

The NewsRoom
Media Advisory
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America's Dependence on Foreign Oil and Gas to Deepen: New Frontiers May Offer Domestic Alternatives Official Says

America has grown increasingly reliant on oil and natural gas to fuel its economy. Today, Gasoline prices are nearly 50% higher than last summer, oil prices are at a 25-year high and natural gas prices have reached sustained high historic levels.

The good news is that a significant portion of the domestic supply to meet America's growing energy needs comes from Federal lands, according to Johnnie Burton, director of the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service.

Last year the underwater lands that MMS manages produced more oil for U.S. consumers than was imported from Saudi Arabia. It also produced more natural gas than was imported from Canada – our number one foreign supplier. Bringing this domestic energy to the southeast region is critical for the growth of the local economy throughout the Eastern seaboard, including Georgia, according to Burton.

Ms. Burton will deliver her energy awareness message, "America's National Energy Policy – Making Choices" June 14 to the Augusta Kiwanis, June 15 to the Warner Robbins Rotary Club, and Jun 16 to the Byron and Macon Rotary Clubs.

Media should call MMS Public Affairs Office at (202) 208-3985 to coordinate coverage or to schedule follow-up interviews.

What: Speech - America's National Energy Policy – Making Choices

When: 12:30 p.m. June 14, 2004

Where: Augusta Kiwanis Club
Richmond Civic Center, Augusta, GA

When: 12:00 p.m. June 15, 2004

Where: Warner Robbins Rotary Club
Wellstone Center (Maple Drive/Watson Boulevard)

When: 7:45 a.m. June 16, 2004

Where: Byron Rotary Club
Jan's Country Kitchen

When: 12:30 p.m. June 16, 2004

Where: Macon Rotary Club
Macon Centerplex (Monument Room)

The Minerals Management Service is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in FY 2003 and more than \$135 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

Relevant Web Sites

[MMS Main Website](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Website](#)

Media Contacts

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[MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America](#)
U.S. Department of the Interior