



## NEWS RELEASE

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### MMS HONORS BEST IN INDUSTRY

HOUSTON – Close to 700 offshore oil and gas professionals joined the Minerals Management Service in recognizing companies and individuals for outstanding achievement in offshore safety and fiscal responsibility at the annual MMS Industry Awards Program and Luncheon today in Houston.

“The companies and individuals honored today should be justifiably proud of earning these prestigious awards,” said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. “The awardees have been exemplary in helping MMS to balance the critical search for offshore energy and mineral resources with safe offshore operations. They have also played an important role in helping MMS to ensure taxpayers receive a fair market value for energy resources on Federal lands. These companies set the standards for the future and help preserve and enhance the quality of life in meeting the nation's energy needs.”

Retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator, delivered the keynote address. He said that he was proud to be a part of the ceremony honoring the recipients and recognizing their record of safety and stewardship.

“NOAA shares the same interests as industry and MMS in maintaining safety while safeguarding the environment and keeping the nation’s economy strong,” he said. “One of our chief missions is to conserve and wisely manage the nation’s coastal and marine resources to ensure sustainable economic opportunities. These honorees have proven that wise business practices extend beyond widening the profit margin, and into greater social and environmental responsibility.”

**Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. Inc., Remington Oil & Gas Corporation, Rowan Companies, Inc. & C&D Production Specialists** received the 2004 Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE). The SAFE Award was established in 1983 to recognize outstanding safety achievement by offshore oil and gas operators and contractors.

**ConocoPhillips, Marathon Oil Company, Wexpro Company and Kennecott Energy Company** received the 2004 Mineral Revenues Stewardship Award. The MRM Stewardship

Award was established in 1987 to recognize companies that demonstrate exceptional compliance with mineral revenues laws and Federal financial requirements.

**Noble Energy Inc.** is the winner of the 2004 Safe Operations and Accurate Reporting (SOAR) Award. The SOAR award was established in 1999 to honor an outstanding company for both offshore operating performance and fiscal responsibility.

Also recognized at today's awards program were the 30 winners of the 2004 Corporate Leadership Award, who were announced in February. A complete list of the CORLA winners can be viewed online at: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2005/press0222.htm>. The CORLA award has been given since 1999 to individuals who have worked closely with MMS to improve revenue collection and processes for offshore development. Complete information about the MMS awards program is available at [www.mms.gov/awards](http://www.mms.gov/awards).

The 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. The MMS 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 cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

**MMS Main Website:** [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)

**MMS: Securing Ocean Energy and Economic Value for America**