



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Reader,

Welcome to our website for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Energy Development and Production and Alternate Use of Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (Programmatic EIS). The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prepared this Programmatic EIS to support establishment of a program that provides for efficient and orderly development of alternative energy projects on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), as well as the alternate use of offshore facilities for other energy and marine-related activities. This Programmatic EIS takes a first look at the potential environmental, social and economic impacts from and mitigation measures for the activities that could be initiated in the next five to seven years.

Four alternatives are considered in the Final Programmatic EIS: 1) the proposed action (i.e., the establishment of the Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program on the OCS through rulemaking); 2) a case-by-case alternative (i.e., the MMS would consider individual project proposals for alternative energy or alternate use on a case-by-case basis but would not issue formal regulations); 3) a no action alternative (i.e., the MMS would not approve leases, easements, or rights-of-way for any alternative energy facility on the Federal OCS or alternate use of existing offshore facilities); and 4) a preferred alternative (i.e., a combination of the proposed action and the case-by-case alternative).

The MMS wants to thank everyone for their participation in the preparation of this Programmatic EIS and for all the comments we received. Each comment was carefully considered during the preparation of the final Programmatic EIS. Offshore Alternative Energy is a highly anticipated frontier for the nation and we look forward to a continued dialogue with everyone as we move on to the next phases of development of this exciting new program.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Bornholdt
Program Manager
Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program

