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MMS WINS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD (#40037)

The U.S. Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has been selected as a winner of the 1994 Federal Environmental Quality award, officials of that agency have learned.

MMS was selected for the honor by the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), which seeks to recognize agencies that have achieved excellence through implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act. MMS is being recognized for successfully integrating environmental values into its agency mission and its commitment to excellence in environmental decision making.

Ray Clark of the President's Council on Environmental Quality will present the award to MMS officials June 14 at NAEP's annual conference in New Orleans, LA.

"This award is further proof that MMS's top-quality team of professionals is committed to the administration's goals of enhancing and safeguarding the environment," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "The mission of MMS is to assure that the strongest protective measures for the marine environment are maintained while the nation's offshore energy resources are responsibly developed."

MMS is the agency which manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and which collects and disburses royalties from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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