

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the proposed notice of sale for proposed sale 189.

**SUMMARY:** The MMS announces the availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Sale 189 in the Eastern GOM OCS. This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected States the opportunity to review the proposed Notice. The proposed Notice sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

**DATES:** Comments on the size, timing, or location of proposed Sale 189 are due from the affected States within 60 days following their receipt of the proposed Notice. The final Notice of Sale will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for December 10, 2003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed Notice of Sale for Sale 189 and a "Proposed Sale Notice Package" containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Telephone: (504) 736-2519.

Dated: June 26, 2003.

**R.M. "Johnnie" Burton,**

*Director, Minerals Management Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Western Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 187

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Final notice of sale 187.

**SUMMARY:** On August 20, 2003, MMS will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in Western GOM Oil and Gas Lease Sale 187, pursuant to the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, as amended) and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR part 256).

The Final Notice of Sale 187 Package (FNOS 187 Package) contains information essential to bidders, and bidders are charged with the knowledge

of the documents contained in the Package.

**DATES:** Public bid reading will begin at 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 20, 2003, in Grand Ballroom C (5th floor) at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. All times referred to in this document are local New Orleans times, unless otherwise specified.

**ADDRESSES:** Bidders can obtain a FNOS 187 Package containing this Notice of Sale and several supporting and essential documents referenced herein from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF.

**Filing of Bids:** Bidders must submit sealed bids to the Regional Director (RD), MMS Gulf of Mexico Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on normal working days, and from 8 a.m. to the Bid Submission Deadline of 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2003. If bids are mailed, please address the envelope containing all of the sealed bids as follows:

**Attention:** Mr. John L. Rodi, MMS Gulf of Mexico Region, Contains Sealed Bids for Sale 187.

If the RD receives bids later than the time and date specified above, he will return those bids unopened to bidders. Bidders may not modify or withdraw their bids unless the RD receives a written modification or written withdrawal request prior to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2003. Should an unexpected event such as flooding or travel restrictions be significantly disruptive to bid submission, the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region may extend the Bid Submission Deadline. Bidders may call (504) 736-0557 for information about the possible extension of the Bid Submission Deadline due to such an event.

**Areas Offered for Leasing:** The MMS is offering for leasing all blocks and partial blocks listed in the document "Blocks Available for Leasing in Western GOM Oil and Gas Lease Sale 187" included in the FNOS 187 Package. All of these blocks are shown on the following Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams (which may be purchased from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit):

#### Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Maps—Texas Map Numbers 1 through 8

(These 16 maps sell for \$2.00 each)

TX1 South Padre Island Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX1A South Padre Island Area, East Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX2 North Padre Island Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX2A North Padre Island Area, East Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX3 Mustang Island Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX3A Mustang Island Area, East Addition (revised September 3, 2002)  
TX4 Matagorda Island Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX5 Brazos Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX5B Brazos Area, South Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX6 Galveston Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX6A Galveston Area, South Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX7 High Island Area (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX7A High Island Area, East Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX7B High Island Area, South Addition (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX7C High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension (revised November 1, 2000)  
TX8 Sabine Pass Area (revised November 1, 2000)

#### Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams

(These 7 diagrams sell for \$2.00 each)

NG14-03 Corpus Christi (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG14-06 Port Isabel (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG15-01 East Breaks (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG15-02 Garden Banks (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG15-04 Alaminos Canyon (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG15-05 Keathley Canyon (revised November 1, 2000)  
NG15-08 Sigsbee Escarpment (revised November 1, 2000)

**Please Note:** A CD-ROM (in ARC/INFO and Acrobat (.pdf) format) containing all of the GOM Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams, except for those not yet converted to digital format, is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit for a price of \$15.00. For the current status of all Western GOM Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams, please refer to 66 FR 28002 (published May 21, 2001) and 67 FR 60701 (published September 26, 2002). In addition, Supplemental Official OCS Block Diagrams (SOBDs) for these blocks are available for blocks which contain the "U.S. 200 Nautical Mile Limit" line and the "U.S.-Mexico Maritime Boundary" line. These SOBDs are also available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit. For