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MMS ANNOUNCES NEW MISSION,
UNDERSCORING PRESIDENT'S NPR EFFORT

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced a new mission statement, emphasizing its commitment to all MMS customers, the environment, and economic development.

"We made a decision to adjust our goals and objectives," said MMS Director Tom Fry, "based on the direction set by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt who challenged bureaus to reconsider their missions, and employees to rethink their daily operations in order to respond better to our customer needs."

MMS's primary responsibilities are to manage the mineral resources located on the Nation's outer continental shelf (OCS), collect revenue from the Federal OCS and onshore Federal and Indian lands, and distribute those revenues.

"One of President Clinton's National Performance Review (NPR) goals is putting people first, which means for our team, ensuring that MMS provides the highest quality service possible to the American public," Fry said.

"This will require us, first and foremost, to establish and maintain an open dialogue with all potentially affected parties," he said, "and to lend MMS assistance and expertise to environmental protection and economic development when appropriate."

The MMS mission also pronounced a renewed commitment to the following objectives:

- ∅ safe and environmentally-sound exploration and development of our Nation's offshore mineral resources ultimately resulting in an enhanced quality of life for all Americans (i.e. economic development and environmental protection and just compensation for the use of those resources);
- ∅ efficient, timely, and accurate collection and distribution of revenues;
- ∅ dedication to the use of the most current, quality

science and best technology available;

- ∅ equitable treatment of all MMS customers;
- ∅ fulfillment of the MMS Indian trust responsibilities;
- ∅ promotion of natural gas as the environmentally and economically preferred fuel; and
- ∅ provision of expertise and assistance to other Nations who are interested in learning how to work with the private sector in the development of their own natural gas and oil resources in a manner that ensures environmentally sound practices and a fair financial return.

The Offshore Energy and Minerals Management Program administers the OCS competitive leasing program and oversees the safe and environmentally sound exploration and production of our Nation's offshore natural gas, oil and other mineral resources.

The Royalty Management Program meets its responsibilities by ensuring the efficient, timely and accurate collection and disbursement of revenue from mineral leasing and production due to Indian tribes and allottees, States, and the U.S. Treasury.

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