



## Minerals Management Service

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **MMS Announces a Project to Provide Support to Texas Coastal Air Quality Study**

#### *Support Will Enhance Gulf Coastal Areas Meteorological/Air Quality Data Analysis and Modeling*

**NEW ORLEANS** –The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has awarded a contract to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to support a major Texas Gulf Coast area air quality study (TexAQS II). The principal focus of the TexAQS II study is to gain better understanding of ozone in the Houston, Galveston, Beaumont, and Port Arthur air pollution non-attainment areas and adjacent coastal regions. MMS funding will be used to support operation of meteorological equipment located on a Gulf of Mexico oil and gas platform.

Specifically, the project provides funding for meteorological data collection using a radar wind profiler and surface meteorological station located on the Shell Brazos (A-19) Gulf of Mexico platform, just off the Texas coast. The meteorological data from this project will be available during the intensive portion of TexAQS II data collection, July - September, 2006. During this period data will also be collected as part of work funded by other agencies using P-3 aircraft and the research vessel *Ron Brown*.

The data from the MMS funded portion of the project, combined with other onshore and offshore data, will have scientific and regulatory uses. The data will be used to explain complex coastal meteorological and air quality dynamics and to provide enhanced understanding of the interaction of onshore and offshore pollutants. The data will be used by Texas and other coastal states, EPA, MMS, FWS, and others to assess impacts from emissions and to address strategies for reducing ozone, fine particulate matter, and regional haze in the non-attainment areas along the Gulf Coast. This project not only provides a vehicle for MMS to support and participate in a major Gulf coastal air quality study (TexAQS II), but to participate in a project that can benefit MMS and all MMS's Gulf Coast partners.

The meteorological data from the radar profiler may be viewed at:  
<http://tceq.sonomatechdata.com/map.aspx> .

Additional information and links regarding the TexAQS II effort can be found at:  
[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/texaqs-files/TexAQS\\_II.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/texaqs-files/TexAQS_II.html)

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