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**Minerals Management Service and Petroleum Safety Authority of Norway
Renew Shared Commitment to Offshore Safety and Environmental Protection**

A Memorandum of Understanding signed today by the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service and the Petroleum Safety Authority of Norway signals the continuation of a long-standing shared commitment to safe and environmentally sound offshore oil and gas operations.

"Norway is a widely respected leader in managing offshore resources and is very proactive on safety issues. We look forward to our continued association as we strive to make offshore minerals development ever more operationally safe and environmentally sound," said MMS director Johnnie Burton.

The MMS and the PSA of Norway will consult regularly to exchange information, share ideas, skills and techniques and address matters of mutual interest related to offshore oil and gas operations.

Established in January, 2004, the PSA of Norway took over the responsibility of ensuring safe oil and gas exploration and development from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD).

MMS has a strong commitment to offshore safety and environmental protection, and has for years shared its expertise with nations considering offshore production in their waters.

The Minerals Management Service is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in FY 2003 and more than \$135 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America