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**Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Collect Information
For a Draft EIS on Proposed Central Gulf of Mexico
OCS Oil And Gas Lease Sales 169, 172 175, 178, and 182**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold public scoping meetings in Louisiana and Alabama during June 1997, to gather additional information for the draft EIS and to provide an opportunity for public participation in the process. On August 1, 1996, the MMS has published in the *Federal Register*, the Call for Information and Nominations and the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on four proposed OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico. The specific sales included in this action are Sales 169, 172 175, 178, and 182, tentatively scheduled in March of each year beginning in 1998 and running through 2002. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

HOUMA on June 23, 1997; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Plantation Inn
1381 West Tunnel Boulevard
Houma, Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS on June 25, 1997; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana ([see map](#))

MOBILE on June 26, 1997; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Adam's Mark Hotel
64 South Water Street
Mobile, Alabama

The meetings will be conducted in an informal manner. We are most interested in learning about any new concerns that should be addressed in this EIS. (The most recent EIS covering the area may be obtained from the Public Information Office at (800) 200-GULF or (504) 736-2519.) Participants in the meeting will be asked to contribute ideas and information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should additional significant issues be addressed?
- Does MMS adequately address the environmental effects (direct, indirect, and cumulative) projected as a result of OCS activities?
- Should additional alternatives be considered?
- Should additional significant resources be analyzed?
- Should any data gaps be considered in preparation of this document?
- Should additional mitigating measures be considered?

Questions or comments on the above meetings can be sent to the following address:

Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Office of Leasing and Environment
Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5410)
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

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