



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Communications**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: February 22, 2000

CONTACT: Nicolette Humphries
(202) 208-3817

Caryl Fagot
(504) 736-2590

**MMS To Hold Public Meetings To Discuss Whether or Not To Proceed With
An Environmental Impact Study Related to Proposed Commercial Sand and Gravel Sale Offshore
Northern New Jersey**

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has scheduled public meetings next week to gather comments, from both the public and industry, to determine whether or not to proceed with an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) related to a possible commercial sand and gravel lease sale offshore northern New Jersey. The information meetings will be held on February 28, 2000, in the Bradley Beach Borough Hall, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on February 29, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, 1000 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The meetings follow a Request For Information and Interest (RFII) published by MMS in the Federal Register January 10, 2000. The RFII was issued in response to a request from a private company for a sand and gravel commercial lease sale offshore northern New Jersey. Issuance of the RFII does not mean any preliminary decision to lease in this area has been made. Its sole purpose is to determine whether or not to proceed with the EIS. Visit the MMS website at <http://www.boem.gov> for further information on the RFII.

MMS is the Federal agency that manages the Nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the OCS; and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion in yearly revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and American Indian lands.

-MMS-

MMS Internet website address: <http://www.boem.gov>
24 hour Fax-on-Demand Service:(202) 219-1703