extent, and type of such data must be clearly identified. In addition, the statement shall certify that no such data is in their possession for any other blocks on which they participate as a bidder. The statement shall be submitted in an envelope separate from those containing bids and shall be clearly marked; an example of a preferred format for the statement and the envelope is included in the document titled "Trial Procedures for Access to Certain Geophysical Data in the Gulf of Mexico." Only one statement per bidder is required for each sale, but more than one may be submitted if desired, provided that all tracts bid on by that company are covered in the one or more statements.

Paragraph 14(j), *Information to* Lessees, contains additional information

pertaining to this requirement.

4. Bidding, Yearly Rental, and Royalty Systems. The following bidding, yearly rental, and royalty systems apply to this sale:

(a) *Bidding Systems*. All bids submitted at this sale must provide for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof.

(b) Yearly Rental. All leases awarded will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$5 per acre or fraction thereof.(c) Royalty Systems. All leases will

(c) Royalty Systems. All leases will provide for a minimum royalty of \$5 per acre or fraction thereof. The following royalty systems will be used in this sale.

(1) Leases with a 12½-Percent Royalty. This royalty rate applies to blocks in water depths of 400 meters or greater; this area is shown on the Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems map applicable to this Notice (see paragraph 13). Leases issued on the blocks offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate of 12½ percent.

(2) Leases with a 162/3-Percent Royalty. This royalty rate applies to blocks in water depths of less than 400 meters (see aforementioned map). Leases issued on the blocks offered in this area will have a fixed royalty rate

of 162/3 percent.

5. Equal Opportunity. The certification required by 41 CFR 60–1.7(b) and Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, on the Compliance Report Certification Form, Form MMS–2033 (June 1985), and the Affirmative Action Representation Form, Form MMS–2032 (June 1985) must be on file in the Gulf of Mexico regional office prior to lease award (see paragraph 14(e)).

6. Bid Opening. Bid opening will begin at the bid opening time stated in paragraph 2. The opening of the bids is for the sole purpose of publicly

announcing bids received, and no bids will be accepted or rejected at that time. If the Department is prohibited for any reason from opening any bid before midnight on the day of bid opening, that bid will be returned unopened to the bidder as soon thereafter as possible.

7. Deposit of Payment. Any cash, cashier's checks, certified checks, or bank drafts submitted with a bid may be deposited by the Government in an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury during the period the bids are being considered. Such a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

8. Withdrawal of Blocks. The United States reserves the right to withdraw any block from this sale prior to issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the block.

9. Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids. The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In any case, no bid will be accepted, and no lease for any block will be awarded to any bidder, unless:

(a) the bidder has complied with all requirements of this Notice and applicable regulations;

(b) the bid is the highest valid bid;

(c) the amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer.

No bonus bid will be considered for acceptance unless it provides for a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof. Any bid submitted which does not conform to the requirements of this Notice, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and other applicable regulations may be returned to the person submitting that bid by the RD and not considered for acceptance.

10. Successful Bidders. Each person who has submitted a bid accepted by the authorized officer will be required to execute copies of the lease, pay the balance of the cash bonus bid along with the first year's annual rental for each lease issued, by electronic funds transfer in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 218.155, and satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR 256, Subpart I, as amended. See Federal Register at 58 FR 45255, published August 27, 1993.

11. Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. Blocks offered for lease may be located on the following Leasing Maps or Official Protraction Diagrams which may be purchased from the Gulf of Mexico regional office (see paragraph 14(a)):

(a) Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Maps—Texas, Nos. 1 through 8. This is a set of 16 maps which sells for \$18.00.

(b) Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams. These diagrams sell for \$2.00 each.

NG 14–3 Corpus Christi (rev. 01/27/76) NG 14–6 Port Isabel (rev. 01/15/92) NG 15–1 East Breaks (rev. 01/27/76) NG 15–2 Garden Banks (rev. 10/19/81) NG 15–4 Alaminos Canyon (rev. 04/27/89)

NG 15–5 Keathley Canyon (rev. 04/27/89)

NG 15-8 (No Name) (rev. 04/27/89)

12. Description of the Areas Offered for Bids. (a) Acreages of blocks are shown on Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams. Some of these blocks, however, may be partially leased, or transected by administrative lines such as the Federal/State jurisdictional line. Information on the unleased portions of such blocks, including the exact acreage, is included in the following document available from the Gulf of Mexico regional office; this document is also included in the Final Notice of Sale package sent by this office:

Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 155—Final. Unleased Split Blocks and Unleased Acreage of Blocks with Aliquots and Irregular Portions Under Lease.

(b) Blocks which have recently become available for leasing: Attention is drawn to the following update list which is included as a matter of convenience for interested parties. This update list reflects blocks which have become available since the publication of the Preliminary Final Notice of Sale 155. Any questions on this may be directed to Ms. Patricia Bryars, phone (504) 736–2763.

Update List: Matagorda Island Area block 602; Brazos Area blocks 501 and 506; Galveston Area blocks 332, 383, 392, and 393; High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension block A–341; and Garden Banks Area blocks 166, 208, 210, 211, 252, 299, 342, and 381.

(c) Blocks not available for leasing: The areas offered for leasing include all those blocks shown on the OCS Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams listed in paragraph 11 (a) and (b), except for those blocks or partial blocks already under lease and those blocks or partial blocks listed in (1), (2), and (3) below. A list of Western Gulf of Mexico blocks currently under active lease is included at the end of this Notice.

(1) Flower Garden Banks area: No bids will be accepted on the following blocks at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary: High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, blocks A-375 and A-398.

(2) Navy Mine Warfare Training area: No bids will be accepted on the