-16	211	SW1/4 NW1/4;	393
453	A-17	212	N1/2 SW1/4;	394
455	A-19	222	NE1/4 SW1/4	395
458	A-20	223	SW1/4; N1/2	418
459	A-21	225	SE1/4 SW1/4;	419
468	A-22	<b>22</b> 6	N1/2 SE1/4;	420
471	A-23	<del>22</del> 7	N1/2 SW1/4	421
473	A-24	237	SE1/4; SE1/4	422
475	A-25	239	SE1/4)	426
476	A-29	241	297 <sup>°</sup>	427
478	A-30	(S1/2)	298	428
488	A-31	242	299	429
490	A-33	(Seaward of	300	460
491	A-37	8(g)line)	301	461
493	A-38	244	302	465
494	A-39	250	303	A-2
		250 251	304	A-3
495	A-40			
500	A-42	252	312	A-10
501	A-43	254	313	A-18
502		255	314	A-20
504	Brazos, South	256	315	A-24
505	Addition	257	316	A-34
506		267	317	A-35
507	A-46	268	319	A-39
510	A-47	271	321	A-40
514	A-48	272	322	A-50
515	A-51	273	323	A-96
516	A-52	281	324	A-101
517	A-53	282	325	A-105
531	A-65	283	326	
532	A-66	285	327	Galveston, South
536	A-69	286	329	Addition
537	A-70	287	330	
540	A-71	288	331	A-122
5 <del>4</del> 0 541	A-75	289	333	A-143
		291	334	
542 543	A-76	291 294	343	A-144 A 145
543 544	A-77	2 <del>54</del>		A-145
544	A-101		344	A-188
545	A-102		346	A-192
546	A-104		347	A-194
550	A-105		348	A-213
552	A-106		349	A-218
571	A-131		350	A-248
572	A-132		351	
575	A-133		352	

I Eals (at a st	400			
High Island	160	A-37	A-495	High Island, East
40	161	A-38	A-496	Addition
19	(NW1/4 NE1/4	A-39	A-497	
21	NW1/4; S1/2	A-41	A-498	38
22	NE1/4 NW1/4;	A-42	A-499	39
34	W1/2 NW1/4;	A-45	A-500	45
35	SE1/4 NW1/4;	A-46	A-511	74
<b>3</b> 6	NE1/4 NE1/4	A-52	A-512	85
37	SW1/4; W1/2	A-53	A-513	118
47	NE1/4 SW1/4	A-60	A-515	119
51	NW1/4 SW1/4;	A-62	A-517	128
52	NW1/4 SW1/4	A-68	A-518	129
53	SW1/4)	A-73	A-519	130
66	162	A-77	A-523	166
68	163	A-78	A-528	167
71	165	A-83	A-530	168
(SE1/4)	169	A-94	A-531	A-168
72	171	A-95	A-532	
73	176	A-100	A-534	A-169
86	177			A-170
87	178	A-125	A-535	A-171
88		A-127	A-536	A-172
	179	A-129	A-537	A-173
90	193	A-130	A-538	A-177
92	194	A-133	A-540	A-181
93	195		A-544	A-200
95	196	High Island,	A-546	A-201
98	197	South Addition	A-547	A-217
105	199		A-548	A-218
107	200	A-415	A-549	A-224
108	201	A-416	A-550	A-228
110	202	A-417	A-551	A-231
111	204	A-418	A-552	A-243
116	205	A-419	A-553	A-245
131	206	A-422	A-555	A-246
134	207	A-425	A-556	A-247
135	208	A-434	A-557	A-250
(N1/2; N1/2	228	A-438	A-559	A-253
S1/2; SW1/4	232	A-440	A-560	A-255
SW1/4; W1/2	236	A-442	A-561	A-257
SE1/4 SW1/4;	261	A-443	A-562	A-258
NE1/4 SE1/4	262	A-446	A-563	A-259
SW1/4; N1/2	263	A-447	A-564	
S1/2 SE1/4)	A-1	A-448	A-568	High Island, East
136 <sup>′</sup>	A-2	A-451	A-570	Addition, South
(E1/2; E1/2	A-4	A-462	A-571	Extension
NE1/4 SW1/4;	A-6	A-465	A-572	LACISION
S1/2 SE1/4	A-7	A-466	A-573	A-260
SW1/4)	A-8	A-467	A-574	A-261
137	A-9	A-468	A-575	A-262
138	A-10	A-469	A-576	A-263
(N1/2)	A-16	A-471	A-577	A-264
139	A-17	A-474	A-582	A-266
140	A-18	A-475	A-583	
141	A-19	A-477	A-586	A-269
142	A-20	A-486		A-270
143	A-21	A-466 A-488	A-587	A-271
154			A-590	A-272
155	A-22 A-23	A-489	A-591	A-273
(W1/2)		A-490	A-595	A-274
	A-24 A-25	A-491	A-596	A-275
156 158	A-25	A-492		A-276
158 150	A-26	A-493		A-279
159	A-36	A-494		A-280

