

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Regulation and EnforcementOuter Continental Shelf (OCS),
Western and Central Planning Areas,
Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Oil and Gas
Lease Sales for the 2007–2012 5-Year
OCS Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

1. Authority

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (1988)).

2. Purpose of the Notice of Intent

The BOEMRE is announcing its intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for Western Planning Area (WPA) Lease Sale 218 and Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sale 222 in the 2007–2012 5-Year OCS Program. The proposed sales are in the Gulf of Mexico's WPA off the States of Texas and Louisiana and in the CPA off the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The SEIS will update the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2007–2012; WPA Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218; CPA Sales 205, 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222, Final Environmental Impact Statement (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007–018) (Multisale EIS), the NOI for which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2006 (Vol. 71, No. 44, Page 11444). The SEIS will also update the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the GOM OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2009–2012; CPA Sales 208, 213, 216, and 222; WPA Sales 210, 215, and 218; Final SEIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008–041), the NOI for which was published in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2007 (Vol. 72, No. 174, Page 51654). The SEIS for 2009–2012 was prepared after the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (Pub. L. 109–432, December 20, 2006), which required BOEMRE to offer approximately 5.8 million acres in the CPA ("181 South Area") for oil and gas leasing, "as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act." Lease Sales 218 and 222 are proposed to be held in late 2011 or early 2012, before

the end of the 2007–2012 5-Year OCS Program.

A SEIS is deemed appropriate to supplement the NEPA documents cited above for these lease sales in order to consider new circumstances and information arising, among other things, from the *Deepwater Horizon* blowout and spill. The SEIS analysis will focus on updating the baseline conditions and potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the WPA and CPA.

Scoping Process: Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties may assist BOEMRE in determining the significant issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the SEIS. Early planning and consultation is important for ensuring that all interests and concerns are communicated to the Department of the Interior for future decisions in the leasing process pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and regulations at 30 CFR 256. At a minimum, alternatives that will be considered for the sales are no action (*i.e.*, cancel the sale) or to exclude certain areas from the sales. Input is requested on additional measures (*e.g.*, technology or water depth limitations) that would maximize avoidance and minimize impacts to environmental and socioeconomic resources. Formal consultation with other Federal agencies, the affected states, and the public will be carried out during the NEPA process and will be completed before a final decision is made on Lease Sales 218 and 222.

For more information on the proposed sales or the SEIS, you may contact Mr. Gary Goeke, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Mail Stop 5410, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394 or by calling (504) 736–3233.

3. Description of the Area

The general area proposed for Lease Sale 218 covers approximately 28.57 million acres in 5,240 blocks in the western portion of the GOM (excluding whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary). Lease Sale 222 covers approximately 66.45 million acres in 12,409 blocks in the Central portion of GOM (excluding blocks that were previously included within the Eastern Planning Area (EPA) and that are within 100 miles of the Florida coast; or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap). A map is available on the BOEMRE Web site at http://www.gomr.boemre.gov/homepg/lseale/mau_gom_pa.pdf.

4. Cooperating Agency

The BOEMRE invites other Federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments to consider becoming cooperating agencies in the preparation of the SEIS. Following the guidelines from the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), qualified agencies and governments are those with "jurisdiction by law or special expertise." Potential cooperating agencies should consider their authority and capacity to assume the responsibilities of a cooperating agency and to remember that an agency's role in the environmental analysis neither enlarges nor diminishes the final decisionmaking authority of any other agency involved in the NEPA process.

Upon request, BOEMRE will provide potential cooperating agencies with an information package with a draft Memorandum of Agreement that includes a schedule with critical action dates and milestones, mutual responsibilities, designated points of contact, and expectations for handling predecisional information. Agencies should also consider the "Factors for Determining Cooperating Agency Status" in Attachment 1 to CEQ's January 30, 2002, Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies: Cooperating Agencies in Implementing the Procedural Requirements of the NEPA. A copy of this document is available at <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/cooperating/cooperatingagenciesmemorandum.html> and <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/cooperating/cooperatingagencyfactormemofactors.html>.

