

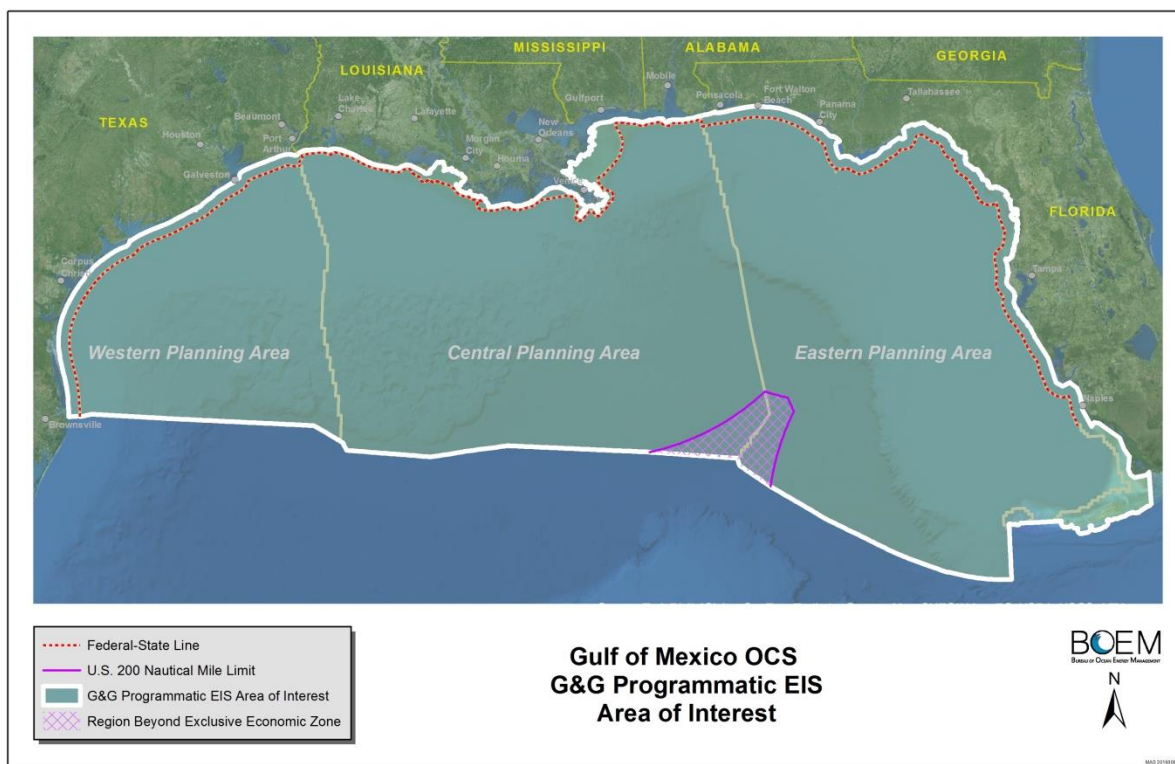
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

SPECIAL INFORMATION

September 2016

BOEM Issues a Notice of Availability and Public Meetings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geological and Geophysical Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the Draft Gulf of Mexico Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Programmatic EIS addresses potential environmental impacts of BOEM's oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine mineral resource programs and focuses particularly on the environmental impacts of off-lease and on-lease geological (bottom sampling and test drilling) and geophysical surveys (deep-penetration, high-resolution geophysical, electromagnetic, deep stratigraphic, and remote sensing).



BOEM and the National Marine Fisheries Service published a combined Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and Notice of Scoping in the *Federal Register* on May 10, 2013. The Notice of Intent sought input on the scope of the Programmatic EIS for proposed G&G activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

BOEM will hold public meetings to obtain comments regarding the Draft Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS. The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Wednesday, November 9, 2016, Wyndham Garden New Orleans Airport, 6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana 70003; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST;
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, November 10, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST;
- **Fort Walton Beach, Florida:** Monday, November 14, 2016, Four Points By Sheraton Destin-Fort Walton Beach, 1325 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016, The Admiral Hotel Mobile, Curio Collection by Hilton, 251 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST; and
- **Houston, Texas:** Thursday, November 17, 2016, Houston Marriott North, 255 North Sam Houston Pkwy East, Houston, Texas 77060; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you may submit your written comments on the Draft Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS no later than 60 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 Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Dr. Jill Lewandowski, Chief, Division of Environmental Assessment, Office of Environmental Programs (VAM-OEP), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166; or
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. BOEM-2016-0068. Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, and then click "Submit."

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 Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic 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 Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (GM 335A), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Draft Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS on BOEM's websites at <http://www.boem.gov/GOM-G-G-PEIS/> and <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.

For further information on the Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS, please visit our website at <http://www.boem.gov/GOM-G-G-PEIS/>, and if you have questions concerning the public meeting or Programmatic EIS processes, please call Dr. Jill Lewandowski at 703-787-1703.

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.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GM 623E)
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