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NEWS RELEASE

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MMS Honors Finalists in Annual Competition

WASHINGTON - Only the best of the best become national finalists in the much-anticipated Safety Awards for Excellence (SAFE) annual competition sponsored by the Minerals Management Service.

Presented annually to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas operators and contractors who achieve excellence in safety and pollution prevention, the National SAFE awards recognize outstanding performance by the offshore industry.

“This year’s finalists have demonstrated that offshore energy can be produced safely and cleanly” said Randall Luthi, Director of the MMS. “Offshore operators face enormous technical, safety and pollution prevention challenges. MMS salutes and applauds the efforts of these companies. They work diligently to secure America’s energy resources while raising the standard of safety and pollution prevention.”

Established in 1983, the SAFE Awards recognize and honor companies that make concerted efforts to train and motivate their employees to conduct offshore operations in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Each year, OCS oil and gas operators from within high and moderate activity categories as well as drilling and production contractors are selected as finalists for the award. A company in the high activity category produces at least 10 million barrels of oil equivalent per year and operates a minimum of 1,000 in-service components during the year. A moderate activity company produces at least one million barrels of oil equivalent per year and operates a minimum of 100 in-service components during the year. MMS selects one winner from each category.

The 2008 SAFE categories and finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

High OCS Activity

Anadarko Petroleum Corp.
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
El Paso Production
Shell Exploration & Production Co.

Moderate OCS Activity

Apex Oil and Gas
LLOG Exploration
Noble Energy Inc.
Prime Offshore L.L.C.
Seneca Resources Corporation

Drilling Contractor

Helmerich & Payne, Inc.
Noble Drilling Corp.
Transocean

Production Contractor

Baker Energy
C&D Production Specialist Co.
Danos & Curole Marine Contractors, Inc.
Island Operating Co.

SAFE winners will be announced at an awards luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2008, at the Hilton Americas Houston Hotel. Registration information is available by contacting Debbie O'Brien at 703-787-1579.

-- MMS --

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