

The NewsRoom

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**Minerals Management Service to Hold Public Meeting in Virginia
on Development of OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental
Impact Statement**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a public scoping meeting April 4, 2006 in Norfolk, Virginia on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012. The meeting will provide an opportunity for interested citizens and organizations to provide input on the scope, significant issues, and alternatives to be considered in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Proposed 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 880 Military Highway in Norfolk. In order to accommodate both afternoon and evening attendees, MMS has scheduled two sessions for this meeting -- one beginning at 3 p.m. and another beginning at 7 p.m. The Virginia meeting is one of a series of public scoping meetings on the OCS leasing program MMS is holding in key coastal cities in the Gulf of Mexico, mid-Atlantic, and Alaska.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the MMS will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2007-2012 OCS oil and gas 5-year leasing program. The EIS will address the potential impacts of the proposed 5-year program, which was issued for review and comment in draft form in a February 10, 2006, Federal Register notice.

MMS requests comments on information regarding issues and alternatives that should be evaluated in the EIS, including significant environmental issues concerning OCS oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development. The comments will be reviewed by the MMS to determine the scope of the EIS.

MMS will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS's for the proposed 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program through April 11, 2006. Those interested may submit comments electronically through [MMS's Public Connect on-line commenting system](#) or by mail to:

Mr. James Bennett, Chief
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Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042
Herndon, VA 20170

Relevant Web Site:
[MMS Main Website](#)

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[MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America](#)
U.S. Department of the Interior