

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

SPECIAL INFORMATION

September 2015

**BOEM Issues a Notice of Availability
of the Final 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**

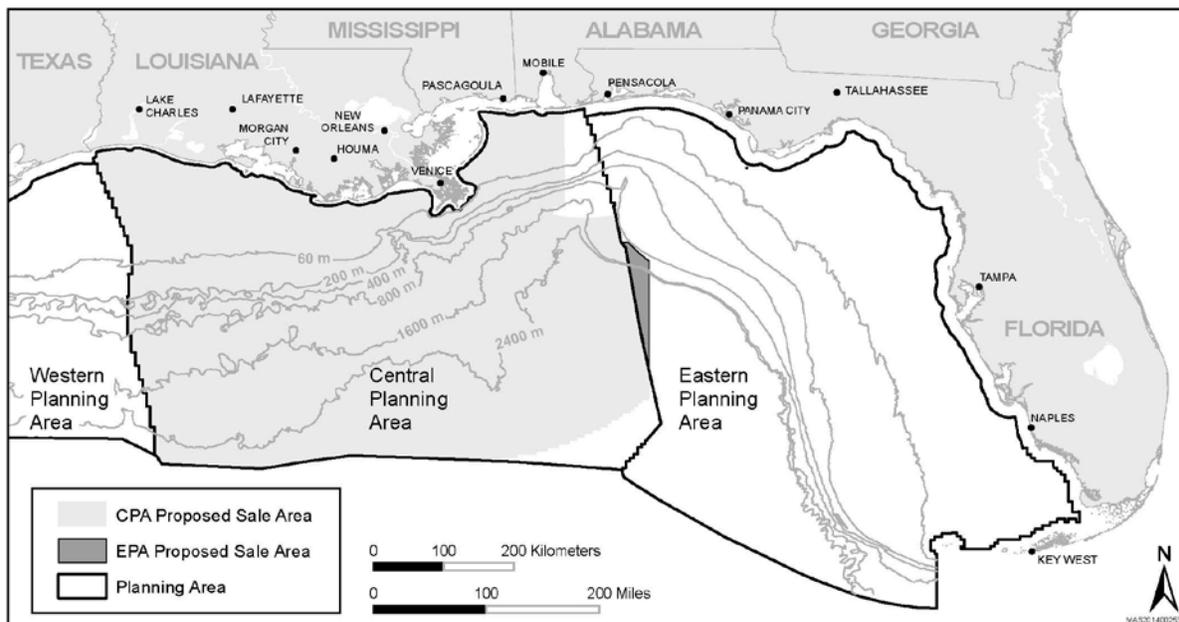
The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sales 241 and 247 and proposed Eastern Planning Area (EPA) Lease Sale 226. Proposed oil and gas CPA Lease Sales 241 and 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 following EISs:

- *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 following EISs:

- *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 is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 42.13 million acres of the total 66.45 million acres in the 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 465,200 acres in the 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.



The CPA 241/EPA 226 Final Supplemental EIS analyzes the baseline conditions and potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the CPA and EPA. Since publication of the Draft Supplemental EIS, BOEM reviewed public comments received, provided response, and revised the document to address substantive comments; conducted additional searches for new information; reviewed scientific journals and available scientific data and information from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies; and/or interviewed personnel from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies. BOEM has examined the potential impacts of routine activities, accidental events, and the proposed lease sales' incremental contribution to the cumulative impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources. BOEM has also examined the potential impacts associated with a low-probability catastrophic event. The oil and gas resource estimates and scenario information for the CPA 241/EPA 226 Final Supplemental EIS are presented as a range that would encompass the oil and gas resources and activities estimated for a proposed CPA and EPA lease sale.

BOEM published in the June 20, 2014, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental 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 cover the proposed CPA and EPA oil and gas lease sales offshore the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

BOEM published 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 proposed EPA Lease Sale 226. The public review period was opened on January 30, 2015, and closed on March 16, 2015.

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 Final 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 Final 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 250C), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 250, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Final Supplemental EIS on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>.

If you have questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233 or email him at gary.goeke@boem.gov.