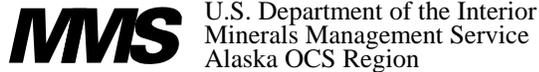

Leasing Activities Information



Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension Provisions

Notice of Regulatory Changes

This is to notify potential participants (bidders/lessees) in Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Lease Sale 191 of changes in the provisions concerning the governmentwide nonprocurement debarment and suspension responsibilities that were implemented, effective November 26, 2003. (See the final rule published in the Federal Register (68 FR 66533).)

The rule sets forth the common policies and procedures that Federal Executive branch agencies must use in taking suspension or debarment actions. It also establishes procedures for participants and Federal agencies in entering covered transactions. These procedures are mandatory for all agencies of the Executive branch under Executive Order 12549 with procurement or nonprocurement responsibilities.

The Department of the Interior has elected to join the governmentwide system by adopting these procedures. The Department of the Interior's nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations are found under 43 CFR Parts 12 and 18.

Prior to these regulatory changes, MMS required participants to submit signed certifications (the MMS Debarment form) for debarment, suspension, and other responsibility matters before entering into primary covered transactions (i.e., lease issuance). Participants no longer need to submit these types of certifications. Under the new rule, before entering into a primary covered transaction and as a condition of participation in the transaction, participants must state that they are in compliance with the U.S. Department of the Interior's nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations (43 CFR part 42, subpart C) and they must communicate the requirement to comply with these regulations to persons with whom they do business related to this bid/lease by including this term in their contracts and other transactions.

We have incorporated this required statement in the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Lease Sale 191 suggested bid form format. When submitting bids, if you choose not to use the suggested format in the bid form we have provided, as a condition of participation in the transaction, you must include a statement on the bid form you submit that complies with the U.S. Department of the Interior's nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations (43 CFR part 42, subpart C).