

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

SPECIAL INFORMATION

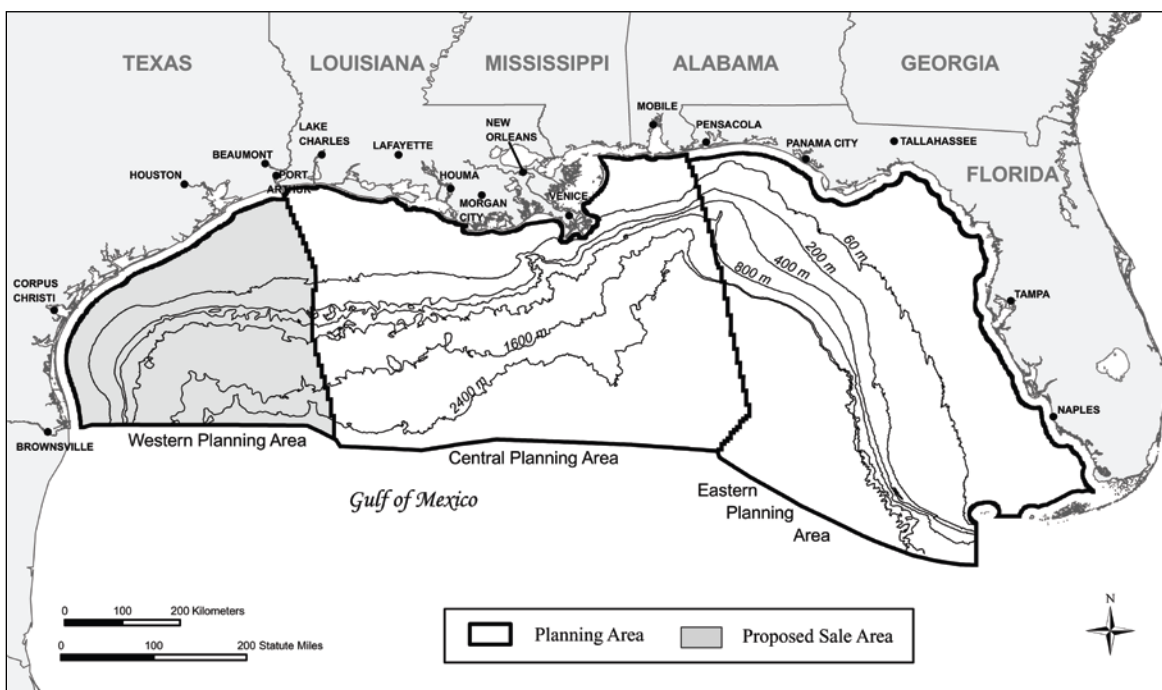
September 2014

BOEM Issues Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and of Plans to Hold Public Meetings for Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Western Planning Area Lease Sales 246 and 248

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), announces the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed Western Planning Area (WPA) Lease Sales 246 and 248. The proposed oil and gas lease sales are tentatively scheduled to be held in August 2015 and 2016, respectively, under the *Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program: 2012-2017*. This Supplemental EIS updates the analyses in 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)*; in the *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 in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2014-2016; Western Planning Area Lease Sales 238, 246, and 248, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (WPA 238/246/248 Supplemental EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2014-009)*. BOEM is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 21.6 million acres in the WPA, with the exception of whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

BOEM published in the April 4, 2014, *Federal Register*, the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental EIS for the proposed WPA lease sales. The NOI sought input on the scope of the Supplemental EIS, which covers the proposed WPA oil and gas lease sales offshore the States of Texas and Louisiana.

BOEM published in the September 5, 2014, *Federal Register*, the Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS for proposed WPA Lease Sales 246 and 248. 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:

- **Houston, Texas:** Tuesday, September 23, 2014, Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental, 18700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT; and
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Thursday, September 25, 2014, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you may submit your written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS no later than October 22, 2014, in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Comments on the WPA 246 and 248 Draft Supplemental EIS" 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; Western Planning Area Lease Sales 246 and 248". (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: wpa246@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 335A), 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 oil- and gas-related 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.