MMS to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Cape Wind Energy Project

WASHINGTON – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) today published a ***Federal Register*** notice 📄 *(2 pages)* announcing plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Cape Wind Energy Project in Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts. The notice also asks for public input via written comments and invites interested agencies to participate in the preparation of the EIS as it moves through the official approval process.

"This marks the beginning of a new era of offshore energy oversight for the Interior Department," said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. "Cape Wind is the first renewable energy project MMS is reviewing under our new authority in the Energy Policy Act. We encourage participation and feedback from the public and stakeholders."

The Energy Policy Act of 2005, signed last August, granted authority to the Interior Department to manage renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and gave the MMS primary responsibility for the environmental analysis and regulatory oversight of such projects, including the proposed Cape Wind Project.

MMS will accept written comments for 45 days. Comments may be submitted to MMS electronically through the **Public Connect** or may be mailed to:

Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS on the Cape Wind Project
Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street
MS 4042
Herndon VA, 20164

The 45 day comment period ends July 14, 2006. The MMS will review public comments and prepare a draft EIS, which is expected to be published in the winter of 2006 and will be followed by public hearings. MMS plans to issue a final EIS in the fall of 2007. A record of decision on the Cape Wind Project is expected in winter 2007.

Relevant Web Site:
  MMS Main Website

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U.S. Department of the Interior