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# Leasing Activities Information

**MMS** U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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## FINAL NOTICE OF OCS SALE 169

### Central Gulf of Mexico March 18, 1998

Attached is the Final Notice of OCS Sale (FNOS) 169, Central Gulf of Mexico, which is scheduled to be held on March 18, 1998, in New Orleans.

In addition to the Final Notice, this package consists of:

- o Information to Lessees for Sale 169
- o Central Gulf of Mexico Leased Lands List dated February 6, 1998
- o Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease
- o Lease Stipulations for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 169
- o Debarment Certification Form
- o Bid Form and Envelope
- o Phone Numbers/Addresses of Bidders Form
- o Instructions for Making EFT 1/5th Bonus Payments
- o Lease Terms, Bidding Systems, and Royalty Suspension Areas, Sale 169 Map
- o Stipulations and Deferred Blocks, Sale 169 Map

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### NOTICE:

**Notice of Sale.** Certain items formerly included in the Notice of Sale (including Stipulations and Information to Lessees) are now found in separate documents included in this Package. Bidders are advised to read carefully all items in this package.

**Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments for the 1/5th bonus.** The MMS is encouraging the expanded optional use of EFT for payment of the 1/5th bonus bid. Some bidders will qualify to use EFT without securing such payment; others desiring to use EFT will be required to secure the EFT payment by any one of three methods. It is emphasized that bidders may continue to submit a check for the 1/5th bonus with each bid. Details for the use of EFT are contained in the document "Instructions for Making EFT 1/5th Bonus Payments" contained in this package. See also paragraph 3(b) of the Notice. Questions regarding EFT procedures should be directed to Ms. Vicki Zatarain at (504) 736-2779.

**Bid Form and Bid Envelope.** Bidders are strongly urged to use the formats of the Bid Form and Bid Envelope included in this package. Note that "Amount Per Acre" is no longer desired on the Bid Form, and it is requested that "Area Number" be included on both the Bid Form and the Bid Envelope. A statement acknowledging that the bidder(s) agree(s) that submission of a bid constitutes an obligation to comply with all applicable regulations and to pay the 1/5th bonus on all high bids must be included on the bid form. Indicate "Amount of cash bonus submitted with bid" ONLY IF a check for 1/5th of the bonus is submitted with the bid (i.e., if Electronic Funds Transfer procedures are NOT used). See also paragraph 3(a) of the Notice.

**Unleased blocks offshore Baldwin County, Alabama.** Potential bidders are advised that a stipulation will be included in any leases resulting on Mobile Area Blocks 826 and 829. Furthermore, the MMS will consult with the State regarding placement of structures in this area. See Stipulation 4 in the Lease Stipulations document and paragraph (u) of the Information to Lessees document, both included in this package.

**Tracts beyond U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.** Tracts beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (tracts in the Northern Portion of the Western Gap and in the Northern Portion of the Eastern Gap) are **NOT** offered for leasing in this sale. See paragraph 12(b) of the Notice.

**Geophysical Information.** Submission of a statement at the time of bid submission regarding certain geophysical information is no longer required. See paragraph (k) of the Information to Lessees document included in this package.

**NOTE:** The following blocks have become available for leasing since publication of the Proposed Notice of Sale: West Cameron Area Block 229; West Cameron Area, South Addition, Block 548; East Cameron Area Block 226; East Cameron Area, South Addition, Blocks 280 and 369; Vermilion Area Blocks 57 (Por.), 148, and 247; South Marsh Island Area, South Addition, Block 97; Ship Shoal Area, South Addition, Block 323; South Timbalier Area Block 136; Main Pass Area Blocks 90 and 124; Main Pass Area, South & East Addition, Blocks 209, 229, and 265; West Delta Area, South Addition, Block 140; Mississippi Canyon Area Blocks 162 and 163; and Green Canyon Area Blocks 470, 513, 556, and 557.

**NOT OFFERED** (see paragraph 12(b) of the Notice):

Main Pass Area, South and East Addition, Blocks 253 and 254; Viosca Knoll Blocks 213 and 256 (under appeal)  
NG 15-9 Area Blocks 133 through 135, 177 through 184, 221 through 238, 265 through 281, 309 through 320, and 358;  
NG 16-7 Area Blocks 172, 173, 213 through 217, 252 through 261, 296 through 305, and 349 (blocks beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone)

## **STATISTICAL INFORMATION (Sale 169)**

- o **SIZE:** 4,180 Unleased blocks; 22.55 million acres
- o **LEASE TERMS:**
  - 5 Year - 903 Blocks - Water depths less than 400 meters
  - 8 Year - 116 Blocks - Water depths between 400-800 meters
  - 10 Year - 3,161 Blocks - Water depths greater than 800 meters
- o **BIDDING SYSTEMS:**
  - 12 1/2% Royalty - 3,277 Blocks
  - 16 2/3% Royalty - 903 Blocks
- o **ROYALTY SUSPENSION AREAS:**
  - 200-400 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 70 Blocks
  - 400-800 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 116 Blocks
  - 800 Meter and Greater Royalty Suspension Area - 3,161 Blocks
- o **MINIMUM BID:** \$25 per acre or fraction thereof

For more information on this FNOS, potential bidders are advised to contact Mr. Charles Hill of the MMS GOM OCS Region Sales and Support Unit at (504) 736-2795.

**-MMS-**

**MMS Homepage Address on the Internet: <http://www.mms.gov>  
24-hour Fax-on-Demand service: (202) 219-1703**