

MMS Massachusetts Task Force Meeting

Renewable Energy Uses of the Outer Continental Shelf

Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

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Overview



- 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



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”

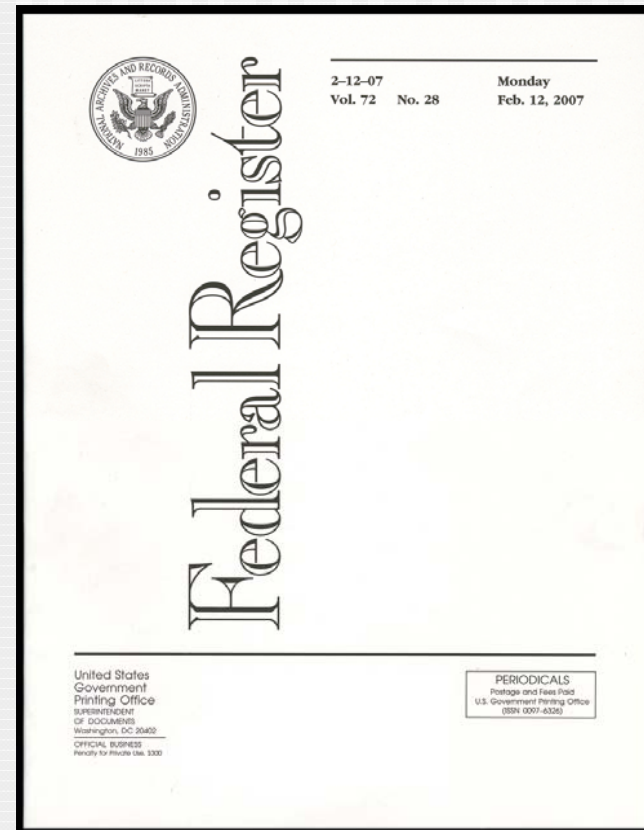
EPAct Key Mandates



- Safety
- Protection of the environment
- Coordination with affected State, local, and tribal governments and 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**



Coordination is Critical

- 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?

- A forum where:
 - 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

- The Task Force membership **cannot** alter the Regulatory Framework or 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

- The Task Force will be able to provide input **throughout** the leasing process, for example:
 - Preparing the required MMS notices and announcements
 - Conducting environmental analyses
 - Identifying environmental data needs

Why Establish a Task Force?

- 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?

- Established and coordinated by the MMS
- Sec. Bowles leads State participation on behalf of the Governor
- Membership is not static
- Task Force is governed by an adopted Charter

Questions?

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