
Leasing Activities Information

BOEM

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

**Information to Lessees (ITL)
Gulf of Mexico (GOM)
Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251 (GOM Region-wide Sale 251)
Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS)**

This document contains ITL clauses designed to inform potential bidders of select applicable Federal requirements and other information that may be of benefit to bidders participating in this sale.

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(1) Navigation Safety. Bidders and lessees are advised that operations on certain blocks offered for lease may be restricted by the designation of fairways, precautionary zones, anchorages, safety zones, or traffic separation schemes established by the USCG pursuant to the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1221-1236), as amended, and the Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1524), as amended.

Bidders and lessees are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 CFR part 150, including 33 CFR 150.940, “Safety zones for specific deepwater ports,” and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port Safety Zones, included in Appendix A to 33 CFR part 150. Bidders and lessees also are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 CFR part 147, “Safety Zones.” These regulations establish a 500-meter (1,640-foot) safety zone around several oil and gas production facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), measured from each point on its outer edge or from its construction site, so as not to interfere with the use of recognized sea lanes essential to navigation. These regulations prevent all vessels from entering or remaining in the safety zones except as follows: (1) an attending vessel, (2) a vessel under 100 feet in length overall not engaged in towing, or (3) a vessel authorized by the Eighth Coast Guard District Commander, or as otherwise specified in the regulations. These facilities and their locations are specifically identified in 33 CFR part 147.

For additional information, contact the USCG Waterways Management Division, Sector New Orleans, 200 Hendee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114, or at (504) 365-2280.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits are required for construction of any artificial islands, installations, and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed on the OCS in accordance with section 4(e) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 *et seq.*), as amended. For additional information, contact Mr. Martin Mayer, USACE, Regulatory Section Chief, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267, or at (504) 862-2255.

(2) Ordnance Disposal Areas. Bidders and lessees are advised of the following ordnance disposal areas. Exploration and development activities in these areas require precautions commensurate with the potential hazards.

Western Planning Area (WPA)

Two inactive ordnance disposal areas are located in the Corpus Christi and East Breaks areas, as shown on the map “Proposed, Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251, August 2018, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown composition and quantity. These areas have not been used for ordnance disposal since 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.

Central Planning Area (CPA)

Two known inactive ordnance disposal areas are located in Mississippi Canyon, as shown on the map “Proposed, Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251, August 2018, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown quantity and composition in approximate water depths

of 750 to 1,525 meters. Bottom sediments in both disposal areas are soft, consisting of silty clays.

Eastern and Central Planning Areas

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) has also released an indeterminable amount of unexploded ordnance throughout Eglin Water Test Areas (EWTAs) 1, 2, 3 and 4. The exact location of the unexploded ordnance is unknown. The EWTAs are identified on the map “Proposed, Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251, August 2018, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. Bidders and lessees are advised that all lease blocks within these water test areas should be considered potentially hazardous for drilling and platform/pipeline placement.

(3) Existing and Proposed Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs. Bidders and lessees are advised there are OCS artificial reef planning and general permit areas for the Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR) in which reef sites are or may be established for use by applicable State Rigs-to-Reefs programs. Rigs-to-Reefs proposals for reefing oil and gas structures must be accepted by the appropriate State and approved by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). The State Artificial Reef program developing a reef site must also obtain a permit from the USACE. Each State’s Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs program is managed under that State’s Artificial Reef Plan. For more information, see the contact information in the table below.

State	Coordinator	Phone	URL
AL	Craig Newton	(251) 861-2882	http://www.outdooralabama.com/artificial-reefs
FL	Keith Mille	(850) 617-9633	http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs/ar-program/
LA	Mike McDonough	(225) 763-5418	http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program
MS	James Sanders	(228) 523-4089	http://www.dmr.ms.gov/marine-fisheries/artificial-reef
TX	Dale Shively	(512) 389-4686	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/

(4) Lightering Zones. Bidders and lessees are advised that the USCG has designated certain areas of the OCS as lightering zones for the purpose of permitting single hull vessels to offload oil within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Such designation may have implications for oil and gas operations in the areas. See 33 CFR 156.300-330 for the regulations concerning lightering zones. For more information, contact Shelley R. Miller, USCG Attorney Advisor, Eighth District Waterways Management Division, at (504) 671-2139, or via e-mail at Shelley.R.Miller@uscg.mil.

