FUNDING...INDIAN MNRLS COOP PROGRAM(#30046)

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MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCES FUNDING
FOR INDIAN MINERALS COOPERATIVE AUDIT PROGRAM(#30046)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service today announced that it will pay $965,771 to four Indian tribes as reimbursement of auditing costs for participating in the MMS's Cooperative and Delegated Audit Program during Fiscal Year 1994.

Recipient participants include the Navajo Nation ($550,000), the Ute ($156,000), the Southern Ute ($194,771) and the Ute Mountain Ute ($65,000).

The program enables a tribe to join with MMS in providing additional audit coverage of revenues derived from oil, gas and other mineral leases located on its land.

"More than $150 million in mineral revenues were collected from Indian leases last year," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "Sharing resources and information in our working partnership, has increased our auditing coverage and effectiveness. I am pleased that this cooperation continues," he added.

Under provisions of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, the MMS reimburses participating Indian tribes for costs of delegated audits, such as salaries and travel expenses.

Ten states--California, Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming--participate under similar provisions.

The MMS is responsible for the collection, accounting for and disbursement of nearly $4 billion annually in mineral revenues from federal and Indian lands.

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