

payments may encourage rapid exploration.

b. *Bonus Bidding with a 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. This system complies with Sec. 304 of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA). An incentive for development and production in water depths of 200 to 400 meters is provided through allocating royalty suspension volumes of 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent to eligible fields.

c. *Bonus Bidding with a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 400 to 800 meters proposed for the Central Gulf of Mexico (Sale 157) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent royalty rate is used in deeper water because these blocks are expected to require substantially higher exploration, development, and production costs, as well as longer times before initial production, in comparison to shallow-water blocks. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for this water depth category.

d. *Bonus Bidding with a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 800 meters or more proposed for the Central Gulf of Mexico (Sale 157) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for these deep water depths.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* The selection of blocks to be offered under the four systems was based on the following factors:

a. Royalty rates on adjacent, previously leased tracts were considered to enhance orderly development of each field.

b. Blocks in deep water were selected for the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent royalty system based on the favorable performance of this system in these high-cost areas in past sales.

c. The royalty suspension volumes were based on the water depth specific volumes mandated by the DWRRA.

The specific blocks to be offered under each system are shown on the "Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems" and "Royalty Suspension Areas for the Central Gulf of Mexico" maps for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157. These maps are available from the Public Information Unit, Minerals Managements Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Dated: March 18, 1996.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Approved:

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 96-7131 Filed 3-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 157—Final

1. Authority

This Notice is published pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf (OSC) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, (1988)), and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR Part 256).

2. Filing of Bids

(a) Sealed bids will be received by the Regional Director (RD), Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service (MMS), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Bids may be delivered in person to that address during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Standard Time (c.s.t.)) until the Bid Submission Deadline at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, 1996. Hereinafter, all times cited in this Notice refer to c.s.t. unless otherwise stated. Bids received by the RD later than the submission deadlines specified above will be returned unopened to the bidders. Bids may not be modified or withdrawn unless written modification or written withdrawal request is received by the RD prior to the Bid Submission Deadline specified above. Bid Opening Time will be 9 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, 1996, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana. All bids must be submitted and will be considered in accordance with applicable regulations, including 30 CFR Part 256. The list of restricted joint bidders which applies to this sale appeared in the Federal Register on October 16, 1995, at 60 FR 53642.

(b) In the event a natural disaster (such as widespread flooding) or other occurrence causes the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office to be closed on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, bids will be accepted until 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 24, 1996, at the site of bid opening specified above. Under these conditions, bids may be modified or withdrawn upon written notification up until 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 24, 1996. Closure of the office may be determined by calling (504) 736-0557 and hearing a recorded message to that effect.

3. Method of Bidding

(a) *Submission of Bids.* A separate signed bid in a sealed envelope labeled "Sealed Bid for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 157, not to be opened until 9 a.m., c.s.t., Wednesday, April 24, 1996" must be submitted for each tract bid upon. The sealed envelope and the bid should contain the following information: the company name, Gulf of Mexico Company Name (GOM Company Number), area number and/or name (abbreviations acceptable), and the block number of the tract bid upon. In addition, the total amount bid to be considered by MMS must be in whole dollar amount. Any cent amount above the whole dollar will be ignored by MMS.

Bidders must submit with each bid $\frac{1}{5}$ th of the cash bonus, in cash or by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check, payable to the order of the U.S. Department of the Interior—Minerals Management Service. For identification purposes, the following information must appear on the check or draft: company name, GOM Company Number, and the area and block bid on (abbreviation acceptable). No bid for less than all of the unleased portion(s) of a block will be considered.

All documents must be executed in conformance with signatory authorizations on file in the Gulf of Mexico regional office. Partnerships also need to submit or have on file a list of signatories authorized to bind the partnership. Bidders submitting joint bids must state on the bid form the proportionate interest of each participating bidder, in percent to a maximum of five decimal places, e.g., 33.33333 percent. Other documents may be required of bidders under 30 CFR 256.46. Bidders are warned against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860 prohibiting unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders.

(b) *Submission of Statement(s) Regarding Certain Geophysical Data.* Each company submitting a bid, or participating as a joint bidder in such a bid, shall submit, prior to the Bid

Submission Deadline specified in paragraph 2 of this Notice, a statement or statements identifying any processed or reprocessed pre and post stack depth migrated geophysical data in their possession or control pertaining to each and every block on which they are participating as a bidder. The existence, extent, type of such data, and identification of specific lines or 3D surveys must be clearly stated. In addition, the statement shall certify that no such data are in their possession for any other blocks on which they participate as a bidder. The statement shall be submitted in an envelope separate from those containing bids and shall be clearly marked; an example of a preferred format for the statement and the envelope is included in the document titled "Trial Procedures for Access to Certain Geophysical Data in the Gulf of Mexico." Only one statement per bidder is required for each sale, but more than one may be submitted if desired, provided that all tracts bid on by that company are covered in the one or more statements.

Paragraph 14(1), *Information to Lessees*, contains additional information pertaining to this requirement.

4. Bidding, Yearly Rental, and Royalty Systems

The following bidding, yearly rental, and royalty systems apply to this sale:

(a) *Bidding Systems*. All bids submitted at this sale must provide for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof.

