



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153**



Press Release

For Release Immediately

Contact: Cathy Rodine (703) 440-1713

Federal Government Leases Land in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Ohio for Oil and Gas Exploration

Nine parcels of Federal land brought \$113,290 to the U.S. Treasury through a competitive auction of oil and gas leases conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Monday, March 22 in Springfield, Virginia. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue totaled \$223,260, of which \$109,970 will be shared with the affected States.

The BLM has responsibility for leasing the minerals located under federally-owned land. BLM, Eastern States administers the mineral estate in 31 states east of and adjoining the Mississippi River and offers selected parcels at quarterly competitive auctions. Regulations require the bidding to open at a \$2 per acre minimum. Charles M. Wilkinson of Columbia, Mississippi paid more than \$152,000 for a 75 acre parcel in Louisiana. Wilkinson's bid of \$2,005 was the highest per acre bid of the auction.

Leases are awarded for a term of 10 years and as long thereafter as there is production in paying quantities. The Federal Government receives a 12 1/2 percent royalty on the value of the amount of production. Also, each respective State Government receives a 25 percent minimum share of the bonus bids and the royalty from each lease.

Twelve parcels remained available for noncompetitive, next-day filing, seven of which received filings.

NOTE: A breakdown of the results of the sale is attached.

-more-

ADD ONE:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN STATES
RESULTS OF THE COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE
March 22, 1999**

<u>State</u>	<u># of Parcels offered/sold</u>		<u>Acreage offered/sold</u>		<u>Federal Revenue*</u>	<u>State Revenue*</u>
LOUISIANA	5	5	302.61	302.61	\$109,023	108,648
MISSISSIPPI	15	3	4,250.47	1,122.46	\$3,893	\$1,223
OHIO	1	1	113.68	113.68	\$374	\$100
<hr/>						
TOTALS	21	9	4,666.76	1,538.75	\$113,290	\$109,971

*Revenue rounded to nearest dollar