#### PRT-805269

Applicant: Dr. Daniel A. Soluk, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect, live-capture, and handle) Hine's Emerald Dragonflies (Somatochlora hineana) in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties, Illinois, for biological research studies aimed at enhancement of propagation or survival of the species.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with Dr. Soluk's application are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056. Telephone: (612/725–3536, x 250); FAX: (612/725–3526).

Dated: August 4, 1995.

### John A. Blankenship,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 95-19920 Filed 8-10-95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## **Minerals Management Service**

Request for Comments on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997–2002

**SUMMARY:** Comments are requested on the Draft Proposed 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997–2002. This is the first proposal for a new program to succeed the current program that expires in July 1997.

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act (43 USC 1344) specifies a multi-step process of consultation and analysis that must be completed before the Secretary of the Interior may approve a new 5-year program. The required steps following this notice include the development of a proposed program, a proposed final program, and Secretarial approval. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) also will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new 5-year program.

**DATES:** Please submit comments and information to MMS on or before October 10, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Respondents should mail comments and information to: 5-Year Program project Director, Minerals Management Service (MS-4430), Room 1324, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070. The MMS will accept hand deliveries at 1849 C Street, NW, Room 4230, Washington, DC. Envelopes or packages should be marked "Comments on the Draft proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997–2002." When submitting any privileged or proprietary information to be treated as confidential, respondents should mark the envelope, "Contains Confidential Information.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol Hartgen, 5-Year Program Project Director, or Tim Redding, Program Decision Document Project Manager, at (703) 787–1216. To order copies of the new Draft Proposed Program decision document and maps or documents describing the current 5-year program for 1992–1997, telephone (703) 787–1216.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMS requests comments from States, local governments, Native groups, tribes, the oil and gas industry, Federal Agencies, environmental and other interest organizations, and all other interested parties to assist in the preparation of a 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for 1997–2002 and applicable EIS.

### **Background**

Management of the Nation's offshore oil and gas resources is governed by the OCS Lands Act, which specifies the conditions under which the Secretary of the Interior grants rights to explore for, develop, and produce those resources. The Secretary has assigned the responsibility for implementing the requirements of the OCS Lands Act to the MMS.

Section 18 of the Act requires the Secretary to prepare an oil and gas leasing program that indicates a 5-year schedule of lease sales that he determines will best meet the Nation's energy needs. Section 18 requires that the 5-year program be prepared in a manner consistent with four main principles: (1) Consideration of economic, social, and environmental values and the potential impact on marine, coastal, and human environments; (2) consideration of diverse environmental, geographical, and equitable regional factors; (3) a proper balance among potential for environmental damage, discovery of oil and gas, and adverse impact on the

coastal zone; and (4) assurance of receiving fair market value. There is no set equation for the weight to be accorded each principle and factor. It is within the Secretary's discretion after taking these matters into consideration to determine how best to proceed.

In addition to the requirements of section 18, the following policy objectives endorsed by the President and the Secretary have been considered in developing the Draft Proposed Program: consensus-based decisionmaking, science-based decisionmaking, and the use of natural gas as an environmentally preferred fuel.

On November 16, 1994, the MMS published a **Federal Register** Notice requesting comments on the preparation of a new 5-year program for 1997–2002. Over 2300 comments were received from affected State and local governments, Alaska Native organizations and communities, federal agencies, environmental and other interest organizations, the oil and gas industry, and the general public. Those comments have been considered in developing the Draft Proposed Program.

### **Moving From Conflict to Consensus**

Preparation of the 5-year Draft proposed Program for 1997–2002 recognizes the need not only to incorporate and consider analyses that were updated from the 1992-1997 program but also to engage in dialogue with the parties that would be most affected by the program. In its 1993 report, Moving beyond Conflict to Consensus, the Subcommittee on OCS Legislation of the OCS Policy Committee, an independent body that advises the Secretary of the Interior, recommended that the Secretary, where local constituents were willing, use regional task forces representing OCS program stakeholders to focus on reaching consensus on OCS lease sales. The OCS Policy Committee also recognized that "overall, the prevailing controversies and the measures used to deal with them have seriously diminished the effectiveness of the federal OCS oil and gas program in helping to meet the Nation's energy needs." This program embraces the advice provided by the OCS Policy Committee and reflects the beginning of a long-term movement from conflict to consensus in the OCS program.

The OCS Policy Committee established an Alaska Regional Stakeholders Task Force consisting of diverse Alaskan constituencies which was a first attempt to reach consensus on recommending to the Secretary the appropriate planning areas to be