(b) *Yearly Rental*. All leases awarded on tracts in water depths of 200 meters and greater as depicted on the map "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Central Gulf Of Mexico" provided with this Notice (i.e., tracts in any of the three royalty suspension areas) will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$7.50 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.

All leases awarded on other tracts (i.e., those in water depths of less than 200 meters) will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$5 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.

(c) *Royalty Systems*. After initial production is obtained, leases will provide for a minimum royalty of the amount per acre or fraction thereof as specified as the yearly rental in paragraph 4(b) above, except during periods of royalty suspension as discussed in paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice. The following royalty systems will be used in this sale:

(1) *Leases with a 12½-Percent Royalty*. This royalty rate applies to tracts in water depths of 400 meters or

greater; this area is shown on the Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map applicable to this Notice (see paragraph 13). Leases issued on the tracts offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate of 12½ percent, except during periods of royalty suspension (see paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice).

(2) *Leases with a 16⅔-Percent Royalty*. This royalty rate applies to tracts in water depths of less than 400 meters (see aforementioned map). Leases issued on the tracts offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate of 16⅔ percent, except during periods of royalty suspension for leases in water depths 200 meters or greater (see paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice).

(3) *Royalty Suspension*. In accordance with Public Law 104-58, signed by the President on November 28, 1995, MMS has developed procedures providing for the suspension of royalty payments on production from eligible leases issued as a result of this sale. MMS will allow only one royalty suspension volume per field regardless of the number of eligible leases producing the field. For purposes of this paragraph, an eligible lease is one that: is located in the Gulf of Mexico in water depths 200 meters or deeper; lies wholly west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude; and is offered subject to a royalty suspension volume authorized by statute.

An eligible lease from this sale may receive a royalty suspension volume only if it is in a field where no currently active lease produced oil or gas (other than test production) before November 28, 1995. The following applies only to eligible leases in fields meeting this condition.

(i) The royalty suspension volumes are:

- 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent (mmboe) in 200 to 400 meters of water;
- 52.5 mmboe in 400 to 800 meters of water; and
- 87.5 mmboe in 800 meters of water and greater.

A map titled "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Central Gulf Of Mexico" (March 1996) depicting blocks in which such suspensions may apply is currently available from the MMS GOM Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

(ii) When production first occurs from any of the eligible leases in a field (not including test production), MMS will determine the royalty suspension volume applicable to eligible lease(s) in that field. The determination is based on the royalty suspension volumes and the map specified in paragraph 4(c)(3)(i) above.

(iii) If a new field consists of eligible leases in different water depth categories, the royalty suspension volume associated with the deepest eligible lease applies.

(iv) If an eligible lease is the only eligible lease in a field, royalty is not owed on the production from the lease up to the amount of the applicable royalty suspension volume.

(v) If a field consists of more than one eligible lease, payment of royalties on the eligible leases' initial production is suspended until their cumulative production equals the field's established royalty suspension volume. The royalty suspension volume for each eligible lease is equal to each lease's actual production (or production allocated under an approved unit agreement) until the field's established royalty suspension volume is reached.

(vi) If an eligible lease is added to a field that has an established royalty suspension volume, the field's royalty suspension volume will not change even if the added lease is in deeper water. The additional lease may receive a royalty suspension volume only to the extent of its production before the cumulative production from all eligible leases in the field equals the field's previously established royalty suspension volume.

(vii) If MMS reassigns a well on an eligible lease to another field, the past production from that well will count toward the royalty suspension volume, if any, specified for the new field to which it is assigned. The past production will not be counted toward the suspension volume, if any, from the first field.

(viii) An eligible lease may receive a royalty suspension volume only if the entire lease is west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude. A field that lies on both sides of this meridian will receive a royalty suspension volume only for those eligible leases lying entirely west of the meridian.

(ix) An eligible lease may obtain more than one royalty suspension volume. If a new field is discovered on an eligible lease that already benefits from the royalty suspension volume for another field, production from that new field receives a separate royalty suspension.

(x) A lessee must measure natural gas production subject to the royalty suspension volume as follows: 5.62 thousand cubic feet of natural gas equals one barrel of oil equivalent, as measured fully saturated at 15.025 psi, 60 degrees F.

(xi) In any year during which the arithmetic average of the closing prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange for light sweet crude oil exceeds \$28.00

per barrel, royalties on the production of oil must be paid at the lease stipulated royalty rate (see paragraphs 4(c)(1) and (2) above), and production during such years counts toward the royalty suspension volume.

In any year during which the arithmetic average of the closing prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange for natural gas exceeds \$3.50 per million British thermal units, royalties on the production of natural gas must be paid at the lease stipulated royalty rate (see paragraphs 4(c)(1) and (2) above), and production during such years counts toward the royalty suspension volume.

These prices for oil and natural gas are as of the end of 1994 and must be adjusted for subsequent years by the percentage by which the implicit price deflator for the gross domestic product changed during the preceding calendar year.