A-281	A-378	593	Garden Banks	205
	A-379	598		206
A-282			0.4	
A-283	A-380	599	21	207
A-285	A-382	602	22	209
A-286	A-384	604	25	212
	A-304			213
A-287	A-385	605	26	
A-288	A-386	608	28	215
A 200	A-389	609	29	216
A-290	A-309	000		217
A-291	A-391	637	34	
A-292	A-395	638	65	221
	A-397	639	66	<u>22</u> 4
A-293				233
A-294	A-402	640	70	
A-296	A-403	641	71	235
A-302		642	72	236
	0.11 - D			237
A-303	Sabine Pass	643	73	
A-307		644	75	240
A-308	17	<b>64</b> 5	76	244
A-300				245
A-309	18	<del>64</del> 6	82	
A-310	40	647	83	247
A-312		648	84	248
A-312	F4 BI		85	249
A-313	East Breaks	649		
A-314		653	102	254
A-315	109	654	104	255
		683	108	259
A-316	110	003		
A-317	112	684	115	260
A-320	117	685	117	261
A 000		686	119	265
A-323	127			
A-325	128	688	124	266
A-326	156	689	126	267
A 0020		690	127	269
A-327	157			
A-329	158	691	128	270
A-330	159	692	134	272
A-000		<b>72</b> 8	135	275
A-331	160			
A-332	161	729	136	278
A-334	165	732	140	280
A 00F	167	739	141	281
A-335				
A-339	171	740	142	282
A-340	172	741	147	287
	197	783	152	293
A-341				300
A-342	209	784	156	
A-343	212	<b>78</b> 5	159	304
	213	901	160	312
A-345				313
A-346	215	902	161	
A-347	256	904	162	317
A-348	294	943	163	319
			167	322
A-349	<b>29</b> 5	944		322
A-350	296	945	168	323
A-351	303	946	170	324
			171	325
A-352	305	947		323
A-356	342	948	172	333
A-359	346	949	173	334
		987	177	336
A-360	347		470	
A-362	<b>386</b>	988	178	337
A-365	390	989	180	341
		990	184	342
A-367	473			
A-368	474	991	186	343
A-369	506	992	189	344
		994	191	345
A-370	507	<i>33</i> ⁴1		
A-371	518		192	346
A-372	520		199	360
			200	362
A-376	565			
A-377	<b>56</b> 6		204	363

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371	535	738	563	489
373	536			
	550	739	564	490
377	537	740	569	491
379	538	741	570	529
382	543	742	571	530
386			571	550
	544	743	572	533
387	550	7 <del>44</del>	610	534
388	555	754	611	555
389	556	767		555
	550	767	612	556
390	557	<b>76</b> 8	613	557
399	558	7 <del>6</del> 9	653	558
400	559	772	654	599
405	560	700		099
	300	782	655	600
406	561	<b>78</b> 3	656	601
408	562	784	657	602
409	563	785	696	643
411			090	040
	566	803	697	6 <del>44</del>
412	567	804	698	645
413	568	806	700	646
417	569	820	701	647
418	580			
		821	702	648
423	581	823	703	687
425	584	<b>82</b> 6	704	691
426	585	833	740	705
427	598			
420		848	741	719
428	599	849	748	720
429	600	850		730
430	601	877	Alaminos Canyon	731
431	602	885	Addition Only Off	704
432				734
	603	902	20	735
444	607	903	21	736
451	608	909	22	763
452	609	919	23	764
460		919		764
	610	920	24	774
463	611	921	25	<i>7</i> 75
464	612	929	26	780
469	613	930	65	
470	625		0.5	781
		938	<b>6</b> 6	814
471	<del>6</del> 28	939	67	818
472	629	940	111	827
473	644	947	114	856
474	645		455	000
475		963	155	903
475	646	964	156	904
476	653	974	157	947
477	654	975	192	951
479	656	0.0	102	901
480		P: 41 - 1 - 1	199	954
	673	Port Isabel	200	
<del>4</del> 81	683		236	Keathley Canyon
498	687	126	237	
499	688	393		^
504			243	6
	689	436	244	7
505	690	437	261	133
506	691	438	280	134
508	692	481	305	
513	693			156
		482	336	157
515	694	483	337	158
516	697	519	380	159
518	698	520	398	
519	699	524		177
			441	178
520	731	525	442	179
523	732	<b>526</b>	<b>48</b> 5	201
525	733	527	487	202

