



NEWS RELEASE

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Thirteen Companies Named Finalists in MMS' Annual Safety Awards For Excellence Competition

Thirteen offshore companies who showed outstanding commitment to safety in 2004 are being recognized as finalists in MMS' Safety Awards for Excellence competition.

“Offshore oil and gas activities are being conducted with ever-improving levels of safety, and this year’s SAFE finalists are helping to further raise the standard of safety,” said Johnnie Burton, Director of MMS. “I look forward to honoring the SAFE finalists along with all the MMS Industry Award winners in Houston in April.”

Established in 1983, the annual SAFE Awards recognize and honor Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas operators and contractors which make concerted efforts to train and motivate their employees to conduct offshore operations in a safe manner. The awards are presented in four categories – High OCS Activity, Moderate OCS Activity, Drilling Contractor, and Production Contractor.

Winners in each category will be announced at an awards luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at the Hotel Intercontinental Houston. Registration information is available by calling: Debbie O'Brien at 703-787-1579 or Valerie Russ at 703-787-1548.

The 2004 SAFE categories and finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

High OCS Activity

ChevronTexaco Corp.
ExxonMobil Corp.
Nexen Petroleum USA Inc.
Noble Energy, Inc.

Moderate OCS Activity

Callon Petroleum Operating Co.
Eni Petroleum Co., Inc.
EOG Resources, Inc.
Magnum Hunter Production, Inc.
Remington Oil and Gas Corp.

Drilling Contractor

Diamond Offshore
Rowan Companies, Inc.

Production Contractor

C&D Production
KBR Production Services

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS's collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for acquisition of state and federal park and recreation land, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov

MMS: Securing Ocean Energy and Economic Value for America