Shell Discoverer Air Permit - Beaufort Sea

Summary: EPA seeks public comment from July 6 to August 5 on revised draft Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Prevention of Significant Deterioration air permits for Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc./Shell Offshore Inc. The revised draft permits authorize air emissions from Shell's oil and gas exploration drilling in the Beaufort Sea and the Chukchi Sea. Shell will use the Discoverer 600X and a support fleet for oil and gas exploration drilling beginning in 2012 on the Beaufort Sea OCS, within and beyond 25 miles of Alaska's seaward boundary and on the Chukchi Sea OCS, 25 miles beyond Alaska's seaward boundary, as authorized by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Regulatory Enforcement.

Public Comment Period: Send your written comments by August 5, 2011 to:

Email: ridocca@epa.gov
Mail: Shell Offshore Air Permits
EPA Region 10
1200 8th Avenue, Suite 600, ATM-107
Seattle, WA 98101
Fax: 206-693-0110

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held August 8, 2011 at the Prudhoe Bay Regional Hospital in Barrow, Alaska. Teleconference is available at North Slope Borough teleconference centers.

Information Meeting: 5pm-6:30pm
Public Hearing: 7pm-9pm

EPA will accept comments on the 2011 revised draft air permits for Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc./Shell Offshore Inc. submitted during the public comment period and at the public hearing. Written comments and oral comments can be given at the public hearing in Barrow. All written and oral comments will become part of the public docket. Comments outside of Barrow can be submitted by mail or email. Written comments can also be recorded on tape, disk, or digital audio and submitted by mail or email.

EPA issued final permits to Shell in 2010. The Environmental Appeals Board remanded the 2010 permits to EPA Region 10 for further consideration. EPA is proposing revised draft air permits to address the remand. The Supplemental Statement of Basis supplements the Statement of Basis for the 2010 permits, and addresses the remand and changes requested by Shell, but generally does not address other aspects of the 2010 permits that are unchanged in the 2011 revised draft permits. EPA is proposing public comment only on those parts of the 2011 revised draft permits proposed for revision and the information and analyses supporting those revisions. EPA requests public comments on the revision of the 2011 revised draft permits proposed for revision or the information or analyses supporting those revisions are inappropriate, you may comment on the permits and raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably ascertainable arguments supporting your position by the end of the comment period. Supportive evidence must be included in full, not by reference, unless they are already part of the record for these permits. State or Federal statutes or regulations.

EPA has developed air permits for OCS operations that allow for the sale of air emissions to other facilities or for the sale of air permits. EPA has also developed air permits that allow for the sale of air emissions to other facilities or for the sale of air permits. EPA has also developed air permits that allow for the sale of air emissions to other facilities or for the sale of air permits. EPA has also developed air permits that allow for the sale of air emissions to other facilities or for the sale of air permits.

Shell 2011 Revised Draft Air Permit Documents

- 2011 Shell Discoverer Chukchi Revised Draft Permit (PDF) (81 pp, 672K)
- 2011 Shell Discoverer Beaufort Revised Draft Permit (PDF) (142 pp, 724K)
- 2011 Supplemental Statement of Basis for Shell Discoverer Chukchi and Beaufort Permits (PDF) (70 pp, 842K)
- 2011 Supplemental Application Documents for Shell Discoverer Chukchi and Beaufort Permits

What is the Outer Continental Shelf?
The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) refers to federal submerged lands that lie seaward of the state's jurisdiction (generally three nautical miles from the shore).