(xii) A royalty suspension will continue until the end of the month in which the cumulative production from eligible leases in the field reaches the royalty suspension volume for the field.

Paragraph 14(n), *Information to Lessees*, contains additional information pertaining to royalty suspension matters.

5. Equal Opportunity

The certification required by 41 CFR 60-1.7(b) and Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, on the Compliance Report Certification Form, Form MMS-2033 (June 1985), and the Affirmative Action Representation Form, Form MMS-2032 (June 1985) must be on file in the Gulf of Mexico regional office prior to lease award (see paragraph 14(e)).

6. Bid Opening

Bid opening will begin at the bid opening time stated in paragraph 2. The opening of the bids is for the sole purpose of publicly announcing bids received, and no bids will be accepted or rejected at that time.

7. Deposit of Payment

Any cash, cashier's checks, certified checks, or bank drafts submitted with a bid may be deposited by the Government in an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury during the period the bids are being considered. Such a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

8. Withdrawal of Tracts

The United States reserves the right to withdraw any tract from this sale prior

to issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the tract.

9. Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids

The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In any case, no bid will be accepted, and no lease for any tract will be awarded to any bidder, unless:

(a) The bidder has complied with all requirements of this Notice and applicable regulations;

(b) The bid is the highest legal bid; and

(c) The amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer.

No bonus bid will be considered for acceptance unless it provides for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof. Any bid submitted which does not conform to the requirements of this Notice, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and other applicable regulations may be returned to the person submitting that bid by the RD and not considered for acceptance.

To ensure that the Government receives a fair return for the conveyance of lease rights for this sale, the MMS has modified its two-phased process for bid adequacy determination. The MMS will not automatically accept legal high bids on confirmed and wildcat tracts which receive three or more bids. Such tracts will be evaluated in accordance with the remaining elements of the MMS bid adequacy procedures. A copy of the revised bid adequacy procedures ("Summary of Procedures for Determining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Effective April 1996, with Sale 157") is available from the MMS GOM Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

10. Successful Bidders

The following requirements apply to successful bidders in this sale:

(a) *Lease Issuance*. Each person who has submitted a bid accepted by the authorized officer will be required to execute copies of the lease (Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended), pay the balance of the cash bonus bid along with the first year's annual rental for each lease issued, by electronic funds transfer in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 218.155, and satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR 256, Subpart I, as amended.

Paragraphs 14 (o) and (p), *Information to Lessees*, contain additional information pertaining to this matter.

(b) *Certification Regarding Nonprocurement Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions*.

Each person involved as a bidder in a successful high bid must submit, prior to lease award, a certification that the person is not excluded from participation in primary covered transactions under Federal nonprocurement programs and activities. Persons submitting such certifications should review the requirements of 43 CFR, Part 12, Subpart D, as amended in the Federal Register of June 26, 1995, at 60 CFR 33035.

Copies of the certification form are available from the MMS GOM Regional Office Public Information Unit. See Paragraph 14(a) of this Notice for directions on how to obtain the forms.

11. Leasing Maps and Official Protection Diagrams.

Tracts offered for lease may be located on the following Leasing Maps or Official Protraction Diagrams which may be purchased from the MMS GOM Regional Office Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)):

(a) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Maps—Louisiana Nos. 1 through 12. This is a set of 30 maps which sells for \$32.

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

NH 15-12 Ewing Bank (rev. 12/02/76).
NH 16-4 Mobile (rev. 02/23/93).
NH 16-7 Vioscal Knoll (rev. 12/02/76).
NH 16-10 Mississippi Canyon (rev. 12/02/76).
NG 15-3 Green Canyon (rev. 12/02/76).
NG 15-6 Walker Ridge (rev. 12/02/76).
NG 15-9 (No Name) (rev. 04/27/89).
NG 16-1 Atwater Valley (rev. 11/10/83).
NG 16-4 Lund (rev. 08/22/86).
NG 16-7 (No Name) (rev. 04/27/89).

(c) A complete set of all the above OCS Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams is available on microfiche for \$5.00 per set.

12. Description of the Areas Offered for Bids

(a) Acreage of blocks is shown on Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. Some of these blocks, however, may be partially leased, or transected by administrative lines such as the Federal/State jurisdictional line. Information on the unleased portions of such blocks, including the exact acreage, is included in the following document as a part of this Notice and is currently available from the MMS GOM Regional Office:

Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157—Final—Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease.

(b) Tracts not available for leasing: The areas offered for leasing include all those blocks shown on the OCS Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams listed in paragraph 11(a) and (b), except for those blocks or partial blocks already under lease and those blocks or partial blocks under appeal as listed in the following paragraph. A list of Central Gulf of Mexico tracts currently under active lease is included at the end of this Notice.

Although currently unleased, the following tracts are currently appeal and therefore unavailable for leasing: Main Pass, South and East Addition, Blocks 253 and 254.

Note: Tracts or portions of tracts beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone are offered based upon provisions of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, and could be subject to a continental shelf delimitation agreement between the United States and Mexico.

