

other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency.”

This 1.25-acre parcel is not required for any Federal purposes. It has been determined that this parcel is impractical to manage as part of the public lands. BLM has determined that resource values will not be adversely affected by title transfer of this 1.25-acre parcel to non-Federal ownership. Sale of the parcel conforms to criteria of the BLM Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in April 1985. The patent, when issued, will contain the following reservations, covenants, terms and conditions:

1. The parcel will be conveyed with a reservation of a right-of-way to the United States for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States under the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. The patentee, by accepting the patent, agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the United States harmless from any costs, damages, claims, causes of action, penalties, fines, liabilities, and judgments of any kind arising from the past, present, or future acts or omissions of the grantor, its employees, agents, contractor, or lessees, or a third party arising out of, or in connection with, the grantor's use and/or occupancy of the deeded real property resulting in: Violations of Federal, State and local laws and regulations that are now, or in the future become, applicable to the real property: (1) Judgments, claims, or demands of any kind assessed against the United States; (2) costs, expenses, or damages of any kind incurred by the United States; (3) releases or threatened releases of solid or hazardous waste(s) and/or hazardous substance(s) as defined by Federal or State environmental laws, off, on, into, or under land, property, and other interests of the United States; (4) other activities by which solids or hazardous substances or wastes, as defined by Federal and State environmental laws are generated, released, stored, used, or otherwise disposed of on the deeded real property, and any cleanup response, remedial action, or other actions related in any manner to said solid or hazardous substances or wastes; or (5) natural resource damages as defined by Federal and State law. This covenant shall be construed as running with the deeded real property and may be enforced by the United States in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the requirements established by Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental

Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9620(h), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1988, 100 Stat. 1670, notice is hereby given that the above-described parcel has been examined and no evidence was found to indicate that any hazardous substances have been stored for one year or more, nor had any hazardous substances been disposed of or released on the subject property.

3. The patent shall reserve a conservation easement in perpetuity on the entire 1.25 acre parcel.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land described above will be segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws. The segregation will end upon issuance of patent or other documents of conveyance for such lands, upon publication in the **Federal Register** of a termination of the segregation, or 270 days from the date of this publication, whichever occurs first, unless extended by the BLM State Director in accordance with 43 CFR 2711.2(a), prior to the termination date.

No warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, is given by the United States as to the title, the parcel's physical condition or potential uses. The conveyance will not be on a contingency basis. It is the buyer's responsibility to be aware of all applicable Federal, State, or local government laws, regulations, or policies that may affect the subject parcel or its future uses. It is also the buyer's responsibility to be aware of existing or prospective uses of nearby properties.

The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. In the event of a sale, the unreserved mineral interests will be conveyed simultaneously with the sale of the land. These unreserved mineral interests have been determined to have no known mineral value pursuant to 43 CFR 2720.2(a). Acceptance of the sale offer will constitute an application for conveyance of those unreserved mineral interests. The purchaser will be required to pay a \$50.00 non-refundable filing fee for conveyance of the available mineral interests. The purchaser will have 30 days from date of receiving the sale offer to accept the offer and to submit a deposit of 20 percent of the purchase price, the \$50.00 filing fee for conveyance of mineral interests, and for payment of publication costs. The purchaser must remit the remainder of the purchase price within 180 days from the date the sale offer is received.

Payments must be by certified check, postal money order, bank draft, or cashier's check payable to the U.S. Department of the Interior—BLM. Failure to meet conditions established for this sale will void the sale and any monies received will be forfeited. Failure or refusal by Dale E. McDowell, Louise J. Prudhomme, and George McDowell to submit the required fair market appraisal amount within 180 days of the sale of the parcel will constitute a waiver of this preference consideration and this parcel may be offered for sale on a competitive or modified competitive basis.

(Authority: 43 CFR 2711.1–2)

Dated: September 24, 2007.

**Wendy Reynolds,**

*Upper Snake Field Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### **Gulf of Mexico (GOM), Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Central Planning Area (CPA), Oil and Gas Lease Sale 206 (2008) Environmental Assessment (EA)**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** The MMS is issuing this notice to advise the public, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, that the MMS has prepared an EA for proposed OCS oil and gas Lease Sale 206 in the Central GOM Planning Area (Lease Sale 206) scheduled for March 2008. The preparation of this EA is an important step in the decision process for Lease Sale 206. The proposal for Lease Sale 206 was identified by the Call for Information and Nominations published in the **Federal Register** on April 28, 2006, and was analyzed in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2007–2012; Western Planning Area Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218; Central Planning Area Sales 205, 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222—Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); Volumes I and II* (Multisale EIS, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007–018).