(5) Indicated Hydrocarbons List. Bidders and lessees are advised that BOEM makes available, approximately three months prior to a lease sale, a list of unleased blocks in the Central, Western, and Eastern Planning Areas that have wellbores with indicated hydrocarbons. Information relating to production, wellbores, and pay range for each block is included (see BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Resource-Evaluation/Gulf-OCS-Region-Activities/Indicated-Hydrocarbon-List.aspx>). Bidders and lessees should be aware that prior lessees on these lease blocks may have continuing rights and

obligations with respect to the wells and infrastructure developed under the prior lessee's lease, for at least a year after termination of the prior lessee's lease (see 30 CFR part 250, subpart Q). Lessees seeking the right to use preexisting platforms, pipelines, wells, or other infrastructure on a lease block must first obtain BSEE approval and, in the event the request is made within the time BSEE authorizes for the completion of decommissioning, the express consent of the prior lessee. Bidders should also refer to 30 CFR 250.1702 for the circumstances under which lessees accrue decommissioning liabilities, including, but not limited to, when reentering wells that previously were plugged.

(6) Military Areas. Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 1, Military Areas, found within the document "Lease Stipulations" included in the Proposed NOS package, will apply to leases in any new Military Warning and Water Test Areas that may be established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and any blocks that previously were subject to the stipulation. Military Warning and Water Test Areas are established in the FAA Air Traffic Document JO 7400.8Z, "Title 14-Aeronautics and Space - Chapter 1 Federal Aviation Administration - Subchapter Airspace - Part 73 - Special Use Airspace Regulatory and Non-regulatory." This document may be downloaded from the FAA website at: https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/FAA_Order_JO_7400.10_Special_Use_Airspace.pdf.

The stipulation also applies to the EWTAs established by agreement between the USAF (Eglin Air Force Base) and the FAA. The lease sale area for GOM Region-wide Sale 251 includes all or portions of EWTAs 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The lessee is responsible for establishing and maintaining contact and coordinating with the military commander(s) in any Military Warning and Water Test Area in which operations, radio communications, or other traffic is planned during the occupation and development of any lease, including boats, ships, or aircraft traffic that passes through a Military Warning and Water Test Area, to a leased block that is not in a Military Warning and Water Test Area. BOEM recommends lessees establish and maintain contact and coordinate with the appropriate military commander(s), whether or not their lease is subject to a Military Areas Stipulation. For more information, contact:

Federal Aviation Administration - Airspace Office
Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC)
Attention: Mike McGee
16600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77032
Telephone: (281) 230-5563 (mission support for daily schedules)
Telephone: (281) 230-5520 (operations support for procedural updates and information)

BOEM advises lessees to refer to the most current Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) on Military Warning and Water Test Areas, NTL No. 2014-G04: "Military Warning and Water Test Areas," available on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-NTL-No-2014-G04/> or from BOEM's Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office.

(7) Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Inspection and Enforcement of Certain U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Regulations. Lessees are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 CFR part 140, subpart B "Inspections." These regulations authorize BSEE to

perform inspections on fixed OCS facilities engaged in OCS oil and gas activities and to enforce USCG regulations applicable to those facilities in accordance with 33 CFR subchapter N parts 140-147. For more information, contact the Prevention Department, USCG Sector New Orleans, at 200 Hendee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70114, or at (504) 365-2240.

(8) Significant Outer Continental Shelf Sediment Resource Areas. Bidders and lessees are advised that BOEM has designated some lease blocks in the GOMR as Significant OCS Sediment Resource areas. OCS sediment resources are minerals that comprise sediment deposits including clay, silt, sand, and gravel size particles and shell found on or below the surface of the seabed of the OCS. BOEM has implemented measures to prevent obstructions to use of the most significant OCS sediment resources, reduce multiple use conflicts, and minimize interference with oil and gas operations. For the most current listing of significant OCS sediment resource blocks, see <http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals/Managing-Multiple-Uses-in-the-Gulf-of-Mexico.aspx>.

