

Marine Minerals Program

Requests for Outer Continental Shelf Non-Energy Minerals for Private or Commercial Purposes

- Under Title 30, Part 581, Section 581.11 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any person, entity, or company can request that outer continental shelf (OCS) minerals be offered for lease. BOEM would offer the material for lease under a competitive system and hold a lease sale.
- A request that OCS minerals be offered for lease should be sent to the Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop DM 5238, Washington, DC 20240, and should contain the following information:
 - The area to be offered for lease.
 - The OCS minerals of primary interest.
 - The available OCS mineral resource and environmental information pertaining to the area of interest to be offered for lease which supports the request.
 - A primary point of contact.
- Within 45 days after receipt of such a request the BOEM Director shall either initiate steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease and notify the applicant of the action taken or inform the applicant of the reasons for not initiating steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease.
- When considering whether to offer OCS minerals for lease, the Interior Department may issue in the Federal Register a Request for Information specific to the lease request. Requests may be for comments concerning geological conditions or archaeological resources on the seabed; multiple uses of the area proposed for leasing, including navigation, recreation and fisheries; and other socioeconomic, biological, and environmental information relating to the area proposed for leasing. Such information will be considered in the decision whether to proceed with additional steps leading to the offering of OCS minerals for lease.
- After considering the available OCS mineral resources and environmental data and information and comments received from interested parties, BOEM will select the tracts to be considered for offering for lease. The selected tracts will be considered in the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed lease offering.

- BOEM will determine the type of environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will inform the requestor as to what further procedures/information should be followed or are required.
- If an Environmental Impact Statement is required, the process will involve scoping and public meetings, announcements in the Federal Register, allowance for official comment periods for draft and final documents, etc. The process could take approximately two years.
- If the applicant has acquired Geological and Geophysical data in the area requested for lease, these data must be submitted to BOEM after completion of the acquisition. The BOEM will complete its own analysis of this and any other available data, and use it to determine a fair market value of the mineral(s) to be leased.
- The applicant may be required to provide environmental information in support of the project.
- Further information can be obtained by contacting Chief, Marine Minerals Branch, at 703-787-1851, or by visiting our webpage at: <http://www.boem.gov/MarineMineralsProgram>.

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