

Research and Environmental Affairs

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September 8, 2008

Minerals Management Service
Offshore Minerals Management
Regulations and Standards Branch, MS-4024
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Attn: Ms. Maureen Bornholdt

RE: Request for Comments on MMS Proposed Rule on Alternative Energy Activities and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf, 1010-AD30

Dear Ms. Bornholdt:

We are pleased to enclose comments on the Minerals Management Service's ("MMS") proposed rule for alternative energy and alternate use activities ("AEAU") on the Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS"), published in the *Federal Register* on July 9, 2008.¹

Southern Company is interested in the policymaking activities of the MMS and has previously submitted extensive comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") on Alternative Energy Uses on the OCS, which was published in the *Federal Register* on December 30, 2005. Southern Company also submitted comments to the MMS on January 7, 2008 in response to the Interim Policy on offshore alternative energy resource assessment and technology testing activities, which appeared in the *Federal Register* on November 6, 2007. We also submitted comments on the draft lease terms under the Interim Policy on February 12, 2008. We hope that the summary of issues contained herein are useful to MMS in finalizing the rule.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris M. Hobson".

Chris M. Hobson
Senior Vice President

cc: Liz Philpot, Southern Company

¹ 73 *Fed. Reg.* 39,376 (July 9, 2008).