BOEM advises lessees to refer to the most current NTL for obligations regarding significant OCS sediment resources. The most recent NTL, No. 2009-G04, "Significant OCS Sediment Resources in the GOM," may be accessed on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>. NTL No. 2009-G04 states, among others, that *"if it is determined that significant OCS sediment resources may be impacted by a proposed activity, the BOEM/BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region may require you to undertake measures deemed economically, environmentally, and technically feasible to protect the resources to the maximum extent practicable. Measures may include modification of operations and monitoring of pipeline locations after installation."* BSEE will not approve future requests for in-place decommissioning of pipelines in these designated areas unless the BSEE GOM Regional Supervisor determines that the pipeline does not constitute a hazard (obstruction) to navigation and commercial fishing operations, unduly interfere with other uses of the OCS, or have adverse environmental effects. If it is deemed necessary, pipelines previously decommissioned in place may be required to be removed if the BSEE GOM Regional Supervisor determines that the pipeline is an obstruction.

There is potential for offshore dredging activities involving excavation and transportation of OCS minerals for beach nourishment and coastal restoration projects in some of the blocks listed below. Sediment transport corridors and staging areas may extend beyond the listed blocks and into state waters. Note that the list below represents those areas designated at the time of publication and new blocks may be added or removed based on new information.

WPA Blocks:

Sabine Pass Area

Blocks 10, 16, 17, 40, 44

High Island Area

Blocks 17, 37-39, 45-49, 70-76, 84-90, 114,115, 136, 158-160, 171-174, 198-204, 231-234, A7-A9, A16-A22, A37-A39

West Cameron, West Addition

Block 157

CPA Blocks:

Breton Sound

Blocks 41-44, 53-56

Chandeleur

Blocks 30-34

Main Pass

Blocks 42-44, 86-90, 92-114, 118-120

Main Pass, South and East Addition

Blocks 161-162, 180, 181

Sabine Pass Area

Blocks 11-15

West Cameron Area

Blocks 20-22, 43-45, 56-58, 90-93, 113-118, 128-134, 147-149, 168-172

West Cameron, West Addition

Blocks 155, 156, 162

Vermilion Area

Blocks 11, 30, 51-54, 68-77, 86-96, 108-111

South Marsh Island, North Addition

Blocks 207-237, 241-249, 259-261

Eugene Island Area

Blocks 10, 18-35, 37-69, 71-93

Ship Shoal Area

Blocks 64, 71-75, 84-100, 107-110

South Pelto Area

Blocks 6-15, 17-20

West Delta Area

Blocks 20-31, 43-50, 56-61

Mobile

Blocks 812-821, 856-865, 902-909

Potential Areas with Active Sand Dredging

On May 28, 2015, BOEM issued a noncompetitive negotiated lease to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to mine sand from the Ship Shoal sand body, Block 88, in order to construct an ecosystem restoration project on Whiskey Island as part of the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resources Damage Assessment Early Restoration Program.

Construction began in February 2017 and will be continuing through the end of the year. Part of this project will include a temporary sand conveyance corridor that will cross Blocks 65, 66, 70, 88, and 89 in the Ship Shoal Area before entering Louisiana state waters.

BOEM is partnering with the CPRA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the U.S. Geological Survey on the North Breton Island Restoration Project, which is funded under the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resources Damage Assessment Early Restoration Program. It is anticipated that OCS sand from Breton Sound Area, Blocks 41-44, 53-56, and Main Pass Area, Blocks 42-44, will be used for the North Breton Island Restoration Project. Additionally, St. Bernard Shoals in Chandeleur Area, Blocks 30-34; Main Pass Area, Blocks 86-90, 92-114, and 118-120; and Main Pass Area South and East Addition, Blocks 161, 162, 180, and 181, have been identified as possible sand sources for the restoration of Breton and Chandeleur Islands.

