



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

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**America's Dependence on Foreign Oil and Gas to Deepen:  
New Frontiers May Offer Domestic Alternatives Official Says**

America has grown increasingly reliant on oil and natural gas to fuel its economy. Today, Gasoline prices are nearly 50% higher than last summer, oil prices are at a 25-year high and natural gas prices have reached sustained high historic levels.

The good news is that a significant portion of the domestic supply to meet America's growing energy needs comes from Federal lands, according to Johnnie Burton, director of the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service.

Last year the underwater lands that MMS manages produced more oil for U.S. consumers than was imported from Saudi Arabia. It also produced more natural gas than was imported from Canada – our number one foreign supplier. Bringing this domestic energy to the southeast region is critical for the growth of the local economy throughout the Eastern seaboard, including Georgia, according to Burton.

Ms. Burton will speak about America's energy policy next week to civic groups in Beloit and Rockford, Wisconsin and Rockford and Normal, Illinois.

Media should call MMS Public Affairs Office at (202) 208-3985 to coordinate coverage or to schedule follow-up interviews.

**What: Speech - America's National Energy Policy – Making Choices**

When: 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. June 22, 2004

Where: Rockford East Rotary Club  
Clock Tower  
7801 East State Street  
Rockford, WI

When: Noon June 22, 2004

Where: Beloit Rotary Club  
Rotary River Center-Riverside Park  
Beloit, WI

When: 7 a.m.-8 a.m. June 23, 2004

Where: Rock Valley Kiwanis Club  
Stockholm Inn  
1017 E. State Street  
Rockford, Ill

When: June 23, 2004  
Where: Normal Rotary Club  
Illinois State University Campus  
Bone Student Center – Circus Room  
Normal, Ill

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](#)