



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 3 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein:

The Conference Report accompanying the FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act directed the Minerals Management Service (MMS) "to conduct a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential significant environmental effects of multiple geological and geophysical activities in the Atlantic OCS and provide a detailed timeline for completion of the PEIS no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act."

This letter transmits the detailed timeline requested in accordance with the arrangements and understanding the Department of the Interior has with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate; the Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives; and the Honorable Mike Simpson, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

Enclosure



Minerals Management Service Atlantic Geological and Geophysical Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Timeline

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Begin Scheduling Public Scoping Meetings	January 28, 2010
Federal Register Notice Published Opening 45-Day Public Comment Period for Scoping and Announcing Scoping Meeting Locations	March 15, 2010
Scoping Meetings Held	April 7 – April 23, 2010
45-Day Public Comment Period for Scoping Ends; Begin Preparing Draft PEIS and Biological Assessment for Endangered Species Act Consultation	April 30, 2010
Endangered Species Act Consultation Initiated	August 2, 2010
Endangered Species Act Consultation Completed	January 7, 2011
Draft PEIS Completed	July 15, 2011
Initiate 60-Day Public Comment Period for Draft PEIS and Begin Essential Fish Habitat Consultation	September 1, 2011
Public Meetings to Solicit Comments on Draft PEIS	September 15 – October 5, 2011
60-Day Public Comment Period Ends	October 31, 2011
Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Completed	January 11, 2012
Final PEIS Completed	February 1, 2012
Record of Decision Issued	April 13, 2012