CPRA and BOEM are in the development and design phase of the East Timbalier Island project. The island has been severely degraded due to the impacts of several strong storms, subsidence and other factors. This project is critical to maintain lower wave-energy environments in eastern Terrebonne Basin, which protects fragile interior marshes and infrastructure and provides quiescent bay habitats preferred by many fish and invertebrate species. In addition, the island provides critical beach, dune, and marsh habitat in isolation from the human disturbances that typically impact many gulf coast barrier islands. The proposed borrow area is from the Ship Shoal in South Pelto Area Blocks 12-14.

The USACE Mobile District and BOEM entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the use of OCS sand for barrier island restoration in Mississippi as part of the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program along the Gulf Islands National Seashore in December 2016. OCS sand identified for the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program includes a borrow area in the Mobile Area, including Blocks 812-820, 856-864, and 902-908.

In November 2004, the USACE released the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) ecosystem restoration plan, which proposed the use of 60 million cubic yards of OCS sand for barrier island and headland restoration. Potential sand sources included the Ship, Tiger, and Trinity Shoals.

For more information, or to obtain a map of the potentially affected blocks, contact the BOEM GOM Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, at (504) 736-2963. Additional information also is available on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals/Managing-Multiple-Uses-in-the-Gulf-of-Mexico.aspx>, or in NTL No. 2009-G04, "Significant OCS Sediment Resources in the GOM," which may be accessed on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>.

(9) Notice of Arrival on the Outer Continental Shelf. Lessees are advised that, pursuant to 33 CFR 146.405, which implements provisions of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-347), owners or operators of U.S. and foreign flag floating facilities, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, and vessels are required to submit notice of arrival information to the National Vessel Movement Center (<http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/NVMC/default.aspx>) prior to engaging in OCS activities (33 CFR part 146). Section 704 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-213) mandates that "*the regulations required under section 109(a) of the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 1223 note), dealing with notice of arrival requirements for foreign vessels on the Outer Continental Shelf, shall not apply to a vessel*

documented under section 12105 of title 46, United States Code, unless the vessel arrives from a foreign port or place.” (Pub. L. No. 112-213, §704). For more information, contact:

CVC-2 Port State Control Oversight
Telephone: (202) 372-1218

(10) Bidder/Lessee Notice of Obligations Related to Criminal/Civil Charges and Offenses, Suspension, or Debarment; Disqualification Due to a Conviction under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act.

A. Information Bidders/Lessees Must Provide to BOEM Related to Criminal/Civil Charges and Offenses, Suspension, or Debarment:

Under 2 CFR 180.335, before submitting a bid, bidders/lessees must notify BOEM in writing if they know that they or any principals as defined in 2 CFR 180.995:

- are presently excluded or disqualified from entering into a transaction with a Federal agency;
- have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a), or had a civil judgment rendered against them for one of those offenses within that time period;
- are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a); or
- have had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

Under 2 CFR 180.350, after obtaining a lease, bidders/lessees must notify BOEM in writing if they learn that:

- they failed to disclose information earlier, as required by 2 CFR 180.335; or
- due to changed circumstances, they or any of the principals for the transaction now meet any of the criteria in 2 CFR 180.335.

B. Effect of a Conviction Under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act on Bidders/Lessees:

Under 2 CFR 1532.1110, bidders/lessees (including any principals as defined in 2 CFR 180.995) who are convicted of any offense described in 2 CFR 1532.1105 are automatically disqualified from eligibility to receive any lease by award or assignment (i.e., a covered transaction under subpart A through I of 2 CFR part 180, or prohibited awards under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4) if they:

- will perform any part of the transaction or award at the facility giving rise to their conviction (called the violating facility); and
- own, lease, or supervise the violating facility.

NOTE: A conviction under 2 CFR 1532.1105 automatically disqualifying bidders/lessees from eligibility as described in 2 CFR 1532.1110 set forth in “B” above triggers the notice requirements in 2 CFR 180.335 and 180.350 set forth in “A” above.

