

# U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

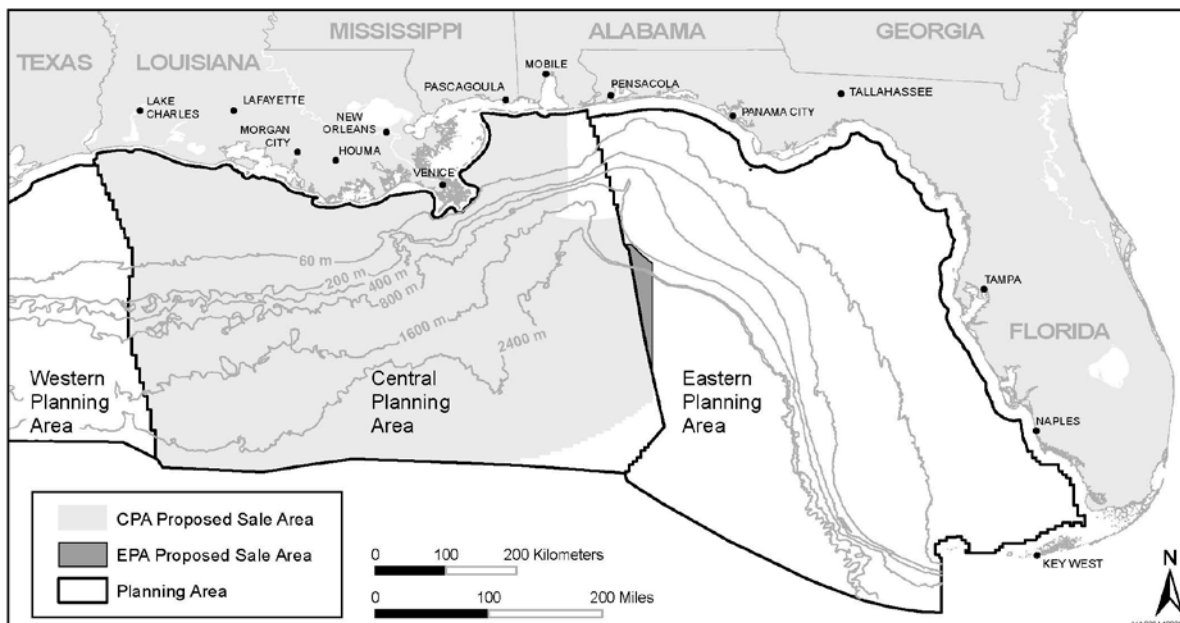
## ***SPECIAL INFORMATION***

June 2014

### **BOEM Issues a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and an Opportunity for Scoping Comments for Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 63 million acres of the total 66.45 million acres in the Central Planning Area (CPA) of the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of the whole and portions of blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006 and the blocks that are beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap. BOEM shall also offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 657,905 acres in the Eastern Planning Area (EPA), which includes those blocks previously included for EPA Lease Sales 224 and 225. The area is south of eastern Alabama and western Florida; the nearest point of land is 125 miles (201 kilometers) northwest in Louisiana. Although the leasing of portions of the CPA and EPA (subareas or blocks) can be deferred during a Five-Year Program, the Department of the Interior is conservative throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and includes the total area within the Gulf of Mexico for environmental evaluation.

BOEM published in the June 20, 2014, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI seeks input on the scope of the Supplemental EIS for proposed CPA Lease Sales 241 and 247 and proposed EPA Lease Sale 226.



As part of the scoping process, BOEM's public scoping meetings will be held at the following places and times:

- **Panama City, Florida:** Tuesday, July 8, 2014, Hilton Garden Inn Panama City, 1101 US Highway 231, Panama City, Florida, 32405, two meetings, the first beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT and the second beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT;
- **Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile West, 828 West I-65 Service Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36609, two meetings, the first beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT and the second beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT;
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, July 10, 2014, Courtyard Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, two meetings, the first beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT and the second beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT;
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Monday, July 14, 2014, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT; and
- **Larose, Louisiana:** Monday, July 14, 2014, Larose Regional Park and Civic Center, 307 E 5th Street, Larose, Louisiana 70373, one meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT.

In lieu of participation in the scoping meetings listed above, all interested parties, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and the general public, may submit written comments on the scope of the Supplemental EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, alternatives that should be considered, and the types of oil and gas activities of interest in the proposed lease sale areas.

Written comments should be received within 30 days following the publication of the notice in the *Federal Register* in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Scoping Comments for the CPA 241 and 247/EPA 226 Supplemental EIS" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394;
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for "Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and, Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226". (Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms.) Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click "Submit"; or
3. BOEM email address: [cpa241-epa226@boem.gov](mailto:cpa241-epa226@boem.gov).

BOEM does not consider anonymous comments; please include your name and address as part of your submittal. BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names and/or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233.

If you would like to receive announcements for public meetings and the availability of our environmental documents for Gulf of Mexico OCS activities, please submit your name and contact information to BOEM at [https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data\\_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp](https://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/gmaillist/subscribe.asp). You may also request to be removed from the current BOEM mailing list in the same way.