

sec. 7, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄ and NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄.
 T. 38 S., R. 8 W.,
 sec. 12, lots 3 and 4 and W¹/₂SE¹/₄.
 The areas described aggregate approximately 200 acres in Garfield and Kane Counties.
 b. Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1907

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 36 S., R. 7 W.,
 sec. 8, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ and SW¹/₄;
 sec. 17, NW¹/₄.
 The area described contains 360 acres in Garfield County.
 2. At 10 a.m. on January 20, 2009, the lands described in Paragraph 1 shall be opened to such forms of disposition as may be law be made of National Forest System lands, including location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of lands described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (2000), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Authority: 43 CFR 2091.6.

Dated: December 11, 2008.

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-29894 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas Oil and Gas Lease Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and announcement of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the proposed Federal actions addressed in this DEIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-055) is to offer for lease areas in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that may contain economically

recoverable oil and natural gas resources. These lease sales would provide qualified bidders the opportunity to bid on certain blocks in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea OCS to gain conditional rights to explore, develop, and produce oil and natural gas.

This DEIS is a draft of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis that will enable the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to make informed decisions on the configuration of the lease sales and the applicable mitigation measures. In the DEIS, the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed sales and alternatives, including projected exploration and development and production activities on the physical, biological, and human environments in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea areas, are analyzed.

The DEIS integrates the biological assessment elements required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (per Section 402.06 of the Act) for species under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DEIS reflects the information in the MMS Biological Assessment and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (dated July 17, 2008) for the bowhead, fin, and humpback whales.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the DEIS, the MMS has examined the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Actions and alternatives. The Proposed Actions (Alternative 2 for each planning area) are to conduct Beaufort and Chukchi Sea OCS Lease Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221 in the years 2010, 2010, 2011, and 2012, respectively. The resource estimates and scenario information included in the DEIS analysis are presented as a range of activities that could be associated with each sale, including exploration seismic surveying, on-lease ancillary activities, exploration and delineation drilling, development and production of OCS oil and natural gas resources, decommissioning, and lease abandonment.

The Proposed Actions combined would offer for lease approximately 13,449 whole and partial blocks (about 73.4 million acres) identified as the program areas in the 2007-2012 5-Year Program. The proposed Chukchi Sea Sale area excludes a zone within 25 miles of the Chukchi Sea coast. Water depths in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea sale areas vary from approximately 10 meters (33 feet) to approximately 3,800 meters (12,467 feet).

Alternative 1 (No Lease Sale) for each sale area is equivalent to cancellation of a Proposed Action as scheduled in the approved 5-Year Program. The opportunity to discover and develop the estimated oil and gas resources that could have resulted from a Proposed Action would be precluded or postponed, and any potential environmental impacts resulting from a Proposed Action would not occur or would be postponed.

Beaufort Sea Alternative 3 (Barrow Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 15 whole or partial blocks along the Beaufort coastline east of Barrow beginning at the three-mile limit. This alternative was developed to reduce potential impacts to bowhead whale subsistence hunters as well as various wildlife species and associated habitats. Beaufort Sea Alternative 4 (Cross Island Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 41 whole or partial blocks north and east of Cross Island. This alternative was developed to protect a portion of the Nuiqsut Bowhead whale subsistence hunting area. Beaufort Sea Alternative 5 (Eastern Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 80 whole or partial blocks along the coastline east of Kaktovik. This alternative was developed to provide protection for a portion of the Kaktovik's bowhead whale subsistence hunting area. Beaufort Sea Alternative 6 (Deepwater Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 4,357 whole or partial blocks in areas off the continental shelf. This alternative defers areas that are generally deeper than 100 meters.

