



## NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Office of Public Affairs

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT  
Caryl Fagot, 504/736-2590  
Eileen Angelico, 504/736-2595

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, June 29, 2007

### **MMS to Hold Public Hearings on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Sale in Eastern Gulf of Mexico**

*Federal Register Notice Announces Availability of a draft SEIS for Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sale 224 in Eastern Planning Area*

**NEW ORLEANS** — The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is seeking comments from the public on a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for proposed oil and gas Lease Sale 224 in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM) planning area. The notice in today's [Federal Register](#) provides information on how to submit comments and the schedule of public hearings on the draft SEIS.

Proposed Lease Sale 224, scheduled for March 2008 in conjunction with Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 206, was mandated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. The sale will include a small part of the EGOM Planning Area, approximately 134 unleased blocks covering approximately 500,000 acres, located more than 125 miles off the Florida coast, west of the Military Mission Line (86 degrees, 41 minutes West longitude).

The draft SEIS updates the environmental and socioeconomic analyses conducted for the EIS that was completed in 2001 for the original "Sale 181 Area." Eastern Gulf of Mexico Sale 181 was held on December 5, 2001.

Two public hearings will be held to give all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the draft SEIS. The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- **Larose, La.:** Tuesday, July 24, 2007, 7 p.m., Larose Civic Center, 307 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Larose Regional Park, Larose, La.
- **Pensacola, Fla.:** Thursday, July 26, 2007, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., New World Landing, 600 South Palafox Street, Pensacola, Fla.

Both oral and written statements received at the hearings will be considered part of the hearing record.

(MORE)

Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties may also send their written comments on the draft SEIS in one of two ways:

1. In written form, enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Draft SEIS" and mailed (or hand carried) to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.
2. Electronically to the MMS e-mail address: [environment@mms.gov](mailto:environment@mms.gov).

Comments should be submitted no later than Monday, August 13, 2007.

Printed or CD-ROM copies of the draft SEIS are available at:  
MMS Public Information Unit (MS 5034)  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394,  
or telephone 1-800-200-GULF (4853), or via the MMS Web site at [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov).

An electronic copy of the draft SEIS is available via the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/nepa/nepaprocess.html>.

To locate libraries holding copies of the draft SEIS for review, contact the MMS Public Information Office or visit the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/libraries.html>.

