

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ACCESS CONTRACT (#30031)

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FIRM WINS CONTRACT TO PROVIDE RETRIEVAL SYSTEM
FOR OCS ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION(#30031)

The U.S. Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced the award of a \$2.7 million contract to a McLean, Virginia, firm to develop an automated retrieval system for environmental information on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

SETA Corp. of McLean, VA, will develop a computer information system to provide easy public access to more than 4,000 studies and reports on the OCS. The information was collected and prepared as part of MMS's Environmental Studies Program (ESP). SETA is certified by the Small Business Administration as a small, minority-owned business.

The automated, full-text retrieval system will be known as the Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS). "This state-of-the-art system will make information and reports developed through the ESP readily accessible to planners, decision-makers, researchers, universities, industry and the public," Acting MMS Director Carolita Kallaur said.

The ESP has been the primary source of environmental data for offshore oil and gas resource management activities since its inception in 1973. ESPIS is slated to be operational by early in 1997.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty program. MMS is committed to protecting the environment and providing opportunities for the discovery and recovery of offshore energy resources such as natural gas and oil.

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