

FOR RELEASE: July 14, 1994

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#### MMS HONORED AGAIN FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (#40054)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) was honored today when its Royalty Management Program (RMP) was named a 1994 Quality Improvement Prototype Award Finalist for the second consecutive year.

Vice President Al Gore present the annual awards to recipients at the Seventh Annual National Conference on Federal Quality, in Washington, DC, at luncheon ceremonies.

Jimmy Mayberry, a Deputy Associate Director for the Royalty Management Program, attended the ceremony as MMS' principal representative.

Sponsored by the Federal Quality Institute and the President's Council on Management Improvement, the Award recognizes federal agencies for their efforts toward total quality management.

"As both professionals and tax-paying citizens we are proud to be among the Nation's most progressive federal agencies," said Tom Fry, MMS Director. "Our people work very hard, everyday, to enhance our royalty program through improved systems, streamlines procedures and improved compliance strategies. We're pleased to be recognized for our continuing efforts."

For the second consecutive year MMS was named a finalist and cited for improving its abilities to collect, account for, and disburse mineral revenues. Additionally, in 1991, the Royalty Management Program was presented the President's Council on Management Improvement's Award for Management Excellence.

Operationally based in Denver, Colorado, the RMP is comprised of approximately 700 Federal and 400 contractor employees. Through advanced computer systems, the RMP manages revenues associated with development of mineral resources on Federal and Indian lands. In 1993, those revenues (bonuses, rents, and royalties) amounted to \$4 billion.

Subject: PR-7/14/94 Quality Improvement/MMS Honored Again for  
Quality Improvement (#40054)