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# Leasing Activities Information

**MMS** U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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## Information To Lessees Eastern Gulf Of Mexico Lease Sale 197 (Final Notice of Sale)

This document contains Information to Lessees (ITL) paragraphs designed to inform potential bidders of notable applicable requirements of federal agencies other than the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) as well as emerging MMS requirements that may apply to this sale.

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(a) Navigation Safety. Operations on some of the blocks offered for lease may be restricted by designation of fairways, precautionary zones, anchorages, safety zones, or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended, and the Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. 1501-1524). Bidders are advised to review U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permits are required for construction of any artificial islands, installations, and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed located on the OCS in accordance with section 4(e) of the OCS Lands Act, as amended.

For additional information, prospective bidders should contact Lieutenant Commander Jimmy Duckworth, Assistant Chief for Port Operations, 8th Coast Guard District, Marine Safety Office, 1615 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, (504) 589-4258. For COE information, prospective bidders should contact:

Mobile District (for offshore Alabama)

Mr. Ronald Krizman (CESAM-OP-S)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, Alabama 36628  
(251) 690-2658

Jacksonville District (for offshore Florida)

Mr. John Hall (CESAJ-RD)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
(904) 232-1177

(b) Offshore Pipelines. Bidders are advised that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Transportation have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated December 10, 1996, concerning the design, installation, operations, inspection, and maintenance of offshore pipelines. See also 30 CFR 250.1000(c)(1). Bidders should consult both Departments for regulations applicable to offshore pipelines; at the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, the appropriate contact is Mr. Alex Alvarado at (504) 736-2547; at DOT, please contact:

Southwest Region

Mr. Rodrick M. Seeley  
Regional Director  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
8701 South Gessner, Suite 1110  
Houston, Texas 77004  
(713) 270-9103  
(713) 270-9515 (fax)

Southern Region

Ms. Linda Daugherty  
Regional Director  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
233 Peachtree Street, Suite 600  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 832-1147

Copies of the MOU are available from the MMS Internet site and the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit at the address at the end of this document.

(c) Unexploded Ordnance. The U.S. Air Force has released an indeterminable amount of unexploded ordnance throughout Eglin Water Test Areas. The exact location of the unexploded ordnance is unknown, and lessees are advised that all lease blocks included in this lease sale within these water test areas should be considered potentially hazardous to drilling and platform and pipeline placement.

(d) Lightering Zones. Bidders are advised that the U.S. Coast Guard has designated certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico as lightering zones for the purpose of permitting single hull vessels to off-load oil within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Such designation may have implications for oil and gas operations in the areas. See 33 CFR 156.300 for the regulations concerning lightering zones; additional information may be obtained from Lieutenant Commander Eric Walters of the Coast Guard's Ports and Facilities Compliance Staff (G-MOC-3) at (202) 267-0499.

(e) Information about Indicated Hydrocarbons. Bidders are advised that MMS makes available, approximately 3 months prior to a lease sale, a list of unleased tracts having well bores with indicated hydrocarbons, which includes Eastern Gulf data as well as Central and Western Gulf data. Basic information relating to production, well bores, and pay range for each tract

is included in the list. The list is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit at the address at the end of this document.

(f) Military Areas. Military Warning Areas are established in the Flight Information Publication "Area Planning - Special Use Airspace - North and South America" published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (formerly the National Imagery and Mapping Agency - NIMA), 3200 South Second Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63118-3399; NIMA reference number PLANXAP1A. The most recent version of this document was published on November 25, 2004; the next issue is expected to be published on October 27, 2005. This document may be downloaded from the NIMA website:

**<https://164.214.2.62/products/digitalaero/index.cfm>** [scroll down to "Planning Document" and click on:

**AP/1A ]**

The NIMA home page may be found at: <http://www.nima.mil>.

The Military Areas Stipulation (Stipulation No. 1 in the document "Lease Stipulations for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 197" included in the proposed NOS 197) will be applied to leases in any new areas that may be established by that publication in addition to blocks in those Warning Areas which have had the stipulation in past lease sales.

Certain restrictions on flights and radio communications in the Warning Areas will require close coordination between lessees (and their operators and agents) and the appropriate military commander using the specific Warning Area. It is the responsibility of lessees to establish and maintain contact and coordination with the military commander(s) in any Warning Area in which operations or flights would be expected in the course of occupying and developing any leases; this could include flights through a Warning Area traveling to a leased block which is not in a Warning Area.

Lessees should establish and maintain contact and coordination with the appropriate military commander(s) whether or not there is a military stipulation in their lease(s).

