

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

***SPECIAL INFORMATION***

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January 2015

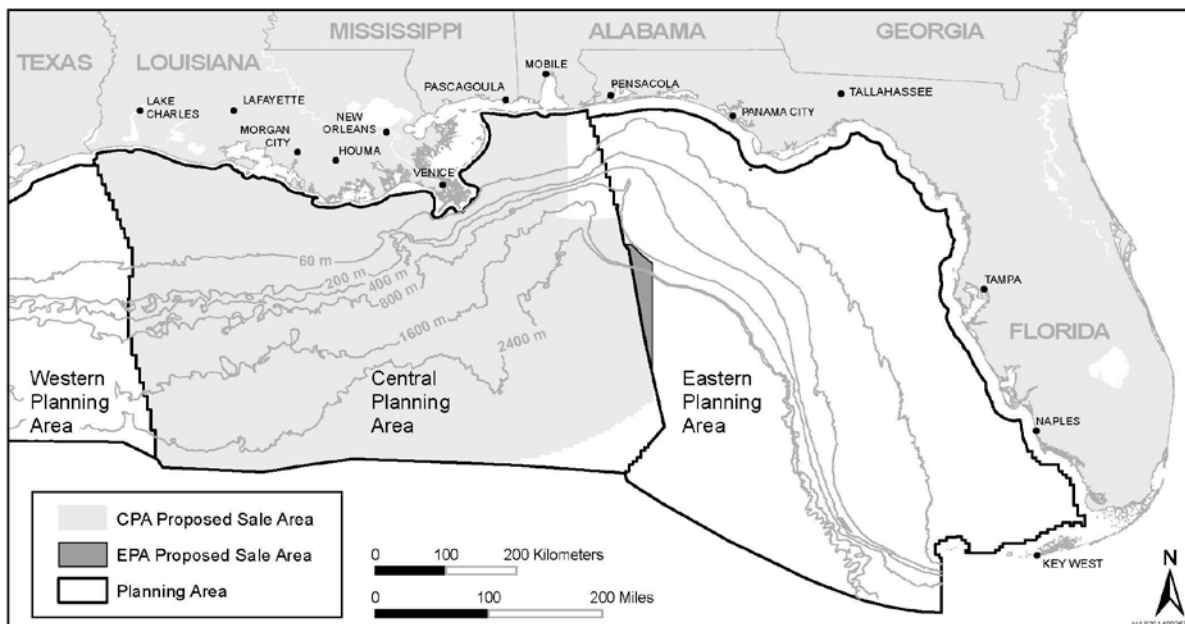
**BOEM Issues a Notice of Availability  
of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
for Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas  
Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sales 241 and 247 and proposed Eastern Planning Area (EPA) Lease Sale 226. Proposed oil and gas CPA Lease Sales 241 and 247 are tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2016 and 2017, respectively, and the proposed EPA Lease Sale 226 is tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2016 under the *Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program: 2012-2017*. This Supplemental EIS updates the analyses for the CPA since publication of the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2012-2017; Western Planning Area Lease Sales 229, 233, 238, 246, and 248; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 227, 231, 235, 241, and 247, Final Environmental Impact Statement (2012-2017 WPA/CPA Multisale EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2012-019); Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2013-2014; Western Planning Area Lease Sale 233; Central Planning Area Lease Sale 231, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (WPA 233/CPA 231 Supplemental EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2013-0118); and Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2015-2017; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 235, 241, and 247, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (CPA 235/241/247 Supplemental EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2014-655)*. This Supplemental EIS also updates the analyses for the EPA since publication of the *Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2012-2017, Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Five-Year Program EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2012-030)* and *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2014 and 2016; Eastern Planning Area Lease Sales 225 and 226, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EPA 225/226 EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2013-200)*.

BOEM's preferred alternative is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 44.2 million acres of the total 66.45 million acres in the Central Planning Area (CPA) of the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of the whole and portions of blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006 and the blocks that are beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap. BOEM also proposes to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 657,905 acres in the Eastern Planning Area (EPA), which includes those blocks previously included for EPA Lease Sales 224 and 225. The area is south of eastern Alabama and western Florida; the nearest point of land is 125 miles (201 kilometers) northwest in Louisiana. Although the leasing of portions of the CPA and EPA (subareas or blocks) can be deferred during a Five-Year Program, the Department of the Interior is conservative throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and includes the total area within the Gulf of Mexico for environmental evaluation.

BOEM published in the June 20, 2014, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI sought input on the scope of the Supplemental EIS for proposed CPA Lease Sales 241 and 247 and proposed EPA Lease Sale 226, which covers the proposed CPA and EPA oil and gas lease sales offshore the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

BOEM will publish in the January 30, 2015, *Federal Register*, the Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS for proposed CPA Lease Sales 241 and 247 and for proposed EPA Lease Sale 226. The Draft Supplemental EIS also analyzes relevant new information regarding the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion, oil spill, and response.



BOEM will hold public meetings to obtain comments regarding the Draft Supplemental EIS. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Monday, February 23, 2015, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST;
- **Panama City, Florida:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Wyndham Bay Point Resort, 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida, 32408, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile West, 828 West I-65 Service Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36609, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST; and
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, February 26, 2015, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you may submit your written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS no later than 45 days following the publication date of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled “Comments on the Draft CPA 241/EPA 226 Supplemental EIS” and mailed (or hand delivered) to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394;
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for “Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and, Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226”. (Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms.) Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit”; or
3. BOEM email address: [cpa241-epa226@boem.gov](mailto:cpa241-epa226@boem.gov).

BOEM will be printing and distributing a very limited number of paper copies. In keeping with the Department of the Interior’s mission of the protection of natural resources and to limit costs while ensuring the availability of the document to the public, BOEM will primarily distribute digital copies of the Draft

Supplemental EIS on compact discs. However, if you require a paper copy, BOEM will provide one upon request if copies are still available.

1. You may obtain a copy of the Draft Supplemental EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Attention: Public Information Office (GM 323A), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 250, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Draft Supplemental EIS on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>

BOEM does not consider anonymous comments; please include your name and address as part of your submittal. BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names and/or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233.

If you would like to receive announcements for public meetings and the availability of our environmental documents for Gulf of Mexico OCS activities, please submit your name and contact information to BOEM at [https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data\\_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp](https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp). You may also request to be removed from the current BOEM mailing list in the same way.