



Minerals Management Service

People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy

News Release

Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2009

News Media Contact:

Eileen Angelico, (504) 736-2595
Caryl Fagot, (504) 736-2590

MMS Hosting Public Workshop on Offshore Renewable Energy Rules in Savannah, Georgia

Offshore Renewable Energy regulations become effective June 29, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS), the agency charged with regulating renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), is hosting a public workshop to discuss the newly-issued framework which becomes effective June 29, 2009.

The workshop will take place Thursday, June 11 2009 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel, Oglethorpe A&B Rooms, 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31401. The workshop is open to the public and will consist of a presentation on the new regulations and a question and answer session.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 granted MMS the authority to regulate renewable energy development on the OCS. MMS has exclusive jurisdiction with regard to the production, transportation, or transmission of energy from non-hydrokinetic renewable energy projects, including wind and solar. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will have exclusive jurisdiction to issue licenses for the construction and operation of hydrokinetic projects, including wave and current, but companies will be required to first obtain a lease through MMS.

The Final Framework for Renewable Energy Development on the OCS was published in the Federal Register on April 29, 2009. The framework establishes a process for granting leases, easements, and rights-of-way for offshore renewable energy development. The new program also establishes methods for sharing revenues generated from OCS renewable energy projects with adjacent coastal States.

—MMS—

R-09-4007