The proposal does not include approximately 5.8 million acres located in the southeastern part of the Central Planning Area which the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 opened to leasing after many years of

appropriations Acts containing leasing moratoria. Because of the limited geological and geophysical data available to industry and the limited environmental review for this area, the MMS has decided that it would be premature to offer this area in proposed Lease Sale 206. Before the area is offered for lease, the MMS will conduct a separate NEPA review to reevaluate the expanded CPA sale area.

This EA for proposed Lease Sale 206 reexamined the potential environmental effects of the proposed lease sale and its alternatives excluding the unleased blocks near biologically sensitive topographic features; excluding the unleased blocks within 15 miles of the Baldwin County, Alabama Coast; and no action based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that were not available at the time the Multisale EIS was prepared. No new significant impacts were identified for proposed Lease Sale 206 that were not already assessed in the Multisale EIS. As a result, the MMS determined that a Supplemental EIS is not required and prepared a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dennis Chew, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Mail Stop 5410, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. You may also contact Mr. Chew by telephone at (504) 736-2793.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In April 2007, the MMS published a Multisale EIS that addressed 11 proposed Federal actions that would offer for lease areas on the GOM OCS that may contain economically recoverable oil and gas resources. Federal regulations allow for several related or similar proposals to be analyzed in one EIS (40 CFR 1502.4). Since each proposed lease sale and its projected activities are very similar each year for each planning area, a single EIS was prepared for the 11 Western Planning Area (WPA) and CPA lease sales scheduled in the proposed *OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2007-2012* (5-Year Program). The Multisale EIS addressed WPA Lease Sale 204 in 2007, Sale 207 in 2008, Sale 210 in 2009, Sale 215 in 2010, and Sale 218 in 2011; and CPA Lease Sale 205 in 2007, Sale 206 in 2008, Sale 208 in 2009, Sale 213 in 2010, Sale 216 in 2011, and Sale 222 in 2012. Although the Multisale EIS addresses 11 proposed lease sales, at the completion of the EIS process, Records of Decision were published in July and August 2007 for only proposed WPA Lease Sale 204 and proposed CPA Lease Sale 205, respectively. An additional NEPA review (an EA) was conducted for

proposed Lease Sale 206 to address any new information relevant to the proposed lease sale. Additional NEPA reviews will also be conducted prior to decisions on each of the eight subsequent proposed lease sales. The purpose of these EA's is to determine whether to prepare a FONNSI or a Supplemental EIS. For each proposed lease sale, MMS prepares a Consistency Determination (CD) to determine whether the lease sale is consistent with each affected State's federally-approved coastal zone management program. Finally, MMS solicits comments via the Proposed Notice of Sale (PNOS) from the governors of the affected States on the size, timing, and location of the lease sale. The tentative schedule for the prelease decision process for Lease Sale 206 is as follows: CD's sent to affected States, October 2007; PNOS sent to governors of the affected States, October 2007; Final Notice of Sale published in the **Federal Register**, February 2008; and Lease Sale 206, March 2008.

**Public Comments:** Interested parties are requested to send comments on this EA/FONNSI by November 29, 2007. Comments may be submitted in one of the following two ways:

1. In written form enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on CPA Lease Sale 206 EA" and mailed (or hand carried) to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

2. Electronically to the MMS e-mail address: [environment@mms.gov](mailto:environment@mms.gov).

All comments received will be considered in the decisionmaking process for proposed Lease Sale 206.

**EA Availability:** To obtain a copy of this EA, you may contact the MMS, GOM OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF). You may also view this EA on the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/enviro/nea/neaprocess.html>.

Dated: October 1, 2007.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Eastern Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Planning Area, Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale 224, March 2008

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

**SUMMARY:** The MMS has prepared a Final SEIS on a tentatively scheduled 2008 oil and gas leasing proposal (Sale 224) in the Eastern GOM Planning Area, off the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. As mandated in the recently enacted Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-432, December 20, 2006), MMS shall offer a portion of the "181 Area," located in the Eastern Planning Area, more than 125 miles from Florida for oil and gas leasing.

**Authority:** The NOA is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1503) under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The recently enacted GOMESA of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-432, December 20, 2006) mandated MMS to offer a portion of the "181 Area" located in the newly defined Eastern Planning Area, more than 125 miles from Florida and west of the Military Mission Line (86 degrees, 41 minutes 30 seconds West longitude) for oil and gas leasing "as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of this Act." The Act mandates offering this area "notwithstanding the omission of the 181 Area \* \* \* from any Outer Continental Shelf leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344)." However, this action is not exempted from other legal requirements, such as NEPA or the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The MMS has prepared a SEIS to the original Sale 181 EIS (2001) in order to address these requirements. The earliest MMS would be able to meet these requirements and offer this area for leasing would be approximately March 2008. To meet the 1-year requirement of GOMESA, this sale should be held no later than December 2007; however, MMS feels that it is in the best interests of all parties, including the American public as owners of these resources, that MMS take the time necessary to fully comply