# Leasing Activities Information



WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO
LEASE SALE 161
FINAL NOTICE
SEPTEMBER, 1996

UNLEASED SPLIT BLOCKS

<u>AND</u>

UNLEASED ACREAGES OF BLOCKS

WITH ALIQUOTS AND IRREGULAR

PORTIONS UNDER LEASE

For Oil and Gas Leases in the Gulf of Mexico

				•
	•			
		+		
•				

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

This package identifies the unleased Federal acreage along the offshore Texas/Federal boundary and unleased acreages of blocks with portions under lease. If a block is bid upon, all unleased acreage within that block must be bid upon.

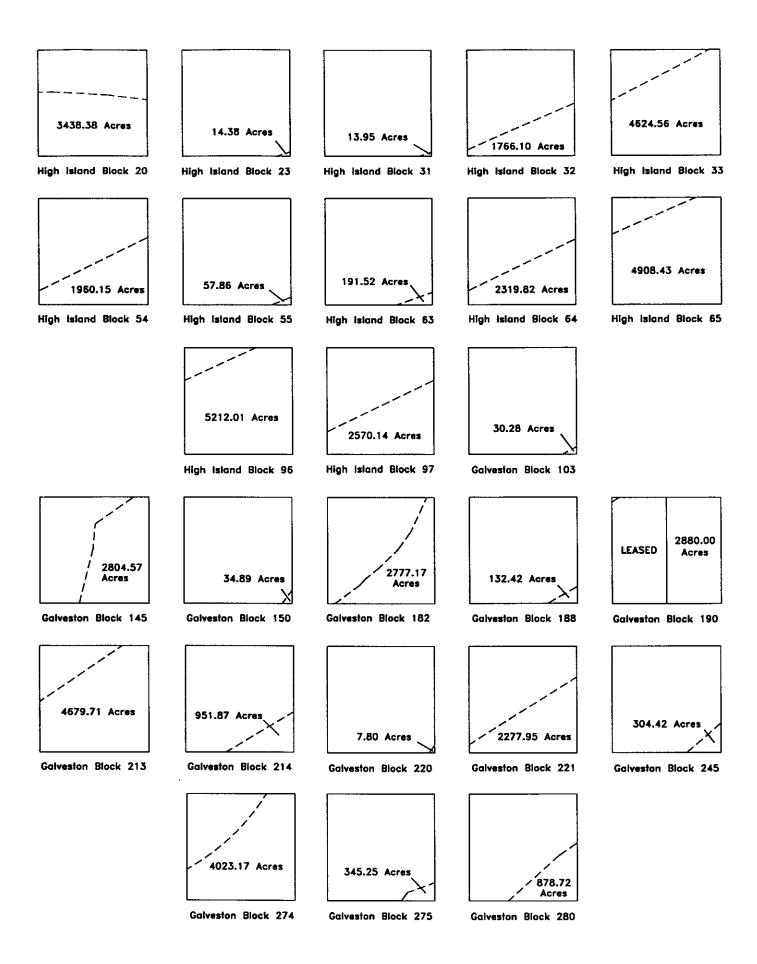
Lists of available split blocks and blocks with portions under lease appear on pages 2 of 8 and 7 of 8.

Individual block diagrams are arranged northerly to southerly and are in numerical sequence.

