



NEWS RELEASE

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Participation in MMS “eWell Permitting and Reporting System” Tops 90% New Workshop Scheduled

NEW ORLEANS – After a year and a half of successful operation of the new “eWell Permitting and Reporting System,” with industry participation at 90%, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a workshop to offer additional guidance and insights and allow users to make suggestions to improve the system.

Implemented in 2004, eWell is an Internet-based system designed and built by MMS to perform operational transactions between Outer Continental Shelf operators and MMS District offices. These electronic transactions have in large part replaced the manual system, where operators used written forms developed by MMS and then sent them by mail to the District offices.

“MMS developed eWell to service the offshore oil and gas industry and to provide a more efficient and effective process to develop our nation’s offshore energy resources,” said Regional Director Chris Oynes. Currently, eWell submittals of offshore permits number approximately 90% of the total amount of documents submitted for approval.

Since the initial development of eWell, the MMS has continued to enhance the system with new features. Some of these new enhancements were ideas developed by the MMS, while many others were introduced by the offshore oil and gas operators or were discussed at other workshops. For example, MMS is developing a Continuity of Operations (COOP) system for eWell to protect against lost availability during a hurricane or other unexpected interruption of the Gulf of Mexico computer operations center. Additionally, the MMS is revising the requirements under MMS Form-132, “Hurricane and Tropical Storm Evacuation and Production Curtailment Statistics Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR),” and incorporating them into the eWell system. This should provide the operators with easier access to report their evacuation, lost production figures, and damage incidents following a storm.

The workshop will be given by Mr. Steve Dessausser and Mr. Dave Trocquet of the New Orleans District, along with Mr. Steve Kennedy of the Technical Data Management Section.

Workshop:

<u>Where:</u>	Minerals Management Service 4141 North Sam Houston Parkway East Suite 104 Houston, Texas 77032
<u>Date/Time:</u>	Thursday, March 9, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
<u>Cost:</u>	None
<u>Who should attend:</u>	Offshore oil and gas industry managers, supervisors, information technology and regulatory specialists who are responsible for requesting approvals from MMS or conducting any MMS-regulated business on the OCS. The workshop is open to current users and new applicants.

After the workshop, MMS will assist new applicants in obtaining the proper security information.

Registration Contacts: Because of limited seating, you must sign up for the workshop by contacting one of the following:

Ms. Suzie Winstead at (504) 736-2504 or by E-mail to suzanne.winstead@mms.gov

Ms. Julie Camp at (504) 736-2505 or by E-mail to julie.camp@mms.gov.

Information Contacts: If there are any questions about the subject matter, you may contact:

Mr. Steve Dessausser (504) 736-2508 or by E-mail to steve.dessauser2@mms.gov;

Mr. David Trocquet (504) 736-2506 or by E-mail to david.trocquet@mms.gov, or

Mr. Steve Kennedy at (504) 736-7821 or by E-mail to stephen.kennedy@mms.gov.

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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