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NEWS RELEASE

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President Requests \$307.1 Million for FY 2009 MMS Budget

WASHINGTON -The FY 2009 budget request for the Minerals Management Service is \$307.1 million. This is an increase of \$10.3 million above the FY 2008 enacted budget.

The agency's budget priorities are designed to enhance the Nation's energy and economic security. The President's 2009 budget promotes MMS's ability to ensure that the public receives the maximum financial and energy benefit from America's OCS resources and mineral revenues.

"We are committed to the safe and environmentally responsible development of our Nation's energy resources," said Randall Luthi, MMS director. "This budget request enables us to regulate the oil and gas industry with very high standards and pursue an alternative energy program on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This request ensures our effectiveness as stewards of revenues generated from energy production on Federal and American Indian lands. MMS collected \$11.4 billion in FY 2007."

The Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program requests an increase of \$1 million to further development of the program. Furthermore, MMS has requested an additional \$2 million to implement recommendations for the audit and compliance program.

In FY 2009, MMS will continue the 2007 – 2012 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, and an increase of \$8.5 million is requested for environmental analyses and workforce and program support. The 2009 budget includes funding increases of \$1.1 million for state of the art geoscientific interpretive tools for resource assessment, fair market bid evaluation, and conservation of resources analyses. In addition, the budget requests \$1.7 million for the completion of a two-year initiative installing accounting software for an interactive payment reconciliation and billing system.

The 2009 MMS budget for direct appropriations is \$160.4 million. MMS also requests use of \$146.7 million in rental receipts and cost recoveries, bringing the total 2009 request to \$307.1 million.

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