13. Lease Terms and Stipulations

(a) Leases resulting from this sale will have initial terms as shown on the Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map applicable to this Notice. Copies of the map and lease form are available from the MMS GOM Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)).

(b) The applicability of the stipulations which follow is as shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a) and as supplemented by references in this Notice.

Stipulation No. 1—Topographic Features

(This stipulation will be included in leases located in the areas so indicated in the Biological Stipulation Map Package associated with this Notice which is available from the Gulf of Mexico Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a)).

The banks that cause this stipulation to be applied to blocks of the Central Gulf are:

Bank name	No activity zone defined by isobath (meters)
McGrail Bank	85
Bouma Bank	85
Rezak Bank	85
Sidner Bank	85
Rankin Bank	85
Sackett Bank ²	85
Ewing Bank	85
Diaphus Bank ²	85
Parker Bank	85
Jakkula Bank	85
Sweet Bank ¹	85

Bank name	No activity zone defined by isobath (meters)
Bright Bank	85
Geyer Bank ³	85
MacNeil Bank ³	82
Alderice Bank	80
Fishnet Bank ²	76
29 Fathom Bank	64
Sonnier Bank	55

¹ Only paragraph (a) of the stipulation applies.

² Only paragraphs (a) and (b) apply.

³ Western Gulf of Mexico bank with a portion of its "3-Mile Zone" in the Central Gulf of Mexico.

(a) No activity including structures, drilling rigs, pipelines, or anchoring will be allowed within the listed isobath ("No Activity Zone" as shown in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package) of the banks as listed above.

(b) Operations within the area shown as "1,000-Meter Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom.

(c) Operations within the area shown as "1-Mile Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom. (Where there is a "1-Mile Zone" designated, the "1,000-Meter Zone" in paragraph (b) is not designated.)

(d) Operations within the area shown as "3-Mile Zone" in the aforementioned Biological Stipulation Map Package shall be restricted by shunting all drill cuttings and drilling fluids from development operations to the bottom through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than 10 meters, from the bottom.

Stipulation No. 2—Live Bottoms

(To be included only on leases in the following blocks: Main Pass Area, South and East Addition, Blocks 190, 194, 198, 219–226, 244–266, 276–290; Viosca Knoll, Blocks 473–476, 521, 522, 564, 565, 566, 609, 610, 654, 692–698, 734, 778.)

For the purpose of this stipulation, "live bottom areas" are defined as seagrass communities; or those areas which contain biological assemblages

consisting of such sessile invertebrates as sea fans, sea whips, hydroids, anemones, ascidians, sponges, bryozoans, or corals living upon and attached to naturally occurring hard or rocky formations with rough, broken, or smooth topography; or areas whose lithotope favors the accumulation of turtles, fishes, and other fauna.

Prior to any drilling activities or the construction or placement of any structure for exploration or development on this lease, including, but not limited to, anchoring, well drilling, and pipeline and platform placement, the lessee will submit to the Regional Director (RD) a live bottom survey report containing a bathymetry map prepared utilizing remote sensing techniques. The bathymetry map shall be prepared for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of live bottoms which could be impacted by the proposed activity. This map shall encompass such an area of the seafloor where surface disturbing activities, including anchoring, may occur.

It is determined that the live bottoms might be adversely impacted by the proposed activity, the RD will require the lessee to undertake any measure deemed economically, environmentally, and technically feasible to protect the pinnacle area. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) the relocation of operations; and

(b) the monitoring to assess the impact of the activity on the live bottoms.

Stipulation No. 3—Military Areas

(This stipulation will be included in leases located within the Warning Areas and Eglin Water Test Areas 1 and 3, as shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a)).

(a) *Hold and Save Harmless*. Whether compensation for such damage or injury might be due under a theory of strict or absolute liability or otherwise, the lessee assumes all risks of damage or injury to persons or property, which occur in, on, or above the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), to any persons or to any property of any person or persons who are agents, employees, or invitees of the lessee, its agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors doing business with the lessee in connection with any activities being performed by the lessee in, on, or above the OCS, if such injury or damage to such person or property occurs by reason of the activities of any agency of the United States Government, its contractors or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents or employees, being conducted as a part of, or in connection

with, the programs and activities of the command headquarters listed in the following table.

Notwithstanding any limitation of the lessee's liability in Section 14 of the lease, the lessee assumes this risk whether such injury or damage is caused in whole or in part by any act or omission, regardless of negligence or fault, of the United States, its contractors or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents, or employees. The lessee further agrees to indemnify and save harmless the United States against all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by the lessee, or to indemnify and save harmless the United States against all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by the agents, employees, or invitees of the lessee, its agents, or any independent contractors or subcontractors doing business with the lessee in connection with the programs and activities of the aforementioned military installation, whether the same be caused in whole or in part by the negligence or fault of the United States, its contractors, or subcontractors, or any of its officers, agents, or employees and whether such claims might be sustained under a theory of strict or absolute liability or otherwise.