The BOEMRE, as the lead agency, will not provide financial assistance to cooperating agencies. Even if an organization is not a cooperating agency, opportunities will exist to provide information and comments to BOEMRE during the normal public input phases of the NEPA/EIS process. If further information about cooperating agency status is needed, please contact Mr. Gary Goeke at (504) 736–3233.

5. Comments

Public meetings will be held in locations near these areas in early to mid November 2010. The meetings are being planned for, but not necessarily limited to:

- Tuesday, November 16, 2010, New Orleans, Louisiana, Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Drive Kenner, Louisiana 70062, 1 p.m. CST.
- Wednesday, November 17, 2010, Houston, Texas, Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental, 18700 John F. Kennedy

Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032, 1 p.m. CST.

• Thursday, November 18, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa, 26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 1 p.m. CST.

The BOEMRE will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

Federal, State, local government agencies, and other interested parties are requested to send their written comments on the scope of the SEIS, significant issues that should be addressed, and alternatives that should be considered in one of the following ways:

1. Electronically to the BOEMRE e-mail address:

sales218&222@boemre.gov.

2. In written form, delivered by hand or by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Sales 218 and 222 SEIS" to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Comments should be submitted no later than December 27, 2010.

Dated: November 4, 2010.

L. Renee Orr,

Acting Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[Account No. 3950-SZM]

Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Project Involving the Area in and Around President's Park South.

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Withdrawal of Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service and the United States Secret Service are withdrawing the September 22, 2010, **Federal Register** notice (75 FR 57811) announcing their intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment and to conduct scoping in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 (NEPA), to aid their

consideration of certain proposed actions, including permanent roadway closures, the re-design of security elements, and the preservation of the historic landscape within President's Park South, to include the portion of E Street, NW., between 15th Street and 17th Street, in Washington, DC. The scoping process, public comment period, and public meeting referenced in that notice are now cancelled.

DATES: Effective November 10, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House, National Park Service, National Capital Region, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242, *Telephone:* (202) 619-6344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The September 22, 2010, **Federal Register** notice was published in error. The notice will be reissued when the National Park Service and the United States Secret Service are ready to begin preparation of this NEPA Environmental Assessment, conduct scoping, and receive public comments. In that notice they expect to announce when a public scoping meeting will be held. Comments that have been received to date as a result of the September 22, 2010, **Federal Register** notice of scoping will be incorporated into this subsequent NEPA process.

Dated: October 8, 2010.

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini,

Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-R-2010-N176; 40136-1265-0000-S3]

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, SC; Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment for Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In the final CCP, we describe how we will manage this refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the CCP by writing to: Raye Nilius, Refuge Manager, Cape Romain NWR, 5801 Highway 17 North, Awendaw, SC 29429. The CCP may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Web site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/> under "Final Documents."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Raye Nilius; telephone: 843/928-3264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for Cape Romain NWR. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2007 (72 FR 141).

Established in 1932 as a migratory bird refuge, Cape Romain NWR encompasses a 22-mile segment of the southeast Atlantic coast. The refuge contains 66,267 acres and consists of barrier islands, salt marshes, intricate coastal waterways, sandy beaches, fresh and brackish water impoundments, and maritime forests. Points of interest include Bulls Island, Cape Island, and Lighthouse Island. Two lighthouses, though no longer operational, still stand on Lighthouse Island. The refuge's original objectives were to conserve in public ownership habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and resident species. In recent years, objectives have expanded to include managing endangered species, protecting the 28,000-acre Class 1 Wilderness Area, and conserving the Bulls Island and Cape Island forests and associated diverse plant communities. Currently, the refuge is actively working to aid in the recovery of the threatened loggerhead sea turtle. Recognizing the high migratory bird benefits and recreational opportunities served by the lands and waters of the refuge, Cape Romain NWR was established under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Fish and Wildlife Act, and the Refuge Recreation Act, thus outlining the following primary purposes of these lands and waters:

- "For use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds" (16 U.S.C. 715d; Migratory Bird Conservation Act);
- "to conserve and protect migratory birds * * * and other species of wildlife that are listed * * * as endangered species or threatened species and to restore or develop adequate wildlife habitat" (16 U.S.C. 715i; Migratory Bird Conservation Act);
- "for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources" (16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)) "for the benefit of the United States Fish and