



NEWS RELEASE

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MMS Delays Cook Inlet Sale 199

Due to a current lack of industry interest in the Cook Inlet offshore area, the Minerals Management Service has postponed until May 2007 proposed Cook Inlet Sale 199, which was originally scheduled for May 2006. Earlier this year MMS requested comment on Sale 199, and confirmed that companies were not interested in a sale in 2006.

“We will evaluate early next year whether we will restart planning for a sale in 2007. If conditions change, we could proceed,” said John Goll, MMS Alaska OCS Regional Director. “The Cook Inlet region faces future shortages in natural gas supplies, and we want to be ready to respond if companies decide to renew exploration offshore.”

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and **21** percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

Additionally, the State of Alaska receives 27% of all revenues generated as a result of federal leases that lie within 3-to-6 miles offshore the Alaska coast, and 50% of this money goes into the Alaska Permanent Fund Account.

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov

MMS Alaska OCS Region Website: www.mms.gov/Alaska

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