

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

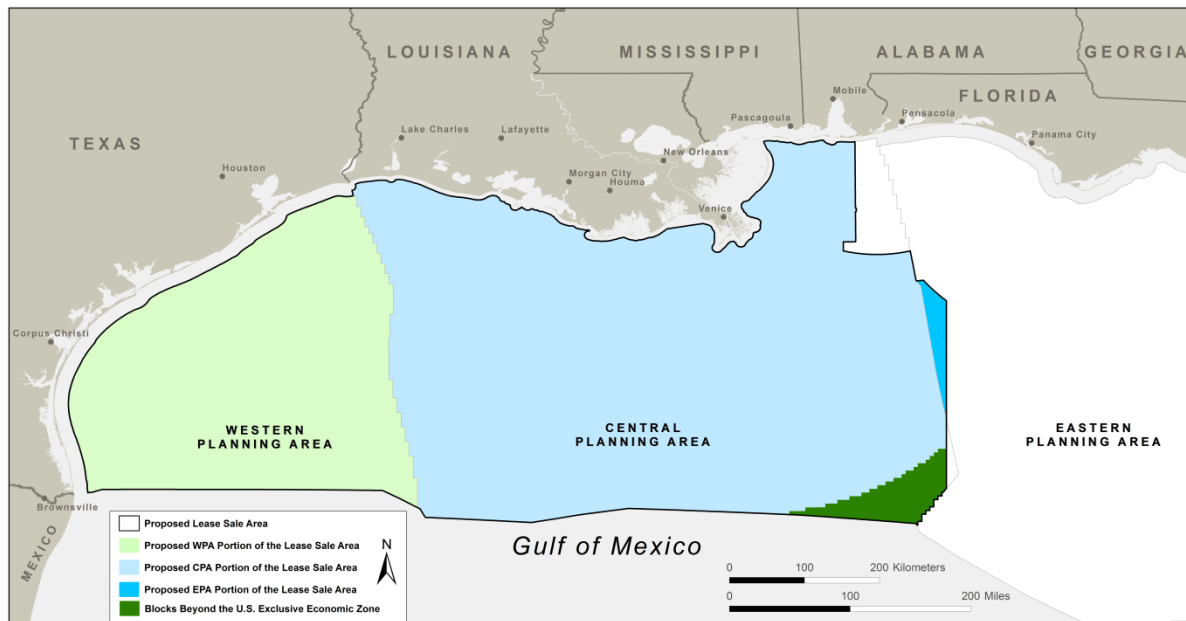
SPECIAL INFORMATION

August 2016

BOEM Issues a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and an Opportunity for Scoping Comments for Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 250 and 251

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 72 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 August 19, 2016, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI seeks input on the scope of the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Lease Sales: 2018; Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales 250 and 251, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (GOM 250 and 251 Supplemental EIS) for proposed GOM Lease Sales 250 and 251.



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

- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Tuesday, September 6, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CDT and ending at 7:00 p.m. CDT;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, September 7, 2016, Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CDT and ending at 7:00 p.m. CDT;

- **Houston, Texas:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016, Houston Marriott North, 255 North Sam Houston Pkwy East, Houston, Texas 77060; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CDT and ending at 7:00 p.m. CDT; and
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Thursday, September 15, 2016, Wyndham Garden New Orleans Airport, 6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana 70003; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CDT and ending at 7:00 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 GOM 250 and 251 Supplemental 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 area.

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 GOM 250 and 251 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; or
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. BOEM-2016-0047. Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, and then click "Submit."

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