(b) *Electromagnetic Emissions.* The lessee agrees to control its own electromagnetic emissions and those of its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors emanating from individual designated defense warning areas in accordance with requirements specified by the commander of the command headquarters listed in the following table to the degree necessary to prevent damage to, or unacceptable interference with, Department of Defense flight, testing, or operational activities, conducted within individual designated warning areas. Necessary monitoring control, and coordination with the lessee, its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors, will be effected by the commander of the appropriate onshore military installation conducting operations in the particular warning area; provided, however, that control of such electromagnetic emissions shall in no instance prohibit all manner of electromagnetic communication during any period of time between a lessee, its agents, employees, invitees, independent contractors or subcontractors and onshore facilities.

(c) *Operational.* The lessee, when operating or causing to be operated on its behalf, boat, ship, or aircraft traffic into the individual designated warning areas shall enter into an agreement with

the commander of the individual command headquarters listed in the following list, upon utilizing an individual designated warning area prior to commencing such traffic. Such an agreement will provide for positive control of boats, ships, and aircraft operating into the warning areas at all times.

W-155A and B (For Agreement)—Chief, Naval Air Training, Naval Air Station, Office No. 206, Corpus Christi, Texas 78419-5100, Telephone: (512) 939-3862/2621

W-155A and B (For Operational Control)—Fleet Area Control & Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC), Operations, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida 32508, Telephone: (904) 452-2735/4671

W-92—Naval Air Station, Air Operations Department, Air Traffic Division/Code 52, New Orleans, Louisiana 70146-5000, Telephone: (504) 393-3100/3101

W-453—Air National Guard—CRTC, Gulfport/ACMI, Scheduling Office, Gulfport, Mississippi 39507, Telephone: (601) 867-2433

Eglin Water Test Areas 1 and 3—Air Force Development Test Center, Strategic Plans Division AFDTC/DRP, 101 West "D" Avenue, Suite 125, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542-5495, Telephone: (904) 882-3899/4188

14. Information to Lessees

(a) *Supplemental Documents.* For copies of the various documents identified as available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, prospective bidders should contact the Public Information Unit, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, either in writing or by telephone at (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF. For additional information, contact the Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Environment at that address or by telephone at (504) 736-2759.

(b) *Navigation Safety.* Operations on some of the blocks offered by lease may be restricted by designation of fairways, precautionary zones, anchorages, safety zones, or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended, and the Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. 1501-1524). Bidders are advised to review U.S. Coast Guard regulations (particularly 33 CFR Part 150, Appendix A; see also 59 FR 17480 published on April 13, 1994) regarding the safety zone around the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permits are required for construction of any artificial islands, installations, and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed located on the OCS in accordance with section 4(e) of the OCS Lands Act, as amended.

For additional information, prospective bidders should contact Lt. Commander Ken Parris, Assistant Marine Port Safety Officer, 8th Coast Guard District, Hale Boggs Federal Building, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 589-6901. For COE information, prospective bidders should contact Mr. Ron Ventola CELMN-OD-S, Post Office Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267, (504) 862-2255.

(c) *Offshore Pipelines.* Bidders are advised that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Transportation have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, dated May 6, 1976, concerning the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of offshore pipelines. Bidders should consult both Departments for regulations applicable to offshore pipelines.

(d) *8-Year Leases.* Bidders are advised that any lease issued for a term of 8 years will be cancelled shortly after the end of the fifth year, following notice pursuant to the OCS Lands Act, as amended, if within the initial 5-year period of the lease, the drilling of an exploratory well has not been initiated; or if initiated, the well has not been drilled in conformance with the approved exploration plan criteria; or if there is not a suspension of operations in effect. Furthermore, a rental payment for the sixth year will be due despite the cancellation. Bidders are referred to 30 CFR 256.37 and the MMS GOM Region's Letter to Lessees and Operators of February 13, 1995.

(e) *Affirmative Action.* Revision of Department of Labor regulations on affirmative action requirements for Government contractors (including lessees) has been deferred, pending review of those regulations (see Federal Register of August 25, 1981, at 46 FR 42865 and 42968). Should changes become effective at any time before the issuance of leases resulting from this sale, section 18 of the lease form (Form MMS-2005, March 1986), would be deleted from leases resulting from this sale. In addition, existing stocks of the affirmative action forms described in paragraph 5 of this Notice contain language that would be superseded by the revised regulations at 41 CFR 60-1.5(a)(1) and 60-1.7(a)(1). Submission of Form MMS-2032 (June 1985) and Form MMS-2033 (June 1985) will not

invalidate an otherwise acceptable bid, and the revised regulations' requirements will be deemed to be part of the existing affirmative action forms.

(f) *Ordnance Disposal Areas*. Bidders are cautioned as to the existence of two inactive ordnance disposal areas in the Mississippi Canyon area, shown on the map described in paragraph 13(a). These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown quantity and composition. Water depths range from approximately 750 to 1,525 meters. Bottom sediments in both areas are soft, consisting of silty clays. Exploration and development activities in these areas require precautions commensurate with the potential hazards.

The U.S. Air Force has released an indeterminable amount of unexploded ordnance throughout Eglin Water Test Areas 1 and 3. The exact location of the unexploded ordnance is unknown, and lessees are advised that all lease blocks included in this sale within these water test areas should be considered potentially hazardous to drilling and platform and pipeline placement.

