

The business plan incorporates suggestions of the General Accounting Office and recommendations from MMS's commercial consultant, the Lukens Energy Group of Houston, Texas, to clearly outline RIK program objectives and to routinely and comprehensively measure RIK program performance. As such, the plan includes measurable commercial and administrative goals aimed at increasing efficiencies and effectiveness of the government's management of mineral royalties and an emphasis on even greater internal controls.

Secretary Norton added that "with release of this plan, we commit to routine reporting to Congress on MMS's progress in achieving the plan's goals."

MMS Director Johnnie Burton said, "We are pleased with the new RIK business plan. It arrays a suite of program objectives and management actions. I am confident that we will meet these challenging expectations and continue establishment of a top tier royalty asset management program of which all Americans can be proud."

Copies of the business plan are available from the MMS web page: www.mrm.mms.gov.

The Minerals Management Service is the Federal bureau in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian leases. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in Fiscal Year 2003 and more than \$135 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Approximately \$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