



Minerals Management Service

People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy

January 29, 2009

To MMS Employees Nationwide;

Today, in his address to Minerals Revenue Management employees nationwide, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar outlined his administration's first steps to reform the Department of the Interior. One of those critical steps is the publication of a new Code of Conduct that applies to all employees within MMS.

For those who may not have had the opportunity to hear the Secretary's comments live, you can read his speech at <http://www.doi.gov/>.

It's important for each of us to take the time to read and truly understand the Code. The revised edition is an outgrowth of President Obama's direction to the Office of Government Ethics that the government's ethical standards are to be clarified, streamlined, and promulgated to all government employees, both Civil Servants and Political Appointees. Secretary Salazar has also asked the Department's ethics office to review the Department's regulations, so there may be some additional changes in the future.

In his comments, Secretary Salazar said that, "The American people will know the Minerals Management Service as a defender of the taxpayer. You are the champions of the public interest. You are the ones who will make special interests play by the rules. And you are the ones who will help transform this Department from the 'department of anything goes' to 'America's Department.'"

MMS is committed to upholding high ethical standards. I ask all of you to continue to perform your work in a conscientious and professional manner, and to keep ethics at the forefront of everything you do. If you see something that is wrong, report it. If you have questions or concerns regarding ethical issues or the new Code of Conduct, please contact the MMS Ethics Office, Donna Huston at 703-787-1417.

As Secretary Salazar also said, "Americans should be proud of the work of this Department. Those who work for this Department should be proud of their service. Together, we can, and we will, take this Department in a new direction."

Thank you for the work you do every day -- high quality, professional work that is valuable and valued, yet too often overlooked by those outside our department.

Sincerely, and with my appreciation,

Walter Cruickshank
Acting Director
Minerals Management Service