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MMS Issues Request for Information for Next Beaufort Sea Sale

On December 16, 2003, the Minerals Management Service issued a Request for Information for a proposed federal Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas lease sale, OCS Lease Sale 195. MMS is seeking comment on whether any significant new information has become available since it completed last February's multi-sale EIS which covered three sales in the Beaufort Sea. Sale 195 is the second of three sales scheduled in the current MMS 5-Year Program for the Beaufort Sea OCS. Sale 186, the first sale was held in September 2003. Sale 195 is proposed for March 2005.

This is the first step in a 15-month process. MMS will prepare an environmental assessment for the proposed sale to address any new information or concerns which may have developed since the multi-sale EIS was published. Upon its completion, MMS will release the Environmental Assessment for public comment in August 2004. A Proposed Notice of Sale which outlines the proposed sale area, mitigating measures, and stipulations is scheduled to be released in October 2004, and a Final Notice of Sale which outlines the final terms of the sale In February 2005

Copies of this Request are available from the Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 949 East 36th Avenue and on the internet at www.mms.gov/Alaska. For more information, call Robin Cacy at 907-271-6070 or toll-free at 1-800-764-2627.

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