

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

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

April 2016

### BOEM Issues a Notice of Availability of the Draft Multisale Environmental Impact Statement and Plans to Hold Public Meetings 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 Draft Multisale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 2017-2022 Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales (2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS). The proposed oil and gas lease sales are tentatively scheduled to be held in 2017-2022 under the *Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program: 2017-2022*. BOEM is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing all available unleased blocks within the WPA, CPA, and 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 ac. As of April 2016, approximately 23.7 million ac of the proposed WPA lease sale area are currently unleased. The proposed CPA lease sale area encompasses about 63 million ac of the total CPA area of 66.45 million ac. As of April 2016, approximately 48.5 million ac of the proposed CPA lease sale area are currently unleased. The proposed EPA lease sale area covers approximately 657,905 ac 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 mi (201 km) northwest in Louisiana. As of April 2016, approximately 595,475 ac of the proposed EPA lease sale area are currently unleased.



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 proposed lease sales are Lease Sale 249 in 2017, Lease Sales 250 and 251 in 2018, Lease Sales 252 and 253 in 2019, Lease Sales 254 and 256 in 2020, Lease Sales 257 and 259 in 2021, and Lease Sale 261 in 2022.

BOEM will hold public meetings to obtain comments regarding the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Beaumont, Texas:** Monday, May 9, 2016, Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Beaumont-Plaza, 3950 I-10 South at Walden Road, Beaumont, Texas 77705, one meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. CDT;
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Thursday, May 12, 2016, Sheraton Metairie – New Orleans Hotel, 4 Galleria Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana, 70001, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT;
- **Panama City, Florida:** Tuesday May 17, 2016, Bay Point Golf Resort and Spa, 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida 32408, one meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. CDT;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016, Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602, one meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. CDT; and
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, May 19, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, one meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. CDT.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you may submit your written comments on the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS no later than 45 days following the publication date of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled “Comments on the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS” to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394;
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for “2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS”. (Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms.) Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit”; or
3. BOEM’s email address: [multisaleeis2017-2022@boem.gov](mailto:multisaleeis2017-2022@boem.gov).

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 Draft 2017-2022 Gulf of Mexico 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 Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (GM 250C), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Draft 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>.

BOEM does not consider anonymous comments; please include your name and address as part of your submittal. BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names and/or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot

guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233.

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.