

# MMS Maryland Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting

## *Renewable Energy Uses of the Outer Continental Shelf*

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Minerals Management Service

# Overview

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- Background
- What is the Task Force's role?
- Why establish a Task Force?
- Who is part of the Task Force?
- How will the Task Force operate?

# Minerals Management Service (MMS)

- Bureau within the U.S. Department of the Interior
- Manages the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the OCS
- Collects, accounts for, and disburses more than \$25 billion per year in revenues



# Energy Policy Act of 2005

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Gave the Secretary of the Interior the authority to regulate the production, transportation, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas –  
**“Renewable Energy”**

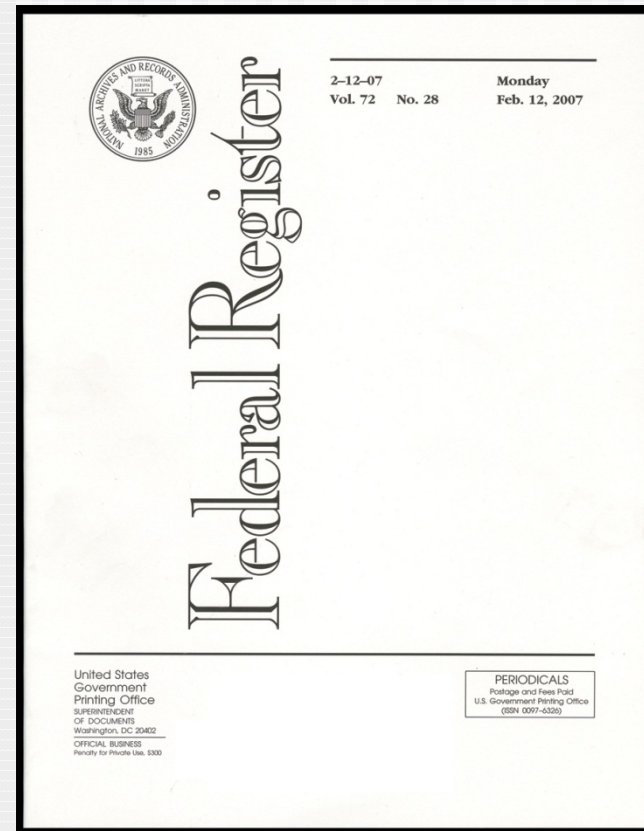
# EPAct Key Mandates (EPAct 2005)



- Safety
- Protection of the environment
- Coordination with affected State, local, and tribal governments and relevant Federal agencies
- Fair return for use of OCS lands
- Equitable sharing of revenue with States

# The Regulatory Framework

- President Obama announced the publication of the **final Renewable Energy Framework** on Earth Day 2009
- 30 CFR Part 285 (i.e. “The Rule”)



# Coordination is Critical

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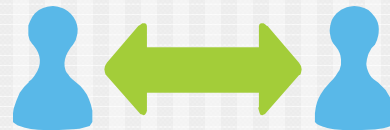
- Section 285.102 states that MMS will provide for coordination and consultation with the **Governor of any State or the executive of any local government or Indian tribe that may be affected** by a lease, easement, or ROW



# What is an MMS Task Force?

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- A forum or a mechanism whereby:
  - MMS can share current information about its leasing activities offshore a specific State
  - Elected officers of State, local, and tribal governments and other Federal officials may provide meaningful and timely input in the implementation of the MMS renewable energy regulatory framework





# What is an MMS Task Force?

## Continued

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- The Task Force membership **cannot** alter the Regulatory Framework or the established leasing processes, but it **can** provide input on how these processes are implemented
- MMS will consider Task Force member input as it makes its renewable energy leasing decisions

# Opportunities for Input

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- Task Force members will be able to provide input **throughout** the leasing process. Some examples are:
  - Prepare the required MMS notices and announcements, for example Request for Interest (RFI)
  - Identify potential conflict areas such as environmental, military and navigational, aviation conflicts etc.

# Why Establish a Task Force?

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- Promotes efficient and effective communication
- A way to disseminate information in a timely and consistent manner
- Having all government parties at the same table facilitates information sharing **as early as possible**

Participation will give interested and affected parties the opportunity to actively provide input into the leasing process rather than simply react to MMS actions

# Who is Part of the Task Force?

- Relevant Federal agencies with explicit or inherent governmental responsibility
- State government officials, designated by the Governor
- Local elected government officials
- Tribal elected government officials



# How does the Task Force Operate?

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- Established and coordinated by the MMS
- Mr. Ross Tyler leads State participation on behalf of the Governor
- Membership is dynamic
- Task Force is governed by an adopted Charter

# Questions?

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