



NEWS RELEASE

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MMS to Hold Offshore Alternative Energy Environmental Studies Workshop

D.C. Area Workshop Will Identify Environmental Information Needs

WASHINGTON – The Interior Department’s Minerals Management Service (MMS) is hosting a workshop to identify offshore alternative energy environmental information needs June 26-28, 2007, in Herndon, Virginia. Experts in offshore alternative energy from Federal and State agencies, foreign countries, academia, industry and stakeholder organizations are invited to attend.

Offshore Alternative Energy is a new frontier for the nation, as well as a new regulatory program for MMS, authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Through this authority, MMS will regulate alternative energy projects and alternate uses of existing oil and gas platforms on the OCS. MMS is currently developing the regulations necessary to implement a comprehensive, effective, and responsible OCS Alternative Energy and Alternate Use program for the nation.

This new program is highly complex, involving issues related to innovative technologies, economic considerations, as well as potential impacts to the environment. MMS will evaluate potential impacts on the human and marine environments in order to make environmentally sound decisions about managing alternative energy activities. The upcoming workshop will provide invitees an opportunity to share valuable experiences and relevant knowledge with the MMS on offshore alternative energy environmental information needs. Specifically, the workshop is designed to initiate a dialog among offshore alternative energy experts, evaluate the existing body of knowledge on offshore alternative energy, identify additional information needs and potential studies to obtain that information, and discuss information sharing partnership opportunities.

The workshop will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dulles Airport, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA 20170. A draft agenda, list of current participants, registration and contact information for the workshop are available online at <http://www.mmsaeworkshop.com>.