

wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies, or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, speakers should submit two copies of their written comments where feasible. The BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, the BLM will make them available in their entirety, including your name and address. However, if you do not want the BLM to release your name and address in response to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. The BLM will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. The BLM will release all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, in their entirety, including names and addresses.

Electronic Access and Filing Address

Speakers may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: Janet_Neal@blm.gov. Please include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Dated: October 8, 2003.

James G. Kenne,

Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Eastern Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 189

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) 189.

SUMMARY: On December 10, 2003, MMS will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in Eastern GOM Oil and Gas Lease Sale 189, 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 189 Package (FNOS 189 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, December 10, 2003, in the Grand Ballroom of the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon 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 189 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, December 9, 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 189.

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, December 9, 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 of the unleased whole blocks located within the portion of the Eastern GOM Planning Area that is west of 87 degrees 30 minutes West Longitude and which range from 100 to 196 miles south of Alabama, and from about 70 to 148 miles offshore Louisiana. Please see the map included in the final NOS 189 Package: "Lease Terms, Economic Conditions, and Stipulations, Sale 189, Final." All of these blocks are shown on the following Official Protraction Diagrams (which may be purchased from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit):

Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams (These diagrams sell for \$2.00 each)

NG16-02 Lloyd Ridge (revised November 1, 2000)

Please Note: ACD-NH16-11 De Soto Canyon (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 additional information, please call Mr. Charles Hill (504) 736-2795.

All blocks are shown on these Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. The available Federal acreage of all blocks in this sale is shown in the document "List of Blocks Available for Leasing in Sale 189" included in the FNOS 189 Package.

Areas Not Available for Leasing: The following whole blocks located within the sale area are currently leased and are therefore not available for bid in this sale:

De Soto Canyon Blocks 133-137, 177, 179-182, 223-226, 267-270, 309, 311, 314, 354, 401, 402, 443, 445-447, 485, 488-491, 529, 530, 534, 535, 573, 574, 576, 577, 617-624, 664-666, 668, 709, 710, 793, 794, 796, 798, 837, 838, 840, 842, 843, 883, 887, 927, 929, 932, 970, 971, 975, 976

Lloyd Ridge Blocks 1, 2, 5-7, 45-52, 91, 94-96, 133-137, 139, 140, 177, 183, 221, 265, 267, 268, 309, 315, 316, 354, 355, 359, 360, 399-402, 443-446

Statutes and Regulations: Each lease issued in this sale is subject to the OCS Lands Act of August 7, 1953, 67 Stat. 462; 43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq., as amended (92 Stat. 629), hereinafter called "the Act"; all regulations issued pursuant to