

## Talking Points

**Johnnie Burton**  
**Director, Minerals Management Service**

- These are amazing times in the Gulf of Mexico.  
We are entering the second decade of sustained expansion of domestic oil and gas development in the deep water area of the Gulf.
- We estimate the deep water regions of the Gulf may contain over 56 billion barrels of oil equivalent. The deep water and ultra deep water fields already contribute about 1 million of the 1.6 million barrels of oil a day produced in Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico, and with the deep water projects like Thunder Horse, this will continue to increase.
- Today's dedication ceremony is particularly good news. It contributes to the President's goal of increasing domestic production of energy and shows what energy companies can do.

- Thunder Horse includes technological innovations that will protect the environment, while providing the energy we need to fuel our daily lives.
- Secretary Norton's environmentalism relies on incentives, innovations, local ideas, scientific information and integrated decisions.
- Secretary Norton is a lifelong conservationist, a dedicated public servant and an advocate for bringing common sense solutions to environmental policy. She was sworn in as the 48<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior in January 2001 and was the first woman to head the 154-year-old department.
- Prior to her election as Attorney General of Colorado, Gale Norton served in Washington, D.C. as Associate Solicitor of the Interior Department, overseeing endangered species and public lands legal issues for the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

- As the Interior Department Secretary, she is directing many of the President's National Energy Policy requirements to promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound domestic production of energy.
- Her leadership has been critical in the comprehensive long-term strategy to produce an integrated energy, environmental and economic policy.
- And now it my pleasure to introduce Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton...

(The Secretary moves to podium)