The contact for administrative questions about the warning areas is:

Federal Aviation Administration  
Houston Air Route Traffic Control (ARTC) Center  
16600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77032  
Telephone: (281) 230-5560/5520

(g) Lease Stipulation for Protected Species (Sea Turtles, Marine Mammals, Gulf Sturgeon, Brown Pelican, Whooping Cranes, and Other Federally Protected Species). Bidders are advised that, pursuant to requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the MMS has completed formal consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Biological Opinion issued by NOAA Fisheries and FWS specify measures to minimize or avoid potential adverse impacts to protected species. In accordance with these opinions, the MMS has included terms and conditions as appropriate in the Protected Species Stipulation (Stipulation No. 4), and in several Notices to Lessees (NTLs). Bidders should also note that NOAA Fisheries included in its opinion a conservation recommendation that permit holders maintain helicopter traffic over the Gulf at altitudes above 1,000 feet if practicable, to avoid disturbance to whales and sea turtles. FWS has recommended in its opinion that, to avoid disturbance of brown pelican nesting activities, aircraft working on OCS activities should avoid flying lower than 1,000 feet above ground level or within a 2,000 foot perimeter around an island containing a nesting colony.

Three NTLs are currently in force to implement these measures.

**NTL No. 2004-G01**, entitled "Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer Program", became effective on March 1, 2004. The NTL, issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103, explains how to implement seismic survey mitigation measures. This NTL supersedes and replaces NTL 2003-G08, effective June 5, 2003, and applies to all seismic operations throughout the Gulf of Mexico OCS in waters greater than 200 m (656 ft) in depth, and in all water depths in the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico. These measures apply to all on-lease seismic surveys conducted under 30 CFR 250.201 and all off-lease seismic surveys conducted under 30 CFR 251. NTL No. 2004-G01 may be obtained from our Public Information

Unit at the address at the end of this document or online at:

[www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl04-g01.html](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl04-g01.html)

**NTL No. 2003-G10**, entitled "Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting", became effective on June 19, 2003, is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103, 30 CFR 250.203(o) and 30 CFR 250.204(s) to explain how to implement measures to minimize the risk of vessel strikes to protected species and report observations of injured or dead protected species. This NTL supersedes NTL 2003-G07 on this subject and revises the protected species reporting procedures and contact information. This NTL applies to all existing and future oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico OCS. This NTL may be obtained from our Public Information Unit at the address at the end of this document or online at:

[www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl03-g10.html](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl03-g10.html)

**NTL No. 2003-G11**, entitled "Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination" became effective on June 19, 2003, and is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. This NTL supersedes NTL No. 2003-G06 on this subject. The NTL provides guidance to prevent intentional and/or accidental introduction of debris into the marine environment. This NTL applies to all existing and future oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico OCS. The NTL requires careful handling of all trash and debris, specifies certain training, and directs the placement of certain placards warning about improper disposal of trash and debris. This NTL may be obtained from our Public Information Unit at the address at the end of this document or online at:

[www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl03-g11.html](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/ntl03-g11.html)

(h) MMS Inspection and Enforcement of Certain Coast Guard Regulations. On February 7, 2002, the Coast Guard published a final rule (67 FR 5912) authorizing "...the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to perform inspections on fixed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) facilities engaged in OCS activities and to enforce Coast Guard regulations applicable to those facilities in 33 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter N." Questions regarding this authorization may be directed to the Coast Guard as indicated in the final rule.

(i) Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites. Under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the responsibility for designating and managing Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS). EPA currently has six ODMDS in the Gulf of Mexico. Four of these ODMDS are located within the Central Gulf of Mexico planning area offshore Pascagoula and Gulfport, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama. Another two are within the Eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area offshore Pensacola (located in Pensacola Blocks 846 and 847 and another site in state waters). In addition, EPA is considering designation of an additional ODMDS offshore Gulfport, Mississippi and enlarging the existing or designating a new ODMDS offshore Mobile, Alabama. EPA's regulations require that EPA select sites that minimize the interference of disposal activities with other uses of the marine environment (40 CFR 228.5(a)) and consider any interference with mineral extraction (40 CFR 228.6(a)). Coordinates for the ODMDS can be found in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 228.15.15 (h) or at <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.htm>. The EPA contacts on this matter are Mr. Chris McArthur, Ocean Disposal Program Coordinator, (404) 562-9391 or [mcArthur.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:mcArthur.christopher@epa.gov) or Mr. Doug Johnson, (404) 562-9386 or [johnson.doug@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.doug@epa.gov).

You may also wish to contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, as they jointly manage the sites with EPA. Their contacts are as follows:

Ms. Susan Rees, 251-694-4141, [Susan.I.Rees@sam.usace.army.mil](mailto:Susan.I.Rees@sam.usace.army.mil)  
Ms. Jenny Jacobson, 251-690-2724,  
[Jennifer.L.Jacobson@sam.usace.army.mil](mailto:Jennifer.L.Jacobson@sam.usace.army.mil)

(j) Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement). Bidders are advised that in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR, part 42, subpart C, the lessee shall comply with the U.S. Department of the Interior's nonprocurement debarment and suspension requirements and agrees to communicate this requirement to comply with these regulations to persons with whom the lessee does business as it relates to this lease by including this term as a condition to enter into their contracts and other transactions. This agreement will be evidenced by language prepared by MMS through an Addendum included in each lease resulting from this lease sale.

**Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit  
Minerals Management Service  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone: (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF  
MMS Homepage Address on the Internet: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)**