

Final SEIS from BOEM, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Public Information Office (GM 250C), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 250, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1 800 200-GULF).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information on the CPA 247 Final SEIS, you may contact Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Environment (GM 623E), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 or by email at cpa247@boem.gov. You may also contact Mr. Goeke by telephone at 504-736-3233.

Authority: This Notice of Availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*), and is published pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.19.

Abigail Ross Hopper,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 247; MMAA104000

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Central Planning Area Lease Sale 247.

SUMMARY: BOEM announces the availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for the proposed Central Planning Area (CPA) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 247 (CPA Sale 247). This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 556.304(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356a), provides affected states with the opportunity to review the Proposed NOS. The Proposed NOS sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rental rates.

DATES: Affected states may comment on the size, timing, and location of proposed CPA Sale 247 within 60 days following receipt of the Proposed NOS. The Final NOS will be published in the

Federal Register at least 30 days prior to the date of the bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for March 22, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Diamond, Chief, Leasing Division, david.diamond@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed NOS for CPA 247 and Proposed NOS package containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Telephone: (504) 736-2519. The Proposed NOS and Proposed NOS package are also available on BOEM's Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-247>.

Dated: September 8, 2016.

Abigail Ross Hopper,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[MMAA104000]

Use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sand Resources for the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP) Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Record of Decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: BOEM is announcing the availability of the ROD that documents BOEM's decision to authorize the use of OCS sand resources by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District in the MsCIP Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration Project (Project) in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi. The ROD is available at BOEM's Web site at [http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals-Minerals-Program.aspx](http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals/Marine-Minerals-Program.aspx). BOEM will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the USACE and make available OCS sand for use in the MsCIP Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri L. Thomas, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico Region, Regional Supervisor, Office of

Environment, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123, (504) 736-2963, terri.thomas@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 2009, the USACE Mobile District developed the MsCIP Comprehensive Plan (Plan) and Integrated Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (2009 PEIS) to support the long-term recovery of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi from the severe erosion and storm damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and other storm events. The Plan includes a long-term strategy to make the Mississippi coast more resilient to damage from future storms and to compensate for historical navigational dredging and disposal activities that altered sediment availability and sediment transport along the barrier islands. The environmental impacts associated with the dredging of offshore sand resources and the placement of sand along East and West Ship Islands, and Cat Island located in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi, were evaluated in the MsCIP Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (2016 SEIS), which tiers directly from the 2009 PEIS. The USACE's Mobile District served as the lead agency during the preparation of the 2009 PEIS and 2016 SEIS. BOEM served as a cooperating agency given its jurisdiction over OCS sand resources that were being considered for use in the Project. The borrow option selected by USACE and evaluated in the 2016 SEIS to implement the Plan includes 10 OCS locations with a total volume of 19.6 million cubic yards (MCY) of OCS sand. The USACE signed its own ROD in June 2016 and requested BOEM to authorize use of OCS sand.

BOEM and the USACE will enter into an MOA authorizing the use of up to 19.6 MCY of OCS sand from the identified OCS borrow areas. Under the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(2)), BOEM can convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to use OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for use in a program for shore protection, beach restoration, or coastal wetland restoration undertaken by a Federal, state, or local government agency (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(2)).

As a cooperating agency, BOEM has independently reviewed and adopted the comprehensive analysis presented in the USACE's 2009 PEIS and 2016 SEIS (43 CFR 46.120). The 2009 PEIS and 2016 SEIS assessed the physical, biological, and social/human impacts of