



NEWS RELEASE

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Sebastian Named to New Post

NEW ORLEANS – The Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Region is pleased to announce that Robert L. Sebastian has assumed the position of Deputy Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Environment. Sebastian served as Leasing Program Manager for the past three years and replaces Rick Defenbaugh, who recently retired after 30 years of government service.

As Deputy, Sebastian will assist the Regional Supervisor in management of a staff of approximately 90 employees engaged in offshore leasing, environmental assessment, and environmental studies, in addition to his responsibilities for overall budget and administration.

"Environmental issues affect the timing of lease sales, lease sale notice provisions, and lease terms and conditions. Coordination of these legal issues is essential to the effective management of the offshore program," Sebastian said.

Sebastian holds a Juris Doctor degree from Louisiana State University and an MBA from Tulane University. Prior to joining MMS, Sebastian worked for Chevron, now ChevronTexaco. He spent seven of the last ten years working abroad, most recently as Contracts and Business Manager for the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in Moscow, Russia.

MMS, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages offshore oil and gas exploration as well as renewable and alternative energy sources such as wind, wave, and solar on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 21 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, and contributes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other special use funds, with Fiscal Year 2005 disbursements of approximately \$9.9 billion and more than \$153 billion since 1982.

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov
Gulf of Mexico Website: www.gomr.mms.gov

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