



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Herndon, VA 20170
<http://boem.gov>



November 2011

Dear Library:

Enclosed is the draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for the Proposed 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. ***Please make this document available in paper and electronic format to readers in your area during the public comment period, which runs from November 10, 2011 to January 9, 2012.***

Background

The proposed program establishes a schedule that is used as a basis for considering where and when leasing might be appropriate over a 5-year period. This draft PEIS was prepared by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Department of the Interior implementing regulations (43 CFR 46.10 to 46.450). This draft PEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts from oil and gas exploration and development on six planning areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. The PEIS presents eight alternatives, including seven action alternatives and a No Action Alternative.

How to Submit Comments

Please submit all comments on this draft PEIS by January 9, 2012. BOEM encourages online submission of comments. Comments can be submitted online at www.boem.gov/5-year/2012-2017 or as letters directed to:

Attention: Mr. James F. Bennett
Chief, Division of Environmental Assessment
BOEM Headquarters
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170

An individual commenter may ask that we withhold their name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must state so prominently at the beginning of your submission. We will not consider anonymous comments.

Web Site Location of Draft PEIS

The draft PEIS can be accessed from BOEM's Web site at www.boem.gov/5-year/2012-2017.

Public Hearings

Thirteen public hearings are scheduled to provide an opportunity to comment on this Draft PEIS. The hearings will be held at the following locations and times:

Date	City	Time	Venue
Dec. 5	Wainwright, AK	7-10 pm	R. James Community Center, Wainwright, AK 99782
Dec. 6	Nuiqsut, AK	7-10 pm	Nuiqsut Community Center, Nuiqsut, AK 99789
Dec. 6	Washington, DC	1-5 pm	Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240
Dec. 6	Houston, TX	1-4 pm and 6-9 pm	Marriott Houston Intercontinental at George Bush Intercontinental, 18700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, TX 77032
Dec. 7	Katovik, AK	7-10 pm	Katovik Community Center, Katovik, AK 99747
Dec. 7	Mobile, AL	1-4 pm and 6-9 pm	Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602
Dec. 8	Fairbanks, AK	7-10 pm	Westmark Hotel and Conference Center 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701-4977
Dec. 8	New Orleans, LA	1-4 pm and 6-9 pm	Doubletree New Orleans Airport Hotel, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Kenner, LA 70062
Dec. 9	Anchorage, AK	7-10 pm	Wilda Marston Theatre, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503
Dec. 12	Kotzebue, AK	7-10 pm	NW Arctic Borough Assembly Chamber, 163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, AK 99752
Dec. 13	Point Hope, AK	7-10 pm	City Qalgi Center, Point Hope, AK 99766
Dec. 14	Point Lay, AK	7-10 pm	Point Lay Community Center, Point Lay, AK 99759
Dec. 16	Barrow, AK	7-10 pm	Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow, AK 99734

Sincerely,

James F. Bennett
Chief, Division of Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management