

MMS AWARDS \$552K TO UNIV OF TX..GEOLOGIC STUDIES(#30043)

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MMS AWARDS \$552,000 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,
COASTAL STATES - FOR GEOLOGIC STUDIES(#30043)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that the University of Texas at Austin will receive \$552,000 in funding to continue a cooperative agreement between MMS, the university, and participating State Geological Surveys. The \$552,000 brings MMS' total funding for the agreement to \$5.1 million over ten years.

"MMS is pleased to continue this cooperative agreement with the University of Texas and coastal states," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "It is an excellent opportunity for us to obtain information on geologic conditions of coastal areas adjacent to natural gas, oil and mineral deposits. This agreement assists us in protecting the environment by better managing federal offshore energy and mineral resources." The studies focus on coastal states' geologic data related to petroleum deposits, the potential extraction of marine minerals and environmental geology.

Individual research projects are conducted by members of the Continental Margins committee of the Association of American State Geologists, an organization comprised of geological agencies from coastal states. Twenty-three coastal states are eligible to participate in the program this year.

The University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology, a member of the Continental Margins Committee, will continue to monitor the overall program. Final products are due by December 31, 1995.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty program. MMS is committed to achieving the appropriate balance between protecting the environment and providing opportunities for the discovery and recovery of critical energy and mineral resources.

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