

V. CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

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A. Process for the Preparation of the 5-Year Program and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

1. Draft Proposed Program and Draft EIS

Preparation and review of the environmental impact statement (EIS) closely parallels that of the 5-year program decision documents. Comments received on the program decision documents are also reviewed for consideration in the preparation of the EIS.

The preparation process for the draft proposed program and associated EIS began with the publishing of a Notice in the *Federal Register* (70 FR 163) dated August 24, 2005, requesting comments from the public, all affected parties, States, local and tribal governments, American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations, Federal Agencies, environmental and wildlife organizations, the oil and gas industry, other interested organizations, and other parties to assist in the preparation of a 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for 2007-2012 and an applicable EIS. Based on the comments and information received, a draft proposed program was prepared and distributed for review, and the basis was formed for the draft EIS.

2. Proposed Program and Scoping for the Draft EIS

On February 10, 2006, a Notice in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 28) was published requesting comments from States, local governments, Native groups, tribes, the oil and gas industry, Federal Agencies, environmental and other interested organizations, and all other interested parties to assist in the preparation of the 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for 2007-2012 and the applicable EIS. Comments were solicited during a 60-day comment period, which ended on April 11, 2006.

Notices of public scoping meetings were published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 2006 (71 FR 42) and on March 15, 2006 (71 FR 50). These sites included: Anchorage, AK; Barrow, AK; Kaktovik AK; Nuiqsut, AK; Wainwright, AK; Dillingham, AK; King Salmon, AK; Sand Point, AK; Cold Bay, AK; Houston, TX; Harahan, LA; Mobile, AL; Norfolk, VA; and Tallahassee FL. These meetings were held to garner significant issues and public concerns for inclusion in the 5-year EIS.

After consideration of the comments and any necessary revisions to the analysis in the program decision document, a proposed program and a draft EIS will be published in the *Federal Register*. The proposed program will be submitted to Congress, the Governors of the affected States, and the U.S. Attorney General. The Governors and heads of Federal Agencies will also receive a written explanation from the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) concerning the reasons for the decision.

3. Proposed Final Program and Draft EIS

Comments will be requested during a 90-day period on the proposed program and the associated draft EIS. Again, based on the consideration of comments and an updated analysis, a proposed final program will be announced. This proposal will be submitted to the President and to the Congress, along with an explanation from the USDOI concerning the reasons for the decision.

B. Distribution of the Draft EIS

Copies of the draft EIS will be distributed prior to publication in the *Federal Register* to Federal, State, and local agencies; to interested groups and individuals who have been involved in the preparation of the 5-year program and the EIS process; and to coastal libraries.

Federal Agencies: Copies of the EIS will be provided to the following Federal Agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense	U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of the Interior	U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of Justice	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
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Congress: Copies of the draft EIS will be provided to the following congressional offices:

House of Representatives-Committee on Resources
United States Senate-Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

State Agencies: Copies of the draft EIS will be provided to the governors and clearinghouses of the following States:

Alabama	Alaska	California	Connecticut	Delaware
Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland
Massachusetts	Mississippi	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York
North Carolina	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina
Texas	Virginia	Washington		

Coastal Libraries: Copies of the draft EIS will be provided to various coastal libraries in the following States:

Alabama	Alaska	California	Connecticut	Delaware
Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland
Massachusetts	Mississippi	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York
North Carolina	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina
Texas	Virginia	Washington		

VI. PRINCIPAL PREPARERS

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