



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MMS Recognizes Companies for Safety Excellence on America's Outer Continental Shelf**

**NEW ORLEANS** — The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has announced the winners of its 2006 District Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) honors in the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Regions. The SAFE Program recognizes and commends those operating companies that expend extra effort and conduct their operations in a safe manner, adhering to all regulatory requirements, employing trained and motivated personnel, and taking extra steps to enhance the safety of operations.

In naming this year’s winners, MMS Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management Chris Oynes said "These regional awards recognize company’s accomplishments and commitments to the values of safe and environmentally sound operations in Federal OCS waters. The continued efforts to achieve human and environmental safety are a reflection of industry’s commitment to preserve the highest safety and environmental standards.”

The 2006 SAFE award winners for each MMS District across the country are the following:

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>HIGH ACTIVITY</b>	<b>MODERATE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DRILLING CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>PRODUCTION CONTRACTOR</b>
<b>New Orleans</b>	Shell Offshore Inc.	Murphy Exploration & Production Company – USA	Nabors Offshore Corporation	Baker Energy
<b>Houma</b>	BP Exploration & Production, Inc.	None	Noble Drilling (U.S.) Inc	Baker Energy
<b>Lafayette</b>	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	Devon Energy production Company, L.P.	Transocean Inc.	Island Operating Company, Inc.
<b>Lake Charles</b>	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. Inc.	Rowan Drilling Company, Inc.– <i>Rowan Bob Keller</i>	Baker Energy
<b>Lake Jackson</b>	None	EOG Resources, Inc.	Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.	None
<b>California</b>	ExxonMobil	None	None	None

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MMS and the companies that lease OCS lands are very proud of the safety record for offshore oil and natural gas exploration, development, production, and transmission operations. The SAFE program highlights to the public that companies conduct offshore oil and gas activities safely and in a pollution-free manner.

“Our OCS development record has been one of safe and environmentally clean operations. The MMS has regulations in place that, along with new technologies employed by industry and constant vigilance by the operators, have created a safe production record,” said Oynes.

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act as amended charges MMS with the responsibility of inspecting offshore oil and gas operations. Through the MMS Offshore Inspection Program, offshore activities of oil and gas operators are inspected on a continuing basis, and enforcement actions are taken when MMS regulatory requirements are not met. The SAFE award program was established by MMS in 1983 to recognize and honor companies that make a concerted effort to train and motivate their employees to conduct offshore operations in a safe manner. The agency recognizes two categories for production: high OCS activity and moderate OCS activity. Moderate level activities are generally from an independent, or a nonintegrated, non-affiliated company. Drilling and production contractors with exemplary OCS performance are also recognized. Winners are selected by each District office on the basis of their safety performance and compliance with applicable regulations within the District during the rating period.

—MMS—

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