



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Public Affairs

For Release: March 2, 2006
Release: 3468

Contact: Nicolette Nye 703-787-1011

MMS Honors Finalists in 2005 National SAFE Competition

WASHINGTON, DC - National finalists have been selected in the 2005 National Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) competition sponsored by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) including sixteen offshore oil and gas operators and contractors. MMS presents the SAFE awards annually to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas operators as well as drilling and production contractors who achieve the best safety and pollution prevention performance records.

The winners of the 2005 SAFE award will be announced at the MMS Industry Awards luncheon on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at the Hotel Intercontinental Houston. Registration information is available by calling Debbie O'Brien at 703-787-1579.

Oil and gas operators selected as SAFE finalists are recognized in two categories -- high activity and moderate activity. A high activity company produces at least 10 million barrels of oil per year and operates a minimum of 1,000 in-service components during the year. Examples of in-service components include: wells, separators, pumps, and processing equipment. A moderate activity company produces at least one million barrels of oil per year and operates a minimum of 100 in-service components during the year. MMS selects one winner from each category.

“The Gulf of Mexico, which supplies 30 percent of our nation’s oil and 21 percent of our gas, and the main area where our SAFE finalists operate. The Gulf region was assaulted by 2 deadly hurricanes and yet there was no significant oil spill offshore,” said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. “Each SAFE finalist should be extremely proud of their commitment to offshore safety and environmental protection.”

The 2005 SAFE finalists are:

High OCS Activity

Chevron USA Inc.
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Newfield Exploration Company
Shell Exploration & Production Co.

Moderate OCS Activity

Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners, LLC
Eni Petroleum Co., Inc.
EOG Resources, Inc.
Marlin Energy, LLC
Nexen Petroleum USA Inc.
Seneca Resources Corp.

Drilling Contractor

ENSCO International, Inc.
Rowan Drilling Company, Inc.
TODCO

Production Contractor

Baker Energy
C&D Production Specialists
Wood Group Production Services, Inc.

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.