



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240



Memorandum

NOV 16 2007

To: Director
From: Chris C. Oynes *Chris C. Oynes*
Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management

Subject: Decision on Area Identification (ID) for Beaufort Sea Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sales 209 and 217

We seek your decision on the Area ID which will select the area to be analyzed for Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sales 209 and 217 as included in the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007–2012. A Call for Information and Nominations was published in the Federal Register (FR) on August 23, 2007 (72 FR 48295), for the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Program Areas. The comment period ended October 9, 2007.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published with the Call. The EIS analysis will focus on the potential environmental effects of the sale from exploration, development, and production of the area proposed for leasing. We intend to analyze four sales in a multiple-sale, multiple-area EIS, the two Beaufort Sea Sales 209 and 217 and Chukchi Sea Sales 212 and 221.

The attached memorandum from the Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region discusses the recommendation for the Area ID decision. As the process evolves there will be additional opportunity to further redefine the individual sale boundaries if necessary. Any further redefinition of boundaries will be based on local concerns and continuing dialogue with the various stakeholders throughout the presale process for the first sale and continuing through the subsequent sales.

I recommend that you approve the area selected for further study in the EIS to be the program area identified in the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007–2012 and the Call for Information and Nominations.

If you concur with my recommendations, we will announce the Area ID decision, inform the Governor, and prepare the EIS.

Attachments

Approved: ✓

Disapproved: _____

Randall B. Luthi

Randall B. Luthi
Director, Minerals Management Service

11/17/07

Date

