



## **NEWS RELEASE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
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### **MMS Will Work with State to Ensure Successful Lease Sale 200**

**NEW ORLEANS** -- On the eve of Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 200, officials with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS), the agency in charge of conducting lease sales in the Outer Continental Shelf, are optimistic that they will be able to address any issues expressed by the State of Louisiana involving the sale. Lease Sale 200 is the next step in MMS's goal to ensure a stable source of domestic energy for the nation through the continued sale of leases in the Gulf. A decision by a federal judge has allowed MMS to hold the sale.

MMS is committed to working with the State of Louisiana to resolve the issues raised in Governor Blanco's suit. "MMS will continue to make a sustained effort to address the state's concerns so that a fair and comprehensive treatment of the issues raised can result," Johnnie Burton, Minerals Management Service Director said. "We value our long-term constructive relationship with the State of Louisiana and we will make every effort to consult and meet with the state to work on these issues in an informed and considerate manner."

MMS is committed to fostering continued oil and gas operations in Federal waters that are conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner.

—MMS—

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