(g) *Communications Towers*. The Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, has installed seven military communications towers in the Chandeleur/Mobile/Viosca Knoll area which support Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI). This project may impose certain restrictions on oil and gas activities in that area since no activity can take place within 500 feet of a tower site, and unobstructed lines of sight must be maintained between towers. The seven towers are located within Mobile, Blocks 769, 819, and 990; Viosca Knoll, Block 116; Chandeleur Area, Blocks 33 and 61; and Chandeleur Area, East Addition, Block 39. Information and maps of the specific locations and line of sight crossings for ACMI towers may be obtained from Mr. Wallace Williams, Minerals Management Service, (504) 736-2772.

(h) *Archaeological Resources*. Bidders are advised that a Final Rule regarding archaeological resources was published in the Federal Register on October 21, 1994 (59 FR 53091), granting specific authority to each MMS Regional Director to require archaeological surveys and reports (under 30 CFR 250, 256, 260, and 281) and the submission of these reports to the Regional Director prior to exploration, development and production, or installation of lease-term or right-of-way pipelines. MMS Notice to Lessees (NTL) 91-02 (Outer Continental Shelf Archaeological Resources Requirements for the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region) published in the Federal Register on December 20, 1991 (56 FR 66076) effective February 17,

1992, specifies survey methodology, linespacing, and archaeological report writing requirements for lessees and operators in the Gulf of Mexico Region.

Two additional documents are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)):

"List of Lease Blocks Within The High-Probability Area For Historic Period Shipwrecks On The OCS" dated January 30, 1995. This list supersedes the list promulgated by the MMS Letter to Lessees (LTL) of November 30, 1990.

"List of Lease Blocks Within The High-Probability Area For Pre-Historic Archaeological Resources On The OCS" dated January 30, 1995.

Implementation of this Final Rule and NTL 91-02 obviates the need for the Protection of Archaeological Resources Stipulation required in previous leases.

(i) *Proposed Rigs to Reefs*. Bidders are advised that there are OCS artificial reef sites and planning sites for the Gulf of Mexico. These are generally located in water depths of less than 200 meters. While all existing and proposed sites require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this "Rigs to Reefs" program is implemented through State sponsorship through the following State Coordinators:

Alabama Mr. Walter M. Tatum, (205) 968-7577

Louisiana Mr. Rick Kasprzac, (504) 765-2375
Mississippi Mr. Mike Buchanan, (601) 385-5860

Texas Ms. Jan Coulbertson, (713) 474-2811

For more information on artificial reef sites, prospective bidders should contact the above listed State Artificial Reef Coordinators for their areas of interest.

(j) *Right of Use and Easement for Chandeleur Blocks 27 and 30*. Bidders are advised that a right of use and easement has been granted for portions of Chandeleur Area Blocks 27 and 30 for gas storage purposes. The area is generally on the southernmost quarter of the federal portion of Chandeleur Area, Block 27 and the W¹/₂ NW¹/₄; NW¹/₄ SW¹/₄ portion of Chandeleur Area, Block 30. For additional information, contact the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Supervisor for Production and Development at (504) 736-2675.

(k) *Proposed Lightering Zones*. Bidders are advised that the U.S. Coast Guard has proposed designating certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico (60 FR 1958 of January 5, 1995), as lightering zones for the purpose of permitting single hull vessels to off-load oil within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Such designation may have implications for oil and gas operations in the areas. Additional information may be obtained

from Lieutenant Commander Stephen Kantz, Project Manager, Oil Pollution Act (OPA 90) Staff, at (202) 267-6740.

(l) *Statement Regarding Certain Geophysical Data*. Pursuant to Sections 18 and 26 of the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder, MMS has a right of access to certain geophysical data and information obtained or developed as a result of operations on the OCS. MMS is sensitive to the concerns expressed by industry regarding the confidentiality of individual company work products and client lists and the potential burden of responding to a myriad of requests from MMS pertaining to the existence and availability of these types of reprocessed geophysical data. To resolve the concerns of both industry and MMS with respect to such cases, MMS has worked with industry to develop the requirements contained within paragraph 3(b) *Method of Bidding* above. MMS is modifying the previous procedure to require that bidders who are in possession of the requested data, now identify the specific data by line name or 3D phase. This will help MMS in identifying time data that may already be in our data base and at the same time not impose undue burden on industry by rerequesting it. These requirements are being imposed on a trial basis to determine their effectiveness and are subject to modification in future sales.

The details of this requirement are specified in the document "Trial Procedures for Access to Certain Geophysical Data in the Gulf of Mexico," which is provided in this Sale Notice package and which is available upon request from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)). In brief, these requirements include:

(1) In the period for ninety (90) days after the sale, bidders will allow MMS to inspect such data within seven (7) days of a written request from MMS, and upon further written request will transmit to MMS, within ten (10) working days, such data. After this ninety day period, a response time of thirty (30) days following an MMS written request will be considered adequate.

(2) Successful bidders must retain such data for three (3) years after the sale, and unsuccessful bidders must retain such data for six (6) months after the sale, for possible acquisition by MMS.