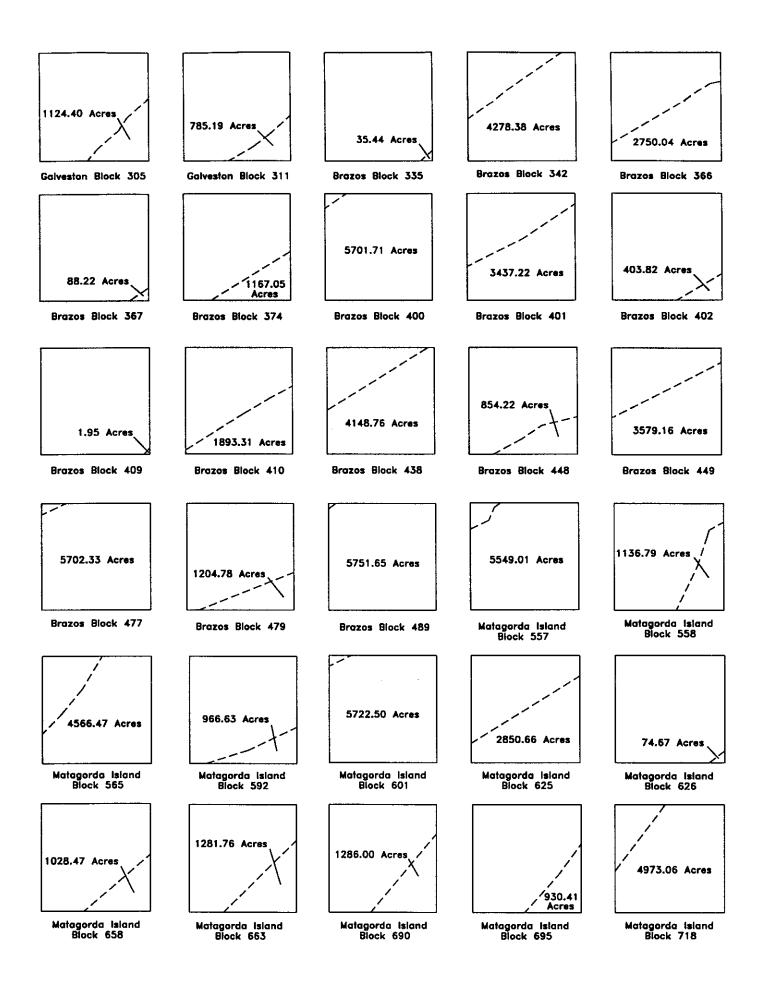
Split and irregular blocks leased as a result of the sale will be legally described by using X and Y coordinates. Any specific questions pertaining to the unleased split blocks or those with portions under lease should be referred to Mr. Wallace Williams (504) 736-2772.

#### UNLEASED SPLIT BLOCK BOUNDARY BY MAP AREA AND BLOCK NUMBER SEQUENCE WGOM SALE 161

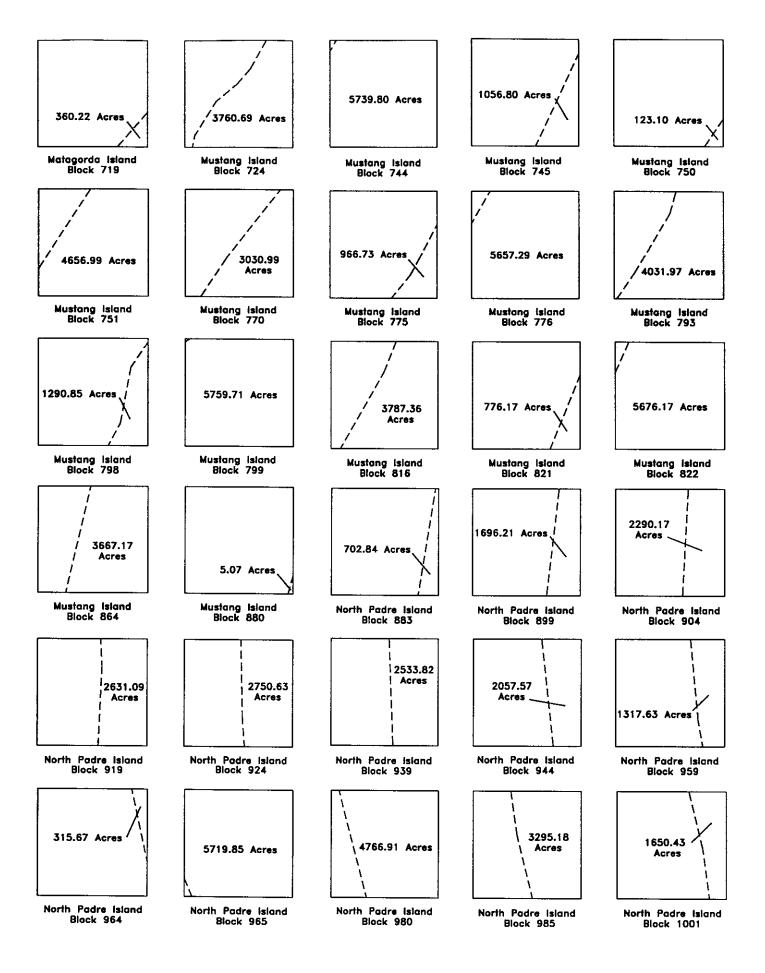
High Island 20 23 31 32 33 54 55 63 64 65 96	Matagorda Island 557 558 565 592 601 625 626 658 663 690 695 718	883 899 904 919 924 939 944 959 964 965 980 985
G-3	719	1001
Galveston 103	Mustana Island	1006
103 145	Mustang Island 724	1007 1022
150	744	1022
182	<b>74</b> 5	South Padre Island
188	750	1027
190	751	1043
213	770	1044
214	<b>77</b> 5	1049
220	776	1085
221	793 700	1090
245 274	798 799	1105
275	755 816	1110 1126
280	821	1131
305	822	1146
311	864	
	880	Port Isabel
Brazos		945
335		989
342		
366 367		
37 <del>4</del>		
400		
401		
402		
409		
410		
438		
448		
449		
477		
479 489		
<b>≒</b> 09		



