



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

NEWS RELEASE

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PREQUALIFICATION FOR PURCHASE OF MMS ROYALTY-IN-KIND GAS SALES

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be marketing natural gas from the Outer Continental Shelf this month under its royalty in kind program. Sales will be made by monthly contracts beginning for April 2000 gas production. MMS will be marketing approximately 40 million cubic feet per day from the Tennessee 500 leg pool and over 10 million cubic feet per day from the Columbia Gas Louisiana pool. Additionally, the MMS will offer about 75 million cubic feet per day in the Blessing Texas area.

Prequalification is required to bid on the gas available for sale. Information on the prequalification can be found on MMS' website at <http://www.mrm.mms.gov/RIKweb/DocumentsDoc/PDF%20Docs/prequal.pdf>. Companies already qualified to purchase gas from the MMS need not qualify again.

Interested bidders may call Greg Smith at 303-275-7102, or Karen Bigelow at 303-275-7411 for further information.

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

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.mms.gov>
24 hour Fax-on-Demand Service:(202) 219-1703