(11) **Protected Species.** Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 4, Protected Species, found within the document “Lease Stipulations” included in the Proposed NOS package, addresses activities that may have an impact on species afforded special protection

under the law, including, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act (ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 *et seq.*). This lease stipulation will apply to all lease blocks included in this lease sale. The purpose of the stipulation is to ensure that the lessees acknowledge and agree that they will be required to implement measures designed to reduce or avoid potential impacts on these protected species during post lease activities. As new species are listed for protection and as new measures and mitigations are identified to protect such species in the future (e.g., through ongoing or future consultations under the ESA or authorizations issued under the MMPA), BOEM and BSEE will condition approvals of plans and permits on implementation of the most current measures and mitigations in place at the time. Potential bidders should be aware that BOEM and BSEE are currently engaged in consultations under the ESA with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which are expected to result in the issuance of biological opinions and related terms and conditions for the protection of these species. BOEM is also petitioning NMFS for rulemaking under the MMPA that may result in additional mitigations for all marine mammals.

(12) Proposed Expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Bidders and lessees are advised that on June 10, 2016, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the proposed expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) boundaries, based on the recommendation contained within the Sanctuary Expansion Action Plan of the FGBNMS Management Plan (April 2012). [81 Fed. Reg. 37576 (June 10, 2016); <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-10/pdf/2016-13661.pdf>]. Exec. Order No. 13795 (Apr. 28, 2017) modified the process and requirements for the Department of Commerce to designate or expand national marine sanctuaries. To date, NOAA has not updated BOEM on how or whether it plans to proceed with proposed expansion of the FGBNMS. For additional information related to the proposed expansion, contact George Schmahl at (409) 621-5151, ext. 102, or at fgbexpansion@noaa.gov.

Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 5, Topographic Features, found within the document “Lease Stipulations” included in the Proposed NOS package, already prohibits certain activities related to oil and gas exploration and development in areas BOEM has designated as “No Activity Zones” due to the presence of biologically sensitive features and areas. Some of these restrictions occur in the same areas proposed for FGBNMS expansion. Restrictions are explained in NTL No. 2009–G39: “Biologically Sensitive Underwater Features and Areas,” which may be accessed on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>

(13) Communication Towers. Bidders are advised that the USAF currently owns communication towers in the Chandeleur, Mobile, and Viosca Knoll areas that previously supported Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI). Through advancements in technology, the need for the towers has ceased and they are no longer in use. While there are currently no plans to bring the towers back online for use, they remain on-site and are not scheduled for removal at this time. In the event the towers will be used in the future, BOEM will coordinate operations with the new user. The towers are located within Mobile Blocks 769, 819, and 990; Viosca Knoll Block 116; Chandeleur Area Blocks 33 and 61; and Chandeleur Area, East Addition, Block 39. For information and maps of the specific locations and line of sight crossings for ACMI towers, contact Ms. Bernadette Thomas in the BOEM GOMR at (504) 736-2596.

(14) Deepwater Port Applications for Offshore Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities. Bidders and lessees are advised that the USCG and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) may process applications for the licensing of deepwater ports involving proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation/exportation facilities in the GOM. The USCG and MARAD's deepwater port authority also covers facilities that unload and distribute oil. There is currently only one such facility: the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), located 16 miles southeast of Port Fourchon in the GOM.

A list of current/proposed deepwater port projects is provided below. One applicant is seeking to export LNG from a proposed floating LNG facility in the West Cameron block 167. The applicant has received a Department of Energy (DOE) grant of authority to export LNG from this location to Free Trade Agreement Nations¹ and is actively seeking permission to export LNG to Non-Free Trade Nations.² MARAD published the license application for this proposed facility in the *Federal Register* on July 16, 2015 (Docket Number: USCG-2015-0472) and issued its Record of Decision for the license application on March 13, 2017.³

Bidders and lessees also are advised to review relevant deepwater port applications, MARAD records of decision, and port licenses to assess safety zones, no anchoring zones, avoidance areas, recommended routes, and other ships' routing measures that could prevent or otherwise impact oil and gas operations on and around both existing and proposed deepwater port locations.