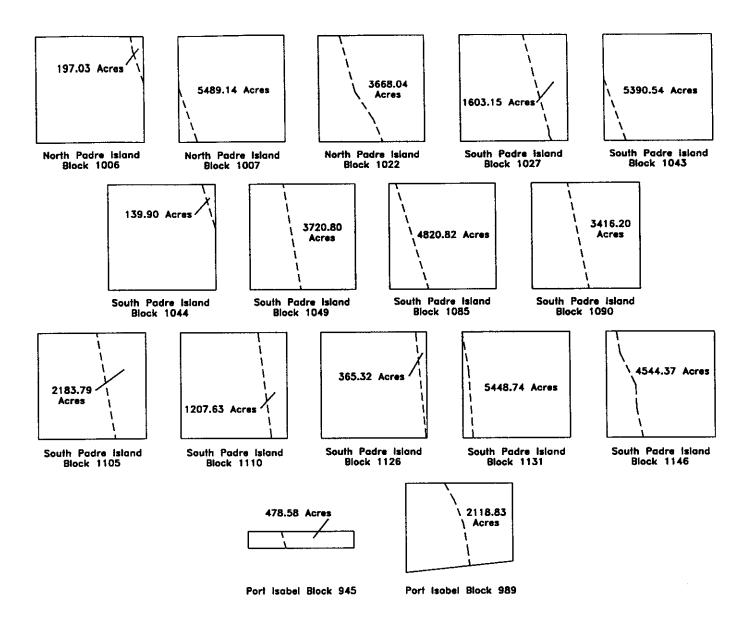
Page 3 of 8



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Page 5 of 8



### UNLEASED ACREAGES OF BLOCKS WITH ALIQUOTS AND IRREGULAR PORTIONS UNDER LEASE

#### High Island

```
71
     (4320.00 AC.) N1/2; SW1/4
135
     (450.00 AC.)
                   SE1/4SE1/4SW1/4; S1/2S1/2SE1/4
136
     (2520.00 AC.) NW1/4; W1/2SW1/4; W1/2NE1/4SW1/4;
                   N1/2SE1/4SW1/4
138
     (2880.00 AC.) S1/2
155
     (2880.00 AC.) E1/2
     (3690.00 AC.) E1/2; NE1/4NE1/4NW1/4; SE1/4NE1/4SW1/4;
161
                   NE1/4SW1/4SW1/4; S1/2SW1/4SW1/4;
                   SE1/4SW1/4
```

#### Galveston

190 *191 241	(2880.00 AC.) (1290.54 AC.) (2880.00 AC.)	E1/2 Landward of 8(g) line N1/2
*242	-	Landward of 8(g) line
295	(990.00 AC.)	N1/2NE1/4NE1/4; SE1/4SW1/4NE1/4; S1/2SE1/4NE1/4; E1/2NW1/4SE1/4; NE1/4SE1/4
296	(1260.00 AC.)	NW1/4NE1/4NW1/4; NW1/4NW1/4; N1/2SW1/4NW1/4; W1/2SW1/4SW1/4; SE1/4SW1/4SW1/4; S1/2SE1/4SW1/4; S1/2SW1/4SE1/4

