

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE:

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ADDITIONAL VOLUMES OF MMS ROYALTY IN KIND GAS AVAILABLE

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will begin taking its royalty share of natural gas production from leases connected to the Matagorda Offshore Pipeline System beginning August 1, 2000, under its royalty in kind program. The MMS will offer the royalty gas, estimated to be approximately 25 million cubic feet per day, for competitive sale. The sale of the royalty gas will be for a three-month term commencing August 1, 2000 and ending October 31, 2000.

Pre-qualification is required to bid on the gas available for sale. Information on the pre-qualification process can be found on the MMS web site by visiting the following URL:<http://www.mrm.mms.gov/RIKweb/DocumentsDoc/PDF%20Docs/prequal622.PDF> or can be linked through "Hot Issues" on the MMS RIK web page. The Invitation for Bids may be found on the MMS web site at: <http://www.mrm.mms.gov/RIKweb/DocumentsDoc/documents.htm>

Interested bidders can call Karen Bigelow at (303) 275-7411 to determine if they pre-qualify or can become pre-qualified for this sale.

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 in yearly 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>
24 hour Fax-on-Demand Service:(202) 219-1703