For more information contact:

Commandant (CG-OES-22), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2703 Martin Luther King Ave., SE (STOP 7509)
Attn: Deepwater Ports Standards Division
Washington, D.C. 20593-7509
(202) 372-1444

POC Mr. Curtis Borland,
Email: Curtis.E.Borland@uscg.mil or DWP@comdt.uscg.mil
Web address: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Office-of-Operating-and-Environmental-Standards/vfos/DWP//>

Ms. Yvette M. Fields, Director Maritime Administration
Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W21-309 (MAR-530)
Washington, DC 20590
Telephone: 202-366-0926
Fax: 202-366-5123

¹ https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013_applications/Delfin_LNG_LLC_13-129-LNG.html

² https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013_applications/Delfin_LNG_LLC_13-147-LNG.html

³ <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2015-0472-0120>

E-Mail: Yvette.Fields@dot.gov

For information on specific deepwater port projects, search by the docket numbers noted below on the website at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

License Application Pending: Delfin LNG, LLC, Delfin LNG Deepwater Port. Docket Number: USCG-2015-0472

Approved – Operational Facilities: Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (Marathon Domestic LLC). Docket Number: USCG-2000-6981

Approved – Construction Planned: Port Dolphin Energy LLC Deepwater Port. Docket Number: USCG-2007-28532

Approved – Withdrawn Prior to License Issuance: Freeport-McMoRan Energy LLC Main Pass Energy Hub Deepwater Port License Application. Docket Number: USCG-2004-17696

Decommissioned: Gulf Gateway (formerly El Paso Energy Bridge Gulf of Mexico LLC) Deepwater Port License Application. Docket Number: USCG-2003-14294

(15) Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites. Bidders are advised that pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1431 *et seq.* and 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 *et seq.*), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has responsibility for designating and managing Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS). The decision to issue a dredged material disposal permit is made by the USACE, using USEPA's environmental criteria and subject to USEPA's concurrence. The USEPA has several designated ODMDS in the GOM, all of which can be accessed on the USEPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/ocean-disposal-map>. Additional information can also be accessed on the USACE's Ocean Disposal Database <https://odd.el.erdc.dren.mil/>. The USEPA is considering enlarging the existing offshore ODMDS near Mobile, Alabama. The USEPA Region 4 Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (General Permit No. GEG460000) for Offshore Oil and Gas Activities in the Eastern GOM (including portions of the CPA) does not allow the discharge of any drilling fluids, drill cuttings, or produced waters from offshore oil and gas facilities within 1,000 meters of, or within, any designated ODMDS. Though the permit expired on March 31, 2015, it was administratively continued for those already covered under the permit who requested an extension. The USEPA Region 4 released a draft of the proposed permit for renewal on August 18, 2016, and the proposed permit still does not allow discharges within 1,000 meters (or as determined by the Director of the Water Protection Division USEPA Region 4) of an ODMDS.

For more information contact:

Ms. Jennifer Derby, USEPA Region 4, Chief, Marine Regulatory and Wetlands Enforcement, Derby.Jennifer@epa.gov, (404) 562-9401

Mr. Gary Collins, USEPA Region 4, Biological Oceanographer, Collins.GaryW@epa.gov, (404) 562-9395

Ms. Karen McCormick, USEPA Region 6, Ocean Disposal Program Coordinator,
mccormick.karen@epa.gov, (214) 665- 8365

Ms. LeKisha Reynolds, USACE Mobile District, Lekisha.W.Reynolds@usace.army.mil,
(251) 690-3260

Ms. Jenny Jacobson, USACE Mobile District, Jennifer.L.Jacobson@usace.army.mil,
(251) 690-2724

(16) Rights-of-Use and Easement. There are current rights-of-use and easement (RUEs) on a number of lease blocks in the Gulf of Mexico. Bidders are advised to review the list of existing and pending RUEs which may limit operations on a lease block; any successful bidder on such a block acknowledges that their lease operations must comply with any no activity areas or other requirements to ensure the RUE holder may continue their operations. The current list of blocks with existing or pending RUEs is available at <https://www.data.boem.gov/Plans/Files/rureport.pdf>. RUEs may allow permanent mooring of floating production facilities or other infrastructure (e.g., anchor chains, moorings). If an oil and gas lease is issued for such a block and the RUE is approved before lease issuance, Stipulation No. 10, Below Seabed Restrictions due to Rights-of-Use and Easement for Floating Production Facilities, contained within the document “Lease Stipulations” included in the Proposed NOS package, would apply. Stipulation No. 10 prohibits certain activities from occurring or being located on the seafloor or in the water column, including but not limited to, the construction and use of structures, operation of drilling rigs, laying of pipelines, and/or anchoring. Below seabed activities that are part of exploration, development, and production activities from outside the no-activity zones and associated 500-foot buffer zones may be allowed, including the use of directional drilling or other techniques. Consistent with Section 19 of the lease, BOEM may issue RUEs on blocks after lease issuance; by regulation at 30 CFR 550.160, a lessee is given certain rights to comment and adjudication of objections if a RUE application is received on its lease block.

