

The NewsRoom

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MMS Working to Restore Gulf of Mexico Energy Resources

Washington, DC -The Gulf of Mexico is of vital importance to American citizens, supplying 29% of the nation's domestic oil production and 19% of the domestic gas production. For this reason, within hours after Katrina moved through, the complex process of energy restoration began in the Gulf. [Hurricane Katrina was an extraordinary storm](#). The conditions under which the industry, the workers, and the government entities are working are unmatched in our history.

"In a tragedy of these proportions, human life takes precedence," said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. "Helicopters, boats and efforts were diverted to provide humanitarian aid to those persons devastated by Hurricane Katrina."

"Nevertheless, the MMS Continuity of Operations, or COOP team, moved to Houston and devoted every waking hour to helping restore energy for America."

The major hindrances to restoration of energy resources have been [damage](#) (40 KB PDF file) to onshore infrastructure, such as refineries, processing plants and pipelines; difficult and intermittent communications in the Gulf region; shortage of helicopters, boats, divers and power. The MMS posted their new location and telephone numbers on the MMS website so industry could provide their damage assessments and restoration plans. As this information is collected from a variety of sources and verified, MMS has posted daily oil and gas shut-in statistics on the website.

At the peak of Hurricane Katrina on August 30th, 95 percent of daily oil production and 88 percent of daily gas production was [shut in](#) (14 KB PDF file). Today those numbers stand at 56.14 percent of oil production (35% of shut-in oil is due to problems with onshore infrastructure), and 34.11 percent of natural gas production.

Solid data on pipeline damage is being continually supplied by the industry and verified, but pipelines are the hardest element to check and [these checks](#) (139 KB PDF file) rely on some of the scarcest resources, such as boats, divers and power. Preliminary reports suggest that Katrina did not cause the same extensive mudslide damage to pipelines as Ivan, but this is still preliminary and subject to information which is changing continually.

Current information will continue to be posted on the Minerals Management Service website as it is collected and verified.

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. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 21 percent of natural gas produced domestically, as well as sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, and contributes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other special use funds, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of about \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982.

- [Select Glossary](#) (240 KB PDF file)
- [Safety Devices: Backgrounder](#) (243 KB PDF file)

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