



**U.S. Department of the Interior
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NEWS RELEASE

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MMS ANNOUNCES 2002 SAFETY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE (SAFE) FINALISTS

Fifteen offshore oil and gas operators have been selected as finalists for the 2002 National Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE). The Minerals Management Service presents the SAFE awards annually to Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas operators who achieve the best safety and pollution prevention performance records.

"These awards recognize a corporate commitment to offshore safety and environmental protection," said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. "We are pleased to recognize this year's SAFE award finalists for their exemplary company performance and we look forward to announcing the winners in April."

The 2002 SAFE finalists are:

High OCS Activity

Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc.

ExxonMobil Corporation

Newfield Exploration Company

Moderate OCS Activity

ATP Oil & Gas Corporation

Bois d'Arc Offshore Ltd.

Hunt Petroleum (AEC) Inc.

Nexen Petroleum

TotalfinaElf E&P USA, Inc.

Westport Resources

Drilling Contractor

ENSCO Offshore Company

Production Contractor

Danos & Curole Marine Contractors, Inc.

Rowan Drilling

Island Operating Company

Transocean Offshore

Wood Group Production Services

MMS established the SAFE awards in 1983 to recognize and honor companies that make a concerted effort to train and motivate their employees to conduct offshore operations in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Each year, OCS oil and gas operators from the high and moderate categories as well as drilling and production contractors are selected as finalists for the award. A company that qualifies under the high activity category produces at least 10 million barrels of oil per year and operates a minimum of 1,000 in-service components during the year. A moderate activity company produces at least one million barrels of oil per year and operates a minimum of 100 in-service components during the year. MMS selects one winner from each category.

The 2002 National SAFE Award winners will be announced at the annual MMS Industry Awards program and luncheon. The event will be held April 29, 2003 at the Westin Galleria hotel in Houston. Registration information is available at www.boem.gov.

MMS 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 leases. These revenues totaled over \$6 billion in 2002 and nearly \$127 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.boem.gov>