

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 Western Gulf of Mexico (Sale 171) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The 12½-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.

b. (iii) *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-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 Western Gulf of Mexico (Sale 171) 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 12½-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 "Lease Terms, Bidding Systems, and Royalty Suspension Areas, Sale 171" map for Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 171. This map is available from the Public Information Unit, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Cynthia L. Quarterman,
Director, Minerals Management Service.

Approved:

Bob Armstrong,
Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 98-22800 Filed 8-24-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico; Notice Regarding Sale 171

On August 17, 1998, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) became aware that the routine Notice of Leasing Systems for Sale 171, Western Gulf of Mexico, printed in full below, was not published in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 1998. The leasing systems in this Notice are specified in the Sale 171 Notice of Sale which MMS published in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 1998. The Sale 171 Notice of Sale identified the bidding systems used in the sale and identified the blocks offered under each system. This Notice of Leasing Systems states again the leasing and bidding terms and the reasons for selection of the specific bidding systems. These bidding systems and the reasons for their selection are the same as those published for each Gulf of Mexico OCS lease sale since Sale 157, held in April 1996 (See 61 FR 12086, March 25, 1996). The MMS sent this Notice of Leasing Systems to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate on July 20, 1998.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

Carolita U. Kallaur,
Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 98-22801 Filed 8-24-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Statements; Notice of Intent: Natchez Trace Parkway

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Amendment to Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Old Agency Road, Natchez Trace Parkway.

SUMMARY: On August 3, 1998, the National Park Service published a Notice of Intent to initiate a supplemental environmental impact analysis process for the construction of

a segment of the Natchez Trace Parkway motor road which would affect a portion of Old Agency Road in the city of Ridgeland, Mississippi. This notice serves to amend the scope of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement analysis area to the 0.5 mile segment of the proposed Parkway motor road associated with Old Agency Road.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jerry Belson, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 1924 Building, 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: August 18, 1998.

Daniel W. Brown,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 98-22722 Filed 8-24-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Director's Order #77.1: Wetland Protection and Draft Procedural Manual #77.1: Wetland Protection

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is converting and updating its current system of internal instructions. When these documents contain new policy or procedural requirements that may affect parties outside the NPS, this information is being made available for public review and comment. Draft Director's Order #77.1: Wetland Protection revises NPS policies, standards, and requirements for implementing Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands. Draft Procedural Manual #77.1: Wetland Protection establishes procedures for implementing the Director's Order. These documents update, streamline, and clarify existing NPS wetland protection policies and procedures for implementing the Executive Order, which were originally published in 1980 as part of the NPS Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection Guidelines (45 FR 35916, minor revisions in 47 FR 36718).

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before September 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Draft Director's Order #77.1: Wetland Protection and draft Procedural Manual #77.1: Wetland Protection are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nps.gov/refdesk/DOrders/index.htm> Requests for copies and written comments should be sent to: Joel Wagner, National Park Service,