



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Communications**

NEWS RELEASE

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**PROPOSED NOTICE OF SALE ISSUED FOR
WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO OCS SALE 171**

Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is making available the Proposed Notice of Sale for Western Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Sale 171. The sale will be held August 26, 1998, 9:00 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sale 171 encompasses 3,770 unleased blocks, about 20.59 million acres, in the Western GOM Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area offshore Texas and in deeper waters offshore Louisiana. The blocks are located from 9 to 200 miles offshore in water depths ranging from 8 meters to more than 3,000 meters. There are 2,322 blocks in water depths of 200 meters or more.

This is the third sale in the Western Gulf of Mexico, and the sixth sale overall, in which blocks receiving bids in water depths of 200 meters or more are eligible for consideration under provisions of the Deep Water Royalty Relief Act. The Proposed Notice of Sale offers all blocks for a minimum bid of \$25 per acre.

The Proposed Notice of Sale will be posted on the MMS Website at <http://www.mms.gov>. In addition, copies of the document are available from MMS's Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123; (504) 736-2519; toll free (1-800-200-GULF).

MMS is the Federal agency that manages and regulates the Nation's natural gas, oil, and other mineral resources on the OCS, and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$6 billion yearly in revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.mms.gov>
24 hour Fax-on-Demand Service:(202) 219-1703