

FOR RELEASE: November 15, 1994      CONTACT: John Barclay  
(202) 208-5890

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICES  
ADD TRAINING PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES (#40088)

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced that day-to-day operation of the agency's Lessee Training Program will be transferred from MMS headquarters to regional offices, effective December 1, 1994.

MMS is the federal agency responsible for managing and regulating the nation's offshore natural gas, oil and other mineral resources. Agency regional offices are located in Anchorage, AK, Camarillo, CA, and New Orleans, LA.

The Lessee Training Program ensures that key operating personnel of lessees and contractors are properly trained in well-control and production safety systems.

"This is another instance of our commitment to re-inventing government," said MMS Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman. "It is logical to place this responsibility in the regions where they are better situated to provide more timely and quality service to our customers.

"Regional staff will review training programs and implementation plans and conduct onsite evaluations and audits, while headquarters staff will remain responsible for program oversight and coordination."

Quarterman said that the move should decrease the project management costs while MMS continues to emphasize the safety of operations and enhance protection of the environment.

-MMS-

Subject: PR-11/15/94 Lessee Training/MMS Regional Office Add  
Training Program Responsibilities (#40088)