For more information please contact:

Michelle Uli Picou, BOEM GOMR, Plans Section Chief,
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(17) Industrial Waste Disposal Areas. Bidders are advised that an inactive industrial waste disposal site exists on all or portions of blocks in the Mississippi Canyon Area. This site is depicted on the map “Proposed, Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251, August 2018, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS. The site was established by the USEPA in 1973 under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act to permit the seafloor deposition of approximately 205,000 steel barrels containing chemical wastes and chlorinated hydrocarbons. More information about the waste site (Site B) is available in a 1975 National Academy of Sciences report, *Assessing Potential Ocean Pollutants, a Report of the Study Panel on Assessing Potential Ocean Pollutants to the Ocean Affairs Board, Commission on Natural Resources, National Research Council*.

Barrels have been detected during hazards surveys in the following blocks: Mississippi Canyon 628, 631, 632, 635, 672, 679, 716, 718, 720-723, 761-765, 768, 769, 805-813, 847-851, 853-855, 891-895, 897-899, 934-944, 983-986.

Barrels may also exist in other nearby blocks not listed above. Lessees are advised that the blocks associated with the disposal site and adjacent blocks that are included in the sale area may exhibit hazards from barrel contents (toxic, corrosive, and/or potentially explosive due to water-reactive metallic sodium). Thus, hazards surveys are required before bottom-disturbing activities are approved in plans and permits. Drilling and platform/pipeline placement may require precautions, such as avoidance (recommended 30-foot minimum distance from individual barrels), decontamination of equipment, and personnel health and safety procedures.

(18) Gulf Islands National Seashore. Bidders and lessees should be aware that post-lease plans submitted by lessees proposing development of whole and partial lease blocks located within the first 12 miles of Federal waters near the Gulf Islands National Seashore (see State of Mississippi Barrier Island Chain Map below) may be subject to additional review in order to minimize visual impacts from development operations on these blocks. BOEM will review and make decisions on a lessee's plans for these blocks in accordance with applicable Federal law and regulations, and BOEM policies, to determine if visual impacts are expected to cause serious harm and if any additional mitigation is required. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, requested changes in location, modifications to design or direction of proposed structures, pursuing joint use of existing structures on neighboring blocks, changes in color design, or other plan modifications. BOEM may consult with the State of Mississippi and/or the State of Alabama and with the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, during such reviews as appropriate.

