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# ***Leasing Activities Information***

***BOEM***

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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## **PROPOSED NOTICE OF SALE 233 Western Planning Area**

Attached is the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) Package (Package), for the Western Planning Area Oil and Gas Lease Sale 233 (WPA Sale 233) proposed to be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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This Package consists of:

- Proposed NOS 233
- Lease Stipulations
- Information To Lessees
- Example of Preferred Format - Geophysical Data and Information Statement
- Lease Terms and Economic Conditions Map
- Stipulations and Deferred Blocks Map

All documents listed above are available from the BOEM Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office; telephone (800) 200-GULF or (504) 736-2519; or by written request to:

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Public Information Office (GM 217G)  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

All of these documents may also be found on the Lease Sale Information page on the BOEM GOM website at: <http://www.boem.gov/sale-233/>

The Final Notice of Sale 233 Package is expected to be available in mid-July, 2013. It will contain final versions of the documents listed above as well as the following:

- List of Blocks Available for Leasing
  - Unleased Split Blocks and Available Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease or Deferred
  - Bid Form and Envelope
  - Telephone Numbers/Addresses of Bidders Form
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## **Please Note:**

Terms and conditions for Proposed NOS 233 are generally the same as for the November 2012 WPA Lease Sale 229; the exception being that royalty relief for shallow water, deep gas is no longer being offered. The following noteworthy matters are highlighted for your attention:

### **Updated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Instructions**

Bidders are advised that the EFT instructions have been updated for WPA Sale 233. Please refer to the following website: <http://www.boem.gov/sale-233/> for complete information.

### **Geophysical Data and Information Statements**

Bidders are advised that updated requirements for the submission of the Lease Sale GDIS and Proprietary Geophysical Data have been updated for WPA Sale 233. The changes include:

1. The GDIS must be submitted digitally beginning this sale.
2. A suitable blank Excel Spreadsheet is available at <http://www.boem.gov/sale-233/> that may be filled out and submitted.
3. Unless notified otherwise by BOEM (within 15 days of the sale date) bidders must submit their proprietary/reprocessed geophysical data sets to BOEM within 30 days of the Sale date. Please read the GDIS portion of the NOS for details concerning data submission and reimbursement. Bidders will not be reimbursed for submission of speculative data.
4. Bidders must submit live trace maps showing the extent of their proprietary/reprocessed geophysical data sets. These should be submitted in the preferred PDF and shape file formats. Please look at the GDIS examples for additional details.
5. Technical details for the submission of geophysical data are included the GDIS example.

### **U.S. and Mexico Treaty**

The U.S. and Mexico exchanged instruments of ratification in January 2001, and a continental shelf boundary treaty entered into force in the Western Gap area. This treaty contained provisions for a ten year moratorium on drilling within 1.4 nautical miles of the maritime boundary on both the U.S. and Mexican sides of the boundary. While this moratorium was initially scheduled to expire in January 2011, the U.S. and Mexico mutually agreed to extend the moratorium in the Western Gap buffer zone for an additional three years. This moratorium in the buffer zone remains in effect until January 2014, or until the Transboundary Agreement enters into force. Because the 1.4 nm buffer in the Western Gap could become available to lease in Sale 233, it is included in this Proposed Notice of Sale. If the Transboundary agreement will not enter into force before Sale 233, the buffer area will be removed from the Final Notice of Sale.

### **U.S.-Mexico Maritime and Continental Shelf Boundary**

Bidders are advised to refer to the Proposed Notice of Sale and clause (l) in the Information to Lessees portion of this package for detailed information pertaining the transboundary agreement. Bids submitted on blocks in the "Boundary Area" will not be opened on the date scheduled for the sale, but may be opened at a later date. On or before 30 days following Congressional approval of the Transboundary Agreement or by February 28, 2014, whichever occurs first, the Secretary of the Interior will determine whether it is in the best interest of the United States either to open bids for Boundary Area blocks or to return the bids unopened. The following blocks comprise the Boundary Area:

Port Isabel Blocks – 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 945, 946, 947, 948, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 989, 990, 991, and 992

Alaminos Canyon Blocks – 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899\*, 900\*, 901\*, 902\*, 903\*, 904\*, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942\*, 943\*, 944\*, 945\*, 946, 947\*, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, and 1009

Keathley Canyon Blocks – 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, and 981

Sigsbee Escarpment Blocks – 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 103, 104, 105, 106, 148, 149, 150, and 194

South Padre Island Blocks – 1154, 1163, 1164, 1165, and 1166

South Padre Island, East Addition Blocks – 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, A 78, A 79, A 80, A 81, A 82, A 83, A 84, A 85, A 86, A 87, A 89, and A 90

\*Leased Blocks

**Indicated Hydrocarbons List**

Bidders are advised to refer to the Information To Lessees (ITL) paragraph (e) Indicated Hydrocarbons List for important bidder information.

**New format for the Proposed Notice of Sale document**

Bidders are advised that the format for the proposed notice of sale document has been revised.

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**Not Offered:**

Whole blocks and portions of blocks that lie within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) in the East and West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank. The following list identifies all blocks affected by the Sanctuary boundaries:

High Island, East Addition, South Extension (Leasing Map TX7C)

Whole Block: A-398

Portions of Blocks: A-366\*, A-367\*, A-374\*, A-375, A-383, A-384\*, A-385\*, A-388, A-389, A-397\*, A-399, A-401

High Island, South Addition (Leasing Map TX7B)

Portions of Blocks: A-502, A-513

Garden Banks (OPD NG15-02)

Portions of Blocks: 134, 135

\*Leased

Whole and portions of blocks deferred from this lease sale are shown on the map “Proposed, Western Planning Area, Lease Sale 233, August 2013, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks”

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**Statistical Information (Lease Sale 233):**

**Approximate Size:** 3,934 unleased blocks; 21.1 million acres  
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For more information on the Proposed NOS 233 Package, potential bidders are advised to contact Mr. Carrol Williams at (504) 736-2803, Ms. Cindy Thibodeaux at (504) 736-2809, or Ms. Kasey Couture at (504) 736-2909 of the BOEM Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Leasing and Financial Responsibility Section.

**Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone: (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF [4853]  
BOEM Homepage Address on the Internet at: [www.boem.gov](http://www.boem.gov)**