For the six (6) month period after the sale, based on a review of the allowable cost of data reproduction to MMS for three-dimensional and two-dimensional data sets, the company providing the

reprocessed data will be reimbursed at a rate of \$480 per block or part thereof for three-dimensional data and \$2 per line mile for two-dimensional data. Afterwards, reimbursement will be subject to the terms and conditions of 30 CFR 251.13(a).

All geophysical data and information obtained and reviewed by MMS pursuant to these procedures shall be held in the strictest confidence and treated as proprietary in accordance with the applicable terms of 30 CFR 251.14.

For additional information, contact the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office of Resource Evaluation at (504) 736-2720.

(m) *Information about Indicated Hydrocarbons.* Bidders are advised that MMS makes available, about 3 months prior to a lease sale, a list of unleased tracts having well bores with indicated hydrocarbons. Basic information relating to production, well bores, and pay range for each tract is included in the list. The list is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Unit (see paragraph 14(a)).

(n) *Royalty Relief.* The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Deep Water Royalty Relief Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to offer certain deepwater OCS tracts in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico for lease with suspension of royalties for a volume, value, or period of production the Secretary determines. On or near the date of this Final Notice of Sale 157, an interim rule has been published in the Federal Register that specifies the royalty suspension terms under which the Secretary will make tracts available for this sale. Bidders are advised to review that document for additional details on this matter. For further information, bidders may contact Walter Cruickshank of the MMS Offshore Minerals Analysis Division at (202) 208-3822.

A map titled "Royalty Suspension Areas For The Central Gulf of Mexico" depicting blocks in which such suspensions may apply is currently available from the MMS GOM Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

The publication "OCS Operations Field Names Master List" depicts currently established fields in the Gulf of Mexico. This document is updated monthly and reprinted quarterly. Copies may be obtained from the MMS GOM Regional Office (see paragraph 14(a) of this Notice).

(o) *Lease Instrument.* Bidders are advised that the lease instrument will include royalty relief provisions (paragraph 4(c)(3) of this Notice) and 8-

year lease cancellation provisions (paragraph 14(d) of this Notice) where applicable. Leases will continue to be issued on Form MMS-2005 (March 1986) as amended.

(p) *Electronic Funds Transfer.* Bidders are advised that the 4/5ths and first year rental EFT instructions for lease payoff have been revised and updated by MMS Royalty Management. Companies may now use either the Fedwire Deposit System or the Automated Clearing House (overnight payments). See paragraph 10(a) of this Notice.

Approved: March 18, 1996.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

Central Gulf of Mexico Leased Lands

March 11, 1996

Descriptions of blocks listed represent all Federal acreage leased unless otherwise noted.

Sabine Pass

3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16

West Cameron

17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44 (Seaward of 8(g) line), 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, (S $\frac{1}{2}$), 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$), 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 128, 130, 131, 132 (S $\frac{1}{2}$), 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 149, 150, 151, 153, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 186, 187, 188, 192, 193, 194, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 206, 212, 213, 215, 216, 221, 222, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229, 231, 236, 237, 238, 240, 241, 242, 244, 245, 247, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 256, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 269, 270, 275, 276, 277, 279, 280, 281, 282, 284, 285

West Cameron, West Addition

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617, 618, 620, 624, 625, 628, 630, 631, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 642, 643, 645, 648, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 663

East Cameron

2, 9, 11 (Landward of 8(g) line), 14 (E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; NE $\frac{1}{4}$) and (Landward of 8(g) Line), 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 95, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126, 129, 131, 132, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 143, 145, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 155, 157, 158, 160, 161, 169, 170, 171, 172, 176, 178, 179, 182, 184, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195 (S $\frac{1}{2}$), 199, 200, 201, 203, 204 (N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$), 205, 213, 214, 215, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 226, 227, 228, 229, 231, 234, 235

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Vermilion

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Vermilion, South Addition

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South Marsh Island

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South Marsh Island, South Addition

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Bay Marchand

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Grand Isle

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Mobile

778, 779, 819, 820, 822, 823, 824, 826, 827, 828, 830, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 874, 902, 904, 905, 907, 908, 909, 911, (N1/2), 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 944, 945, 947, 948, 949, 952, 953, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 987, 988, 990, 991, 992, 993, 1004, 1005, 1006

Viosca Knoll

20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 68, 69, 71, 72, 74, 76, 77, 80, 109, 110, 111, 116, 117, 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 124, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 213, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 300, 340, 341, 345, 346, 388, 389, 390, 427, 428, 429, 430, 434, 474, 518, 519, 520, 564, 565, 609, 692, 693, 694, 695, 697, 698, 734, 736, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 772, 773, 774, 779, 780, 782, 783, 784, 786, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 829, 830, 861, 862, 864, 865, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 898, 900, 901, 908, 909, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 940, 942, 944, 948, 949, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 993, 994, 997, 999, 1002, 1003, 1004

