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### COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT EFFORT NETS \$1 BILLION (#40047)

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced that it has now collected more than \$1 billion in royalties through its comprehensive audit program.

"To collect that amount of money over the past 12 years is a notable achievement," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "Through our Royalty Management Program, our comprehensive audit effort found royalties that might otherwise have gone unpaid."

MMS Deputy Associate Director Jimmy Mayberry praised the audit staff. "We have a magnificent crew of auditors. Our audit teams, and that certainly includes the state and tribal auditors who work cooperatively with us, deserve credit for this milestone," said Mayberry. "These people are very talented, hard-working professionals."

Fry explained that a large portion of these collections resulted from the clarification of value resulting from the first round of audits on federal and Indian mineral production which began in 1982.

With more than 80,000 federal and Indian leases, worth \$4 billion in bonuses, rents and royalties last year, the MMS Royalty Management Program (RMP) is responsible for assuring the timely and accurate collection and verification of revenues associated with the Nation's mineral resources.

"We've collected more than \$65 billion in royalties over the past dozen years," declared Fry. "To be successful we rely on both voluntary compliance by payors and sophisticated and dynamic RMP audit and review processes designed to detect underpayments.

"We are dedicated to working with the industry to improve the accuracy of initial payments, thereby reducing reliance on compliance activities," concluded Fry. "That's our program strategy."

-MMS-

Subject: PR/07/06/94 RMP/Comprehensive Audit Effort Nets \$1 Billion  
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