



MMS 5 Year Leasing Program

Background:

The Outer Continental Shelf leasing program is administered by the Minerals Management Service pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

The MMS prepares a 5-Year OCS leasing program which indicates the size, timing and location of oil and gas leasing activity which the Secretary determines will best meet national energy needs for the 5 year period following its approval.

The next 5 year leasing program will cover leasing from 2007-2012.

MMS Schedule for Preparation of the next 5 year program:

Summer 2005	Request for information (scoping notice)	45 day comment
Winter 2006	Draft Proposed Program	60 day comment
Summer 2006	Proposed Program/Draft EIS	90 day comment
Late 2006	Proposed Final Program/Final EIS	60 day waiting
Early 2007	Program Approval	
July 1, 2007	New Program in Effect	

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act:

Section 18 of the OCSLA lists the factors that must be analyzed and considered in deciding where and when to lease -- The economic, social and environmental values of the renewable and nonrenewable resources contained in the OCS, and the potential impact of oil and gas exploration on other resource values of the OCS and the marine, coastal and human environments.

Specific considerations:

- existing information concerning the geographical, geological and ecological characteristics of the regions
- equitable sharing of developmental benefits and environmental risks among various regions
- location of such regions with respect to, and the relative needs of, regional and national energy markets
- location of regions with respect to other uses of the se and seabed, including fisheries, navigation, existing or proposed sea lanes, potential sites of deepwater ports and other anticipated uses of the resources and space of the OCS
- interests of potential oil and gas producers in the development of oil and gas resources as indicated by exploration or nomination
- laws, goals and policies of affected states which have been specifically identified by the

- governors of such states as relevant matters for the Secretary's consideration
- relative environmental sensitivity and marine productivity of different areas of the OCS
- relevant environmental and predictive information for different areas of the OCS

Secretary is required, to the maximum extent practicable, to obtain the proper balance between the potential for environmental damage, potential for discovery of oil and gas, and potential for adverse impact on the coastal zone.

The plan is prepared in conjunction with an environmental impact statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.