

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

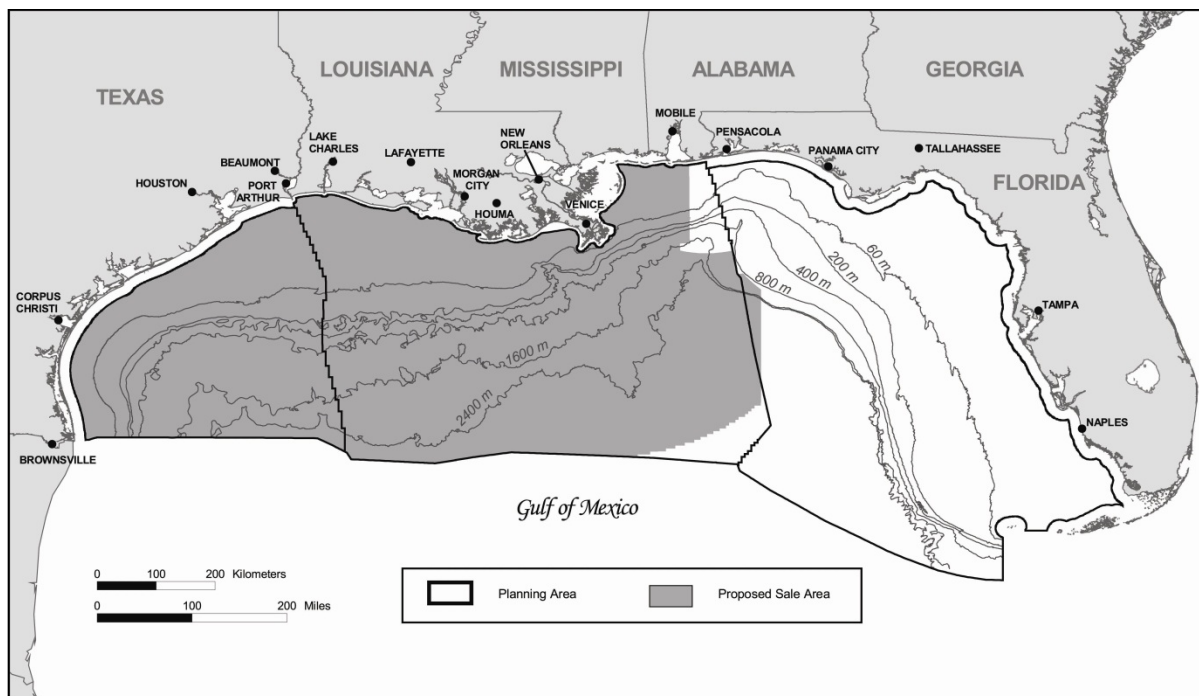
SPECIAL INFORMATION

April 2015

BOEM Issues a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and an Opportunity for Scoping Comments for the Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales for 2017-2022

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 131 million acres of the approximately 160 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), with the exception of the whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006, the blocks that are beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap, and the blocks under Congressional moratoria. Although the leasing of portions of the GOM (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 GOM for environmental evaluation.

BOEM published in the April 29, 2015, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI seeks input on the scope of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS for proposed GOM Lease Sales 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 257, 259, and 261.



As part of the scoping process, BOEM's public scoping meetings will be held at the following places and times:

- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Tuesday, May 12, 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. CDT;
- **Houston, Texas:** Thursday, May 14, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Bush Intercontinental Airport, 15400 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77032, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT;

- **Panama City, Florida:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Panama City, 1101 US Highway 231, Panama City, Florida, 32405, one meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, May 20, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile West, 828 West I-65 Service Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36609, one meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m. CDT; and
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, May 21, 2015, Courtyard Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, one meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m. CDT.

In lieu of participation in the public scoping meetings listed above, all interested parties, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and the general public, may submit written comments on the scope of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, alternatives that should be considered, and the types of oil and gas activities of interest in the proposed lease sale areas.

Written comments should be received within 30 days following the publication of the notice in the *Federal Register* in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Scoping Comments for the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale 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 "2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS". (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: multisaleeis2017-2022@boem.gov.

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/gmailist/subscribe.asp. You may also request to be removed from the current BOEM mailing list in the same way.