

FOR RELEASE: April 11, 1994 CONTACT: John Barclay
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DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING WINS MMS'S SAFETY EXCELLENCE
AWARD
(#40027)

Officials of the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today awarded its 1993 Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) to Diamond Offshore Drilling.

This is the first year Diamond has won the award, which recognizes the company's safety records, technical procedures and corporate commitment to protection of the environment during offshore natural gas and oil operations.

The SAFE award program, instituted in 1983, recognizes and commends companies that put extra emphasis on operating safely and without pollution. SAFE winners typically emphasize training and motivation for their personnel and take extra steps to enhance safety and environmental protection.

"I'm happy to recognize the strong commitment Diamond has to protection of the ocean environment and to safe offshore natural gas and oil operations," said MMS Director Tom Fry. Fry presented the award on behalf of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "A company earning this award proves that it has made environmental protection and safe operations a kingpin of its corporate ethic," he said.

The award was presented during an awards luncheon of the National Ocean Industries Association annual meeting, held today in Washington, D.C.

MMS selects one operator in each of its 12 Outer Continental Shelf Operational Districts, and selects the national SAFE award winner from those district winners. Criteria include accuracy of record-keeping, equipment maintenance, cooperation with MMS and the utilization of new technology.

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