

The NewsRoom

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MMS Funds Studies for Hurricane Ivan Impact in the Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS – The Minerals Management Service has awarded six contracts totaling over \$600,000 for studies of the Impact of Hurricane Ivan on the offshore oil and gas structures of the Gulf of Mexico. These studies will analyze and assess the consequential damage to structures and pipelines, determine the effectiveness of current design standards and pollution-prevention systems and develop recommendations for changes to industry standards and MMS regulations, if needed.

Johnnie Burton, Director of the MMS, stated that, "We are very pleased that, in spite of the 140 miles per hour winds of Hurricane Ivan, there was no loss of life and no significant pollution. We attribute this to the well built facilities and the noble efforts to maintain and operate them. However, there is still room to improve. In the wake of this hurricane, 31 platforms were seriously damaged, several were destroyed, and more than ten percent of Gulf of Mexico production was interrupted for at least four months. Studies like these will help MMS continue to ensure that the safe, clean operation of the offshore industry will be able to withstand even hurricanes like Ivan." Projects were awarded competitively, and through cooperative agreements with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station in support of the Offshore Technology Research Center. Burton said, "These studies will address short- and long-term adjustments in MMS's technical, engineering, and geologic standards and regulations to ensure that offshore oil and gas production remains safe, environmentally friendly, and less susceptible to interruption."

Awards Granted

- Texas A&M University, Offshore Technology Research Center, "Assessment of Drilling and Workover Rig Storm Sea Fastenings on Offshore Floating Platforms During Hurricane Ivan"
- Offshore Risk & Technology Consulting, Inc., "Examination and Review MODU Loss of Stationkeeping Ability During Hurricane Ivan and Assess Mooring Standards and Criteria to Prevent Similar Failures"
- Det Norske Veritas, "Pipeline Damage Assessment from Hurricane Ivan in the Gulf of Mexico"
- Energo Engineering, Inc., "Assessment of Fixed Offshore Platform Performance in Hurricanes Ivan, Andrew and Lili"
- Texas A&M University, Offshore Technology Research Center, "Mudflows and Mudslides During Hurricane Ivan"
- William Lettis & Associates, Inc., "A Pilot Study for Regionally-Consistent Hazard Susceptibility Mapping of Submarine Mudslides"

The MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

Relevant Web Sites:

[MMS Main Website](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Website](#)

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