



U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service

MMS

Overview of MMS Environmental Review Process

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Multi-Step Environmental Review Process

Programmatic AEAU EIS

**Competitive
Commercial**

Lease Sale EIS

SAP EA/EIS

COP EA/EIS

**Non Competitive
Commercial**

**Lease Issuance/
SAP EA/EIS**

COP EA/EIS

**Non Competitive
ROW/RUE**

**Grant Issuance/GAP
EA/EIS**

Environmental Analysis



Environmental Studies

MMS Mandate:

Protect the environment and develop information necessary to assess and manage environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments.



The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- Disclose Plans
- Involve Public
- Identify and Evaluate Alternatives
- Avoid & Mitigate Negative Effects
- Integrate Environmental Analyses

Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

REGULATIONS
For Implementing The Procedural Provisions Of The
NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT



Reprint
40 CFR Parts 1500-1508
(as of July 1, 1986)

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA)

Sections

- I Purpose and Need for Action
- II Alternatives Including the Proposed Action
- III Affected Environment
- IV Environmental Consequences
 - Cumulative Effects

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Steps:

- Public Scoping Meetings and Comment Period
- Draft EIS
- Public Hearings and Comment Period
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision



Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Birds
- Bats
- Seafloor Habitats



- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Socioeconomics
- Cultural Resources
- Fisheries
- Multiple Use Conflicts

Impact Producing Factors

- Visual and aesthetic interference
- Vessel traffic
- Air emissions
- Bottom disturbance
- Discharges
- Infrastructure (emplacement and presence)
- Noise
- Lighting



Mitigation Measures

- MMS's primary mitigation strategy is avoidance
- Lease Stipulations
- Source of mitigation measures:
 - Subject matter experts through the NEPA process
 - Consultations
 - Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework
 - Best Management Practices in the Record of Decision on the AEAU Programmatic EIS
 - Applicable stipulations from OCS oil and gas leases
 - Input from Task Force

Major Federal Agencies Involved in OCS Activities



Minerals Management Service



U.S. Coast Guard



Environmental Protection Agency



Fish and Wildlife Service



National Marine Fisheries Service

Army Corps of Engineers



Federal Aviation Administration



U.S. Geological Survey



State, Tribal & Local Stakeholders Involved in OCS Activities for Virginia

- Tribal Governments
- State Historic Preservation Offices
- VA Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Air Resources Boards
- Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
- Departments of Historical Resources
- Local Governments

**Magnuson-
Stevens
FCMA**

**E.O. 13186:
Protection of
Migratory Birds**

**Endangered
Species Act**

**E.O. 12898:
Environmental
Justice**

**National
Historic
Preservation
Act**

**NEPA
Analysis**

**Federal Water
Pollution
Control Act**

**Marine Mammal
Protection Act**

**Clean
Air Act**

**Coastal Zone
Management
Act**

Environmental Consultation Processes: Required for MMS Lease Issuance or Plan Approval

- Consultations:
 - Coastal Zone Management Act
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)
 - National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
 - Endangered Species Act (Section 7)
- Clean Air Act General Conformity Determination
- Migratory Birds Treaty Act/Executive Order Analysis

Run concurrently with NEPA process

Other Environmental Processes: Required by Other Federal Agencies or Responsibility of Applicant

- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- USCG Ports and Waterways Safety Act, Maritime Transportation Act
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting under Section 404, Clean Water Act, Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act
- EPA NPDES/VGP Permitting
- FERC Licensing and Coordination
- DOD Coordination

**MMS Environmental
Review Process
for OCS Wind Energy
Offshore Virginia**



When will the NEPA Analysis begin?

- MMS will coordinate closely with federal, tribal, state and local stakeholders in order to help states meet their goals and determine timelines for leasing.
- An important factor in determining the start of NEPA analysis is the issuance of the Request for Interest (RFI).
- MMS expects the NEPA analysis to begin within 6 to 12 months after an RFI is issued.

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More Information...

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