

Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

Potential Impacts to Physical Resources from a Single OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Air Quality

		Reduced area of impact		
Area of Impact	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Routine Impacts in leased areas	none	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse^[3] 	• \rightarrow • Negligible adverse to moderate adverse ^[3]
Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> ^[1]	none	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse
Accidental Impacts in leased areas	none	● → ● Minor adverse to moderate adverse	 → Minor adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse
Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> ^[2]	none	 → Minor adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Minor adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Minor adverse to moderate adverse

1. Air emissions and pollution could still occur in the excluded areas.

2. Oil spills and response activities could still occur in the excluded areas.

3. Impacts are the same as Alternative B but with potentially less methane emissions.

Range of Impact Levels					
Major	Moderate	 Minor Adverse 	 Negligible		
Adverse	Adverse		Adverse		

For more information, visit the GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage.



Water Quality

		Reduced area of impact		
Area of Impact	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Routine Impacts in leased areas	none	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse
Routine Impacts in excluded areas	none	• \rightarrow • Negligible adverse to moderate adverse ^[2]	• Negligible adverse	• Negligible adverse
Accidental Impacts in leased areas	none	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse
Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> ^[1]	none	 → ● Negligible adverse to moderate adverse 	• Negligible adverse	• Negligible adverse

1. Oil spills and response activities could still occur in the excluded areas.

2. Impacts from discharges and wastes could still occur in the excluded areas. The other routine activities are localized in the leased areas only.

Range of Impact Levels					
Major Adverse	 Moderate Adverse 	 Minor Adverse 	 Negligible Adverse 		



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For more information, visit the **GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage**.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.