



THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99503-5823

<http://alaska.boemre.gov>

COMMUNITY ADVISORY

18 January 2011

Contact: Mike Haller (907) 334-5200

For Immediate Release

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement to host a series of public scoping meetings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed 2012 - 2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program

Agency seeks public input on draft; public comment period extends to March 31, 2011

WHAT

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) will host public scoping meetings, in February, on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program – to include the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and Cook Inlet proposed planning areas. The public notice is available for public inspection through the *Federal Register's* website, at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2010-33149.pdf>

WHY

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to obtain public comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the proposed 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

HOW

BOEMRE is providing a series of opportunities for the public to submit their comments on the PEIS for the proposed 2012-2017 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. First, members of the public are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend any of the public scoping meetings that are scheduled at locations in Alaska, (Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and Virginia) and provide their comments in-person.

In addition to the aforementioned public scoping meetings, there are two alternatives for submitting comments either electronically or via regular mail. They include mailing or emailing remarks to the Bureau.

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Part 2 / Community Advisory continued

BOEMRE hosts a series of public scoping meetings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed 2012–2017 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

- *The public may submit written scoping comments on the PEIS until March 31, 2011, via mail, to:*

J. F. Bennett
Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
381 Elden Street,
Mail Stop 4042
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

- *Or online, at:*

<http://ocs5years.eis.anl.gov>

- **Reminder:**

BOEMRE cautions that, before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask BOEMRE (prominently at the beginning of your submission) to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, BOEMRE cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

BOEMRE will not consider anonymous comments, and BOEMRE will make available for inspection, in their entirety, all comments submitted by organizations or businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

WHEN & WHERE

Public scoping meetings are scheduled for:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Feb 14 / Monday / 7pm | - Kotzebue Middle-High School / Kotzebue |
| Feb 15 / Tuesday / 7pm | - Point Hope – Tikigaaq School Library / Point Hope |
| Feb 15 / Tuesday / 1pm | - Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental
18700 John F. Kennedy Blvd / Houston, Texas (<i>This scoping meeting will also accept comments on the lease sale EIS addressing Central and Western Gulf of Mexico sales included in the 2012-2017 OCS 5-Year Program</i>) |
| Feb 16 / Wednesday / 1pm | - New Orleans Airport Hilton
901 Airline Drive / Kenner, Louisiana (<i>This scoping meeting will also accept comments on the lease sale EIS addressing Central and Western Gulf of Mexico sales included in the 2012-2017 OCS 5-Year Program</i>) |
| Feb 16 / Wednesday / 7pm | - Point Lay Community Center / Point Lay |
| Feb 17 / Thursday / 7pm | - Alak School Library / Wainwright |

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Part 3 / Community Advisory continued

BOEMRE hosts a series of public scoping meetings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed 2012–2017 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

- Feb 17 / Thursday / 1pm - Five Rivers – Alabama’s Delta Resource Center
30945 Five Rivers Boulevard / Mobile - Spanish Fort, Alabama
(This scoping meeting will also accept comments on the lease sale EIS addressing Central and Western Gulf of Mexico sales included in the 2012-2017 OCS 5-Year Program)
- Feb 21 / Monday / 7pm - Inupiat Heritage Center / Barrow
Feb 22 / Tuesday / 7pm - Nuiqsut Community Center / Nuiqsut
Feb 23 / Wednesday / 7pm - Kaktovik Community Center / Kaktovik
Feb 24 / Thursday / 1pm - Dulles Airport Marriott
45020 Aviation Drive / Dulles, Virginia *(This scoping meeting will also accept comments on the lease sale EIS addressing Central and Western Gulf of Mexico sales included in the 2012-2017 OCS 5-Year Program)*
- Feb 25 / Friday / 7pm - BOEMRE Alaska Region Office, 3801 Centerpoint Dr /Anchorage

BACKGROUND

On December 1, 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced an updated oil and gas leasing strategy for the OCS and identified the areas that would be considered for environmental scoping for the 2012–2017 program – please refer to: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Announces-Revised-OCS-Leasing-Program.cfm>

“As we look to the future and identify areas to offer for oil and gas development under the next five year program, we will make decisions based upon the best scientific information available,” BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich said. “We strongly encourage public participation in this process to ensure we are reviewing all of the relevant and important information about these areas. This PEIS will inform our decisions on when and where to offer leases and will help identify specific requirements that may be needed to ensure potential risks to the environment are appropriately managed and mitigated.”

The *Federal Register* notice published on April 2, 2010, (75 FR 16828) established a comment period that closed on June 30, 2010. The new comment period extends to March 31, 2011.

All comments received during the public comment period that closed on June 30 and all comments received during the new public comment period will be considered by BOEMRE as part of the EIS scoping process. Information concerning the leasing program and PEIS can be accessed, at: <http://www.boemre.gov/5-year/>

- BOEMRE -

Reference Websites:

- **5-Year Program** <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/energy/ocs/upload/Scoping-For-5yr-Leasing-Program-on-OCS-2012-2017.pdf>
- http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/energy/ocs/QA_2012-2-17.cfm
- <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/energy/ocs/upload/Scoping-For-5yr-Leasing-Program-on-OCS-2012-2017.pdf>
- <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2010-33149.pdf>
- <http://ocs5yeareis.anl.gov>
- <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Announces-Revised-OCS-Leasing-Program.cfm>
- <http://www.boemre.gov/5-year/>