

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

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

March 2017

### BOEM Issues a Notice of Availability of the Final Multisale Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed 2017-2022 Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2017-2022; Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 257, 259, and 261; Final Multisale Environmental Impact Statement (2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS)*. The proposed oil and gas lease sales are tentatively scheduled to be held in 2017-2022 under the *2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing: Proposed Final Program*. BOEM is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing all available unleased blocks within the Western Planning Area (WPA), Central Planning Area (CPA), and Eastern Planning Area (EPA), with the exception of whole and portions of blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006, blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap, and whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (i.e., the boundary as of the publication of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS). The proposed WPA lease sale area encompasses about 28.58 million acres. As of January 2017, approximately 25.8 million acres of the proposed WPA lease sale area are currently unleased. The proposed CPA lease sale area encompasses about 63 million acres of the total CPA area of 66.45 million acres. As of January 2017, approximately 49.0 million acres of the proposed CPA lease sale area are currently unleased. The proposed EPA lease sale area covers approximately 657,905 acres and includes those blocks previously included in the EPA Lease Sales 225 and 226 area, which is bordered by the CPA boundary on the west and the Military Mission Line (86°41' W. longitude) on the east. The area is south of eastern Alabama and western Florida; the nearest point of land is 125 miles (201 kilometers) northwest in Louisiana. As of January 2017, approximately 606,995 acres of the proposed EPA lease sale area are currently unleased.



The Final 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS analyzes the baseline conditions and potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the regionwide lease sale area. Since publication of the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS, BOEM has reviewed public comments received, provided responses, and revised the document to address substantive comments; conducted additional searches for new information; reviewed scientific journals and available scientific data and information from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies; and/or interviewed personnel from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies. BOEM has examined the potential impacts of routine activities, accidental events, and the proposed lease sale's incremental contribution to the cumulative impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources. The oil and gas resource estimates and scenario information for the Final 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS are presented as a range that would encompass the oil and gas resources and activities estimated for a proposed regionwide lease sale.

BOEM published in the April 29, 2015, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS. The NOI sought input on the scope of the EIS for the proposed 2017-2022 Gulf of Mexico lease sales, which covers the regionwide area of the GOM offshore the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

BOEM published in the April 22, 2016, *Federal Register*, the Notice of Availability of the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS for the proposed GOM lease sales. The public review period was opened on April 22, 2016, and closed on June 7, 2016.

BOEM will be printing and distributing a very limited number of paper copies. In keeping with the Department of the Interior's mission of the protection of natural resources and to limit costs while ensuring the availability of the document to the public, BOEM will primarily distribute digital copies of the Final 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS on compact discs. However, if you require a paper copy, BOEM will provide one upon request if copies are still available.

1. You may obtain a copy of the Final 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (GM 335A), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Final 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>.

If you have questions, please call Mr. Greg Kozlowski at 504-736-2512.

If you would like to receive announcements for public meetings and the availability of our environmental documents for Gulf of Mexico OCS oil- and gas-related activities, please submit your name and contact information to BOEM at [https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data\\_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp](https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp). You may also request to be removed from the current BOEM mailing list in the same way.