#### <u>Brazos</u>

```
*435 (24.81 AC.) Landward of 8(g) line 452 (2880.00 AC.) W1/2
```

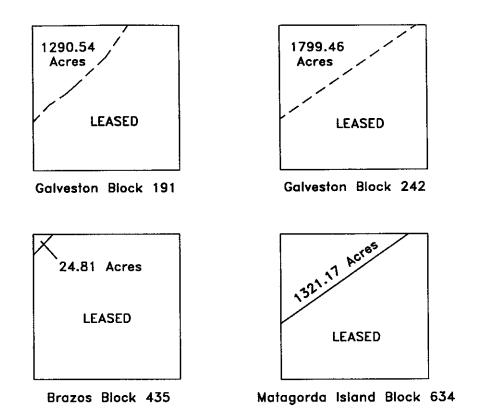
#### <u>Matagorda Island</u>

\*634 (1321.17 AC.) Landward of 8(g) line

#### Mustang Island

- A-2 (720.00 AC.) N1/2NW1/4NE1/4; SW1/4NW1/4NE1/4; NE1/4NW1/4; NE1/4SE1/4NW1/4
- \* Blocks with irregular portions under lease. (See page 8)

Any specific questions pertaining to the unleased acreage of blocks with aliquots and irregular portions under lease should be referred to Mr. Wallace Williams (504) 736-2772.



#### U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters

Persons signing this form should refer to the regulations referenced below for complete instructions:

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions - The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions. See below for language to be used; use this form for certification and sign; or use Department of the Interior Form 1954 (DI-1954). (See Appendix A of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions - (See Appendix B of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

60 FR 9786 (February 22, 1995) allows the use of "...any forms or formats, including electronic equivalents..." in making these required certifications, "...as long as the certification or statement contains the applicable language required by the regulation."

Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 43 CFR Parts 12 and 18. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of the Interior determines to award the covered transaction, grant, cooperative agreement, or loan.

PART A:	Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions (applicable to all MMS transactions requiring certification under the regulations cited above, including lease issuance)	-
	CHECK IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.	

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
  - (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarity excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
  - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
  - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
  - (d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

PART B: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions (not applicable to MMS lease issuance: applies to other MMS transactions requiring certification under the regulations cited above. as directed)					
		CHECK_	IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.		

- (1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

As the authorized certifying official, I hereby certify that the above specified certifications are true.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	
TYPED COMPANY NAME AND GOM COMPANY NUMBER		
DATE:		4 April

#### **SAMPLE:**

#### **Preferred Bid Form**

Regional Diroctor Minorals Management Service, USBI Gulf of Mexico OCS Region 1201 Elmwood Park Bonievard New Orleans, Leuisiana 70123-2394			Oil and Gas Lease Sale Date of Sale: Company Submitting Bid: GOM Company Number:					
	Oil and Gas Lease Bid							
The following bid is: Continental Shelf spe	The following bid is submitted for an oil and gas lease on the area and block of the Outer Continental Shelf-specified below:							
Area Hame	<u>Block</u>	Total Amount Bld	Amount Por Acre	Amount of Cash Bonus Submitted with Bid				
West Cameron West Addition	<u>404</u>	<u>\$6,157,623</u>	<u>\$1,231.53</u>	<b>\$1,231,524.60</b>				
GOM Company No.		Percent Interest	Comp Signa	any Namels) and turels				
20999		33.33	Explorer LTD Box 1234567 Dime Box, Texas 12345					
		7		W. In ice President				
21115		33.33	Bex 5	rans 4321 Zuich, Texas 12345				
			By: M At	. E. Too, ii Rorney in Fact				
20137		33.34	5 Swa	Galor Imp Benjevard Drieans, Louisiana 12345				
				Al Se resident				

#### **NOTES:**

- 1. Company name as on file with MMS, GOM Company Number, company address, and area/block number must appear on all bids. Company address is where official correspondence will be sent.
- Staple check to the bid form.
- 3. Use large boldface type-style, such as Times Roman Bold 12 pt.

