

RESOLUTION OF THE OCS POLICY COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
ON THE NEW 5-YEAR OCS OIL AND GAS
LEASING PROGRAM FOR 2007-2012

WHEREAS the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee has been formed to provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) related to discretionary functions of the Bureau under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA); and

WHEREAS Section 18 of the OCSLA, as amended, provides a comprehensive process for developing the 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, including the evaluation of areas for inclusion or exclusion from the upcoming leasing program; and

WHEREAS Section 18 of the OCSLA states that, "Management of the outer Continental Shelf shall be conducted in a manner which considers economic, social, and environmental values of the renewable and nonrenewable resources contained in the outer Continental Shelf, and the potential impact of oil and gas exploration on other resource values of the outer Continental Shelf and the marine, coastal, and human environments;" and

WHEREAS Section 18 of the OCSLA lists specific factors that must be analyzed or considered in deciding the timing and location of lease sales in the leasing program; and

WHEREAS consideration of these factors requires a broad scoping notice to facilitate the evaluation of information on all areas of the OCS; and

WHEREAS the Request for Comments precedes the commencement of the planning process and the preparation of the proposed plan and the decision on which areas to include or exclude from the leasing program; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 18 of the OCSLA, it is necessary and appropriate in the Request for Comments to seek the broadest possible range of information and input on all areas of the OCS.

WHEREAS, the comments of all states should be considered in the development of the 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCS Policy Committee, on this 22nd day of June 2005, recommends that the Department of the Interior include all areas of the OCS in the Request for Comments on the preparation of the 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012.

Resolution passed with 11 votes in favor and 2 against.