Chukchi Sea Alternative 3 (Coastal Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 882 whole or partial blocks near the eastern or shoreward edge of the program area. This alternative was developed as the Corridor II deferral for Sale 193 to reduce potential impacts to subsistence hunting. Chukchi Sea Alternative 4 (Ledyard Bay Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding the area comprising approximately 191 whole or partial blocks of the proposed sale area that is within the Ledyard Bay Critical Habitat. This alternative was developed to protect the designated critical habitat area for the federally listed threatened spectacled eider. Chukchi Sea Alternative 5 (Hanna Shoal Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 241 whole or partial blocks at Hanna Shoal. This

alternative was developed to reduce potential impacts to an ecologically important area for Pacific walrus and gray whales. Chukchi Sea Alternative 6 (Deepwater Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 1,020 whole or partial blocks in areas off the continental shelf. This alternative defers areas that are generally in waters deeper than 100 meters (328 feet).

DEIS Availability: To obtain a copy of the DEIS, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820, telephone (907) 334-5200. You may also view the DEIS on the MMS Web site at <http://www.mms.gov/alaska> or at the following locations:

Alaska Pacific University, Academic, Academic Support Center Library, 4101 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

Alaska Resources Library and Information Service (ARLIS), 3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

Alaska State Library, Government Publications, State Office Building, 333 Willoughby, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

City of Point Hope, P.O. Box 169, Point Hope, Alaska 99766.

City of Wainwright, P.O. Box 9, Wainwright, Alaska 99782.

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Point Lay Tribal Council, P.O. Box 59031, Point Lay, Alaska 99759.

Tuzzy Consortium Library, P.O. Box 749, Barrow, Alaska 99723.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Library, 1200 6th Avenue, OMP-104, Seattle, Washington 98101.

University of Alaska Anchorage, Consortium Library, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, Government Documents, 310 Tanana Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysical Institute, Government Documents, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775.

Z. J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

Written Comments: Interested parties may submit their written comment on this DEIS until March 16, 2009, to the Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820, or online at <http://occonnect.mms.gov>. Our practice is to make comments,

including names and addresses of respondents available for public review. Individual commenters may ask that we withhold their name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must state so prominently at the beginning of your submission. We will not consider anonymous comments, and we will make available for inspection in their entirety all comments submitted by organizations or businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

Public Hearings: Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the DEIS. The hearings will provide the MMS with additional information that will help in evaluating potential effects of the leasing program in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The public hearing in Anchorage is scheduled as follows:

Anchorage, Alaska

January 15, 2009, 7 p.m., Centerpoint Building, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, 1st Floor Conference Room, Contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.

Public hearings will be scheduled in the following communities between January 16 and March 15, 2009. The dates, time, and locations for these hearings will be announced to the public on the MMS Web site, through the media, and by letters to the communities.

Kaktovik, Alaska; Wainwright, Alaska; Point Lay, Alaska; Point Hope, Alaska; Barrow, Alaska; and Nuiqsut, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820, Ms. Deborah Cranswick, telephone (907) 334-5267.

Dated: November 21, 2008.

Chris C. Oynes,

Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. E8-30246 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

[Docket No. MMS-2008-MRM-0027]

Notice of Establishment of the Indian Oil Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Establishment of Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: As required by section 9 (a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), the Department of the Interior (Department) is giving notice of the establishment of the Indian Oil Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to develop specific recommendations regarding Indian oil valuation. The Department has determined that the establishment of this Committee is in the public interest and will assist the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in performing its duties under the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA) (30 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*). Copies of the Committee's charter will be filed with the appropriate committees of Congress and the Library of Congress in accordance with section 9 (c) of FACA.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by the following methods:

- Electronically go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the "Comment or Submission" column, enter "MMS-2008-MRM-0027" to view supporting and related materials for this notice. Click on "Send a comment or submission" link to submit public comments. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link. All comments submitted will be posted to the docket.

- Mail comments to Hyla Hurst, Regulatory Specialist, Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, P.O. Box 25165, MS 302B2, Denver, Colorado 80225.

- Hand-carry comments or use an overnight courier service. Our courier address is Building 85, Room A-614, Denver Federal Center, West 6th Ave. and Kipling St., Denver, Colorado 80225.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald T. Sant, Senior Policy Advisor, Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B2, Denver, Colorado 80225-