



**U.S. Department of the Interior
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NEWS RELEASE

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MMS ANNOUNCES 1999 SAFE FINALISTS

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has selected finalists for the 1999 National Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE). The SAFE award recipients are selected from the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas facility operators who have demonstrated superior performance.

The MMS will recognize two categories of operators for production activities: High OCS Activity and Moderate OCS Activity (generally a non-integrated, non-affiliated company). Drilling and Production contractors who have displayed exemplary OCS performance will also be recognized. One winner from each category will be selected.

The 1999 SAFE award finalists are:

High OCS Activity

CNG Producing Company

EOG Resources, Inc.

Kerr-McGee

Ocean Energy, Inc.

OXY USA, Inc.

Drilling Contractor

EnSCO Drilling

Helmerich & Payne Drilling Company

Nabors Offshore Corporation

Moderate OCS Activity

Amerada Hess Corporation

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

British-Borneo USA, Inc.

Forest Oil Corporation

Walter Oil & Gas Corporation

Production Contractor

Baker Energy Corporation

Grasso Production Company

Island Operating Company

"This prestigious award recognizes exemplary company performance, corporate commitment to safety and environmental protection while conducting operations on the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf. All of these finalists deserve recognition for their outstanding safety records and we look forward to announcing the winners in April," said MMS Director Walt Rosenbusch.

The National SAFE award was established by MMS in 1983 to recognize and honor companies that make a concerted effort to train and motivate their employees to conduct offshore operations in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

This year's National SAFE Award winners will be announced at the annual MMS Industry Award Program and Luncheon. The event is being held at the Hotel Sofitel in Houston on April 14, 2000. Reservation information is available on the MMS website at <http://www.mms.gov/awards>. You may also phone Debbie O'Brien at 703-787-1579 or Marcia Oliver at 703-787-1043.

MMS is the Federal agency that manages the Nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects, accounts for and disburses about \$4 billion yearly in revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and American Indian lands.

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.mms.gov>
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