U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Office of Communications

SPECIAL INFORMATION

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM FOR 1997-2002 SCHEDULE OF PRE-LEASE STEPS

(as of October 28, 1996)

REGION	MAJOR STEPS IN THE OCS OIL AND GAS LEASING PROCESS							
Planning Area/Sale	CALL *	AREA ID	DEIS	HEARINGS	CD/PNS	FEIS or EA	NOS	SALE
GULF OF MEXICO		•						
Western GOM	Mid- 1995	Late-1995	Early-1996	Mid-1996	Late-1996	Early-1997	Mid-1997	Late- 1997
Sale 168								
Central GOM	Mid- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-1998	Early- 1998
Sale 169								
Western GOM Sale 171	Early- 1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-1998	Early-1998	Late-1998	Late- 1998
Central GOM	Mid- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-1998	Early-1999	Early-1999	Early- 1999
Sale 172								
Western GOM	Early- 1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-1999	Early-1999	Mid-1999	Late- 1999
Sale 174								
Central GOM	Mid- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-1999	Late-1999	Early-2000	Early- 2000
Sale 175								
Western GOM	Early- 1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-2000	Early-2000	Mid-2000	Late- 2000
Sale 177								
Central GOM	Mid- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-2000	Late-2000	Early-2001	Early- 2001
Sale 178								
Western GOM	Early- 1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-2001	Early-2001	Mid-2001	Late- 2001
Sale 180								
Eastern GOM	Early- 1999	Mid-1999	Late-1999	Late-1999	Early-2001	Early-2001	Mid-2001	Late- 2001
Sale 181								
Central GOM	Mid- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-2001	Late-2002	Early-2002	Early- 2002
Sale 182								
ALASKA**								

Beaufort Sea	Late- 1996	Late-1996	Mid-1997	Mid-1997	Late-1997	Late-1997	Early-1998	Early- 1998
Sale 170								
Cook Inlet/Shelikof	Early-	Mid-1997	Late-1998	Late-1998	Mid-1999	Mid-1999	Late-1999	Late-
Strt.	1997							1999
Sale 173								
Beaufort Sea		Early-1998	Early-1999	Mid-1999	Early-2000	Early-2000	Mid-2000	Mid-
Sale 176	1997							2000
Gulf of Alaska	Early- 1999	Mid-1999	Mid-2000	Late-2000	Mid-2001	Mid-2001	Late-2001	Late- 2001
Sale 179								
Chukchi Sea/Hope	Early-	Early-2000	Early-2001	Mid-2001	Early-2002	Early-2002	Mid-2002	Mid-
Basin	2000							2002
Sale 183								

Key to the Major Steps in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Process:

CALL	Call for Information and Nominations	PNS	Proposed Notice of Sale
AREA ID	Area Identification	FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement	EA	Environmental Assessment (Gulf of Mexico only)
CD	Consistency Determination	NOS	Notice of Sale

*Under the Improved PRE-LEASE Decision Process for Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Sales, starting with 1998 sales, a single multi-sale Call has been issued for Central Gulf of Mexico Sales 169, 172, 175, 178, and 182. An Area ID and an EIS will also be prepared for a single "typical" sale in the Central Gulf. Subsequently, after the first sale, there will be complete NEPA and CZMA coverage for each sale, an Environmental Assessment (or Supplemental EIS) and a CD.

A similar multi-sale process will be implemented for Western Gulf of Mexico Sales 171, 174, 177, and 180 starting with the Call tentatively scheduled for early 1997.

**In the Alaska OCS Region, a key feature of the new PRE-LEASE process is the establishment of an Alaska Offshore Advisory Committee. This committee will be used at key points in the PRE-LEASE process for each proposed Alaska OCS sale to seek consensus on recommendations to MMS.