



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Office of Public Affairs

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, August 15, 2007

### **MMS Director Randall Luthi to Host Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 204**

**NEW ORLEANS** –The Director of Minerals Management Service, Randall Luthi, will host Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 204 in New Orleans on August 22. He will open the Federal oil and gas lease sale at 9 a.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside with brief remarks. Immediately following the bid reading, he will hold a media availability to discuss the results of the sale.

The annual sale held by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) encompasses 3,338 unleased blocks covering approximately 18 million acres in the Western GOM Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area offshore Texas. The blocks are located in Federal waters from nine to more than 250 miles offshore, in water depths of 13 feet (4 meters) to more than 11,237 feet (3,425 meters). MMS estimates the lease sale could result in the production of 242 to 423 million barrels of oil and 1.64 to 2.64 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

**Who:** Randall Luthi, MMS Director

**What:** Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 204

**When:** Wednesday, August 22, 2007  
9:00 a.m.

**\*Media availability will be held following the reading of the bids, at approximately 11:30 a.m.**

**Where:** The Hilton New Orleans Riverside  
Grand Salon B  
Two Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70140