



U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Alaska OCS Region

News Release

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MMS TO HOLD SCOPING MEETINGS ON ARCTIC SALES

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold scoping meetings for federal offshore oil and gas lease Sale 144/Beaufort Sea, tentatively scheduled for 1996, and Sale 148/Chukchi Sea, tentatively scheduled for 1997.

Scoping meetings for Sale 144 will be held in **Barrow**, on Monday, March 28, 1994, at 7 p.m., in the North Slope Borough Assembly Chambers; in **Kaktovik**, on Tuesday, March 29, 1994, at 7 p.m. in the Kaktovik Community Building; and in **Nuiqsuit**, on Wednesday, March 30, 1994, at 1 p.m. in the Nuiqsuit Community Center.

Meetings for proposed Sale 148 will be held in **Wainwright**, on Tuesday, March 29, 1994, at 7 p.m. in the Wainwright Community Center; **Point Hope**, on Wednesday, March 30, 1994, at 3:30 p.m. in the Point Hope City Hall; and in **Point Lay**, on Wednesday, March 30, 1994, at 8 p.m. in the City Fire Hall.

Scoping meetings are more informal than the public hearings held later on in the pre-sale process. "Scoping" is the process that MMS uses to focus the EIS on the issues and concerns of those people living in the region. Comments received during these meetings help MMS produce a more comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) by identifying areas of special concern, possible alternative locations and protection measures, and additional subjects that may need to be addressed.

In addition to comments received during the meetings, written comments will be accepted until **April 20, 1994**. Send your comments to the Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, Attn: John Schindler, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302. For additional information, please call John Schindler at (907)271-6650.

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