100.00

4. Total Amount Bid must be in whole dollar figure.

TOTAL:

- Amount Per Acre is equal to Total Amount Bid divided by unleased block acreage (round up to next cent). This dollar amount is used during bid reading and immediate post-sale statistics to provide a reference basis. MMS recalculates the per acre amount for all official reports based on official protraction diagram or leasing map acreage.
- 6. Amount of Cash Bonus Submitted with Bid must not be less than 20% of Total Amount Bid.
- 7. Proportional interest of joint bids must not exceed 5 decimal places; total must always equal 100%. There is no limit to the number of joint bidders that may participate.
- 8. Type Signer's name under signature; each joint bidder must sign.

#### Bidder's Envelope - Example of Preferred Format

ideas Galer - GOM Company Number <i>20137</i>					
West Cameron Area, South Addition					
Block 404					
SEALED BID FOR OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE					

- 1. Use standard size envelopes not to exceed 4-1/2" x 10-1/2" when submitting bids.
- 2. Use large heldface type, such as Times Roman Bold 12 pt.

#### United States Department of the Interior

Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Adjudication Unit (MS 5421) 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Company Name:	<ol> <li>Return of Unsuccessful Checks.</li> </ol>			
Signature:	The bid deposit check or checks for unsuccessful bids will be returned to only one company within a bidding combine. Indicate			
Title:	preferred method of delivery:			
Area Code - Phone Number:	Pick up - at the sale site.			
GOM Company Number:	(Individual Authorized to Pick Up Checks)			
Date:				
	(Company)			
I. Payments and Refunds.	(Area Code - Phone Number)			
All payoff payments to and refunds from the Minerals Management Service will be made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The individual authorized to act as your company's EFT coordinator is:	Mail to: (FED EX requires Street Address and Zip Code			
(Name)	(Company)			
(Company)	(Street)			
(Area Code - Phone Number)	(City) (State) (Zip)			
(Area Code - FAX Number)				
	(Attention)			
II. Deliver to: (FED EX requires Street Address and Zip Code)				
(Company)	(Area Code - Phone Number)			
(ani built	V. Return of Deposit for Rejected Bids.			
(Street)	All refunds for rejected bids will be returned to only one compar			
(City) (State) (Zip)	within a bidding combine. All refunds will be via EFT.			
() ( <b>-</b> )	(Name of Receiving Financial Organization)			
(Attention)				
(Area Code - Phone Number)	(City and State of Receiving Financial Organization)			
6	AR FIA LUB I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I			
III. Notification of Bid Acceptance will only be	(Nine-digit American Bankers Association Routing Number)			
made by FAX Message.	(Recipient Account Number at Receiving Financial Organization			
FAX Number:	(m. ) 1 (h)			
	(Recipient Name in which Account is Maintained)			

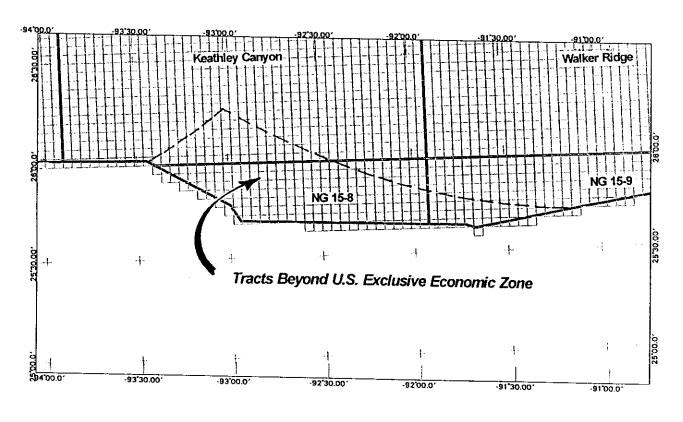
# Leasing Activities Information



August 1996

## Tracts Beyond U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone Map

Western Gulf of Mexico (possibly subject to future treaty agreement with Mexico)







# Tracts Beyond U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone Western Gulf of Mexico

(possibly subject to future treaty agreement with Mexico)

The area defined herein is that area lying Northerly of the Provisional U.S. - Mexico Maritime Boundary and seaward of a line at 200 nautical miles from the coastline in the Western Gulf of Mexico.

#### OFFICIAL PROTRACTION DIAGRAM

Keathley Canyon (NG15-05)

Blocks

722 through 724

764 through 770

807 through 816

849 through 861

892 through 907

934 through 953

978 through 999

#### NG15-08

Blocks

11 through 34

56 through 81

102 through 128

148 through 173

194 through 217

239 through 261

284 through 305

336 through 349

#### NG15-09

Blocks

133 through 135

177 through 184

221 through 238

265 through 281

309 through 320

358