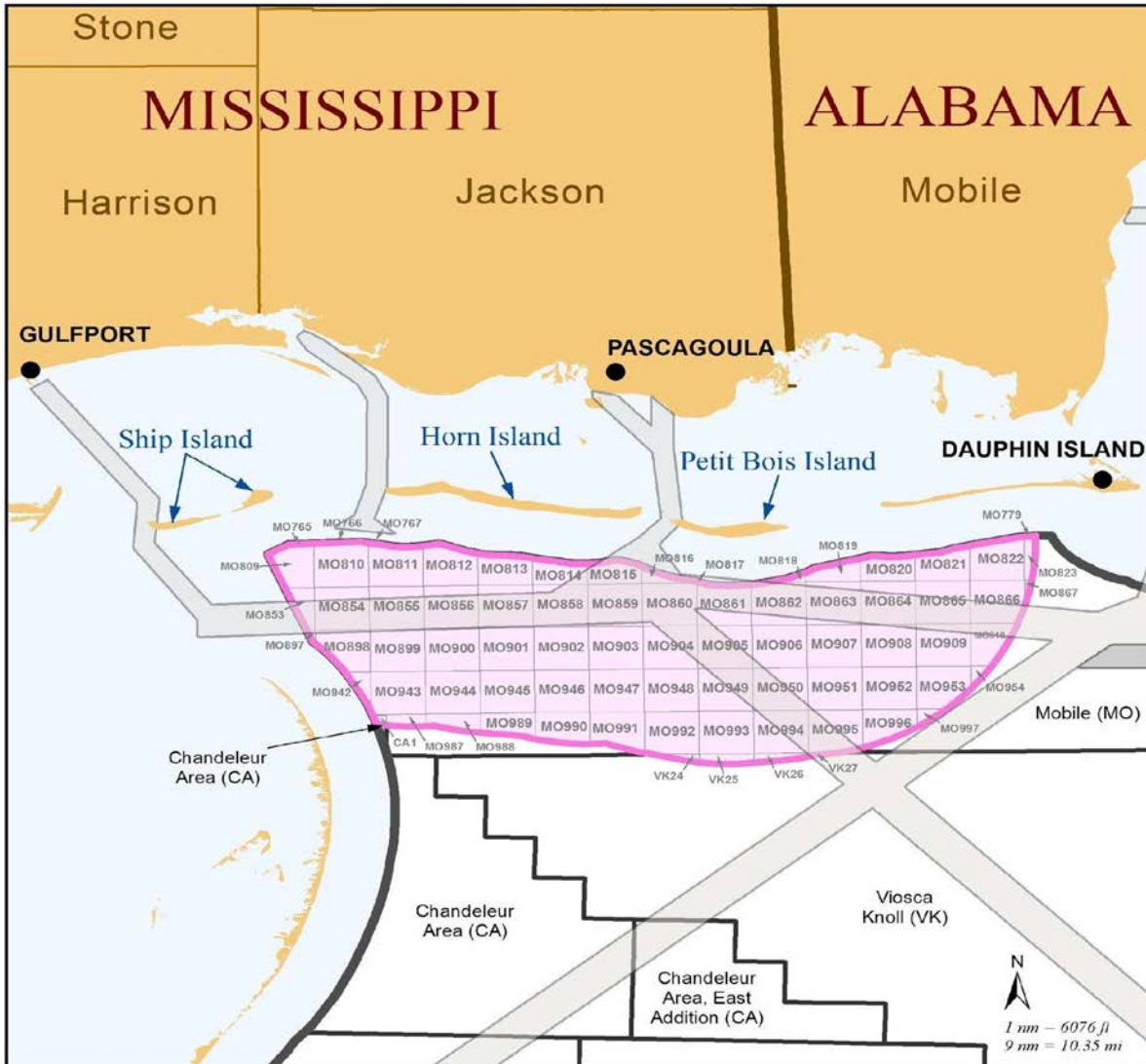
The following whole and partial blocks, listed below and shown on the enclosed map, are specifically identified for this ITL:

Chandeleur Area, Block 1

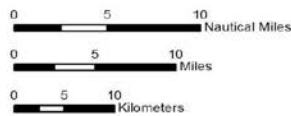
Mobile, Blocks 765-767, 778, 779, 809-823, 853-867, 897-910, 942-954, 987-997

Viosca Knoll, Blocks 24-27

ITL 18 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Map



- Federal OCS Blocks subject to GUI S ITL
- Anchorage
- Fairway
- OCS Blocks
- Planning Area Boundary
- Protraction Map Boundary



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(19) Air Quality Permit/Plan Approvals: Bidders and lessees are advised that section 328(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act requires the USEPA to establish requirements to control air pollution from OCS sources under its jurisdiction. The USEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR part 55 apply to OCS sources in the Gulf of Mexico except those located westward of 87°30'W longitude, which are subject to BOEM regulations at 30 CFR part 550, subparts B and C. Therefore, lessees who plan activity eastward of 87°30'W longitude must consult with the USEPA.

Bidders and lessees are advised to refer to NTL No. 2009-N11, "Air Quality Jurisdiction on the OCS," which may be accessed on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>. Bidders and lessees are also advised to check the BOEM website to obtain up-to-date information on air quality requirements.

For more USEPA information, contact:

Ms. Kelly Fortin, Air Permits
USEPA, Region 4, APTMD
61 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
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