Ewing Bank

305, 306, 347, 438, 525, 570, 658, 785, 788, 826, 829, 830, 867, 869, 871, 873, 874, 876, 877, 878, 879, 903, 908, 910, 911, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 921, 938, 944, 946, 947, 948, 949, 954, 955, 958, 959, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 985, 986, 988, 989, 990, 991, 995, 996, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1010, 1011

Mississippi Canyon

20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 108, 109, 113, 114, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 148, 149, 150, 151, 161, 162, 163, 164, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 172, 173, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 204, 205, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 235, 236, 240, 247, 248, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 267, 268, 278, 280, 281, 291, 292, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 305, 311, 312, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 335, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 362, 365, 378, 383, 384, 385, 386, 388, 392, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 436, 437, 441, 444, 445, 447, 461, 462, 470, 471, 472, 474, 475, 476, 478, 480, 481, 485, 486, 487, 489, 490, 495, 496, 502, 503, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 514, 515, 516, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 524, 529, 530, 533, 539, 544, 545, 546, 550, 551, 553, 554, 555, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 568, 574, 575, 576, 577, 584, 585, 589, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 612, 613, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 624, 627, 628, 630, 632, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 643, 648, 652, 653, 654, 656, 657, 661, 663, 664, 666, 667, 668, 669, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 682, 686, 687, 688, 694, 695, 697, 698, 705, 707, 710, 711, 713, 714, 716, 717, 718, 720, 721, 724, 725, 726, 727, 730, 731, 732, 734, 736, 738, 739, 749, 751, 752, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 768, 769, 770, 771, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 802, 803, 804, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 828, 829, 831, 832, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 864, 868, 875, 876, 884, 886, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 911, 912, 925, 928, 931, 932, 934, 935, 938, 939, 942, 944, 945, 948, 955, 956, 969, 970, 971, 972, 976, 977, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 992, 993, 994, 999, 1000

Green Canyon

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 45, 46, 50, 52, 53, 54, 58, 60, 64, 65, 69, 72, 73, 75, 77, 82, 83, 89, 90, 92, 96, 97, 98, 99, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 125, 126, 133, 136, 137, 140, 141, 142, 143, 145, 146, 148, 152, 153, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 165, 166, 169, 170, 171, 180, 181, 184, 185, 192, 192, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 208, 209, 210, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 224, 225, 228, 235, 236, 237, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 257, 258, 268, 269, 274, 287, 294, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 309, 317, 318, 325, 326, 331, 334, 335, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 353, 354, 355, 356, 368, 369, 372,

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Atwater Valley

1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 90, 91, 92, 93, 98, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 127, 135, 136, 137, 141, 142, 143, 145, 146, 150, 151, 152, 153, 157, 158, 160, 161, 163, 177, 180, 181, 182, 189, 190, 209, 210, 211, 223, 224, 225, 226, 233, 234, 268, 276, 277, 284, 302, 312, 313, 321, 327, 334, 345, 346, 370, 371, 377, 378, 379, 406, 407, 408, 410, 415, 428, 429, 441, 445, 446, 454, 455, 472, 473, 489, 490, 491, 531, 534, 573, 574, 575, 576, 617, 618

Walker Ridge

120, 121, 164, 197, 198, 678, 723, 766

[FR Doc. 96-7132 Filed 3-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

National Park Service**Notice of Availability of the Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for South Side Denali, Alaska**

AGENCIES: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for South Side Denali, Alaska.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service announces the availability of a Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (DCP/ EIS) for South Side Denali, Alaska. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and two action alternatives for visitor facilities and services on the south side. A no action alternative also is evaluated. This notice announces the dates and locations of public hearings to solicit comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS.

DATES: Comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS must be received no later than

May 21, 1996. Hearing dates, times, and locations are listed under Supplementary Information, below.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS should be submitted to the Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755. Copies of the Revised Draft South Side Denali DCP/ EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Swanton, Park Planner, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 257-2651 Fax: (907) 257-2485.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, as lead federal agency, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Denali Borough, has prepared a DCP/EIS for proposed visitor facilities and services on the south side of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Information meetings and public hearings are scheduled in Alaska on the dates and at the times and locations indicated below.

- April 16—Fairbanks, John A. Carlson Center, Pioneer Room, 2010 Second Avenue. Information meeting (5:30–6:30 p.m.); Hearing (6:30–8:30 p.m.)
- April 17—Healy, Tri-Valley Community Center, Windjammer Room, First Floor. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 18—Cantwell, Community Hall. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 23—Trapper Creek, Trapper Creek Elementary School, Mile 2.5 Petersville Road. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 24—Talkeetna, Talkeetna Elementary School, Mile 14 Talkeetna Spur Road. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 25—Anchorage, William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center, Board Room, Second Floor, 555 West Fifth Avenue. Information meeting (5:30–6:30 p.m.); Hearing (6:30–8:30 p.m.)

The first hour of each meeting will be a discussion session. Representatives of the South Side Denali Cooperative Planning Team will be available to answer questions and hear your comments in a more informal setting. The rest of the meeting will be a public hearing; a brief introduction by the planning team will be followed by public testimony on the plan.

The revised draft DCP/EIS represents a cooperative planning effort that builds