MMS

NEWS RELEASE

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MMS Begins Safety, Environmental Information Collection

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service is now collecting safety and environmental information related to offshore oil and gas leases.

Developed in a joint Government-industry workshop comprising representatives of 17 oil and gas companies, five trade associations, the U.S. Coast Guard and the MMS, the performance measures will help gauge progress made under the existing Safety Environmental Management Program, establish a comparative basis for self-evaluation by companies, ensure that performance is improving, and serve as a source of information to help justify company appeals for regulatory relief.

"While provision of this information is voluntary, the quality of our analysis is directly related to the data we receive," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman, "We are striving for 100 percent participation by industry, and asking that companies provide data for calendar years 1996 and 1997 by May 4, 1998." The information is collected on NTL 98-6N.

The performance measurement report and downloadable data form (MMS-131) are now available for viewing on the MMS website at www.mms.gov.

Please direct inquiries and comments relating to Performance Measures for OCS Operators, NTL No. 98-6N, to Jeff Wiese at:

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The MMS is the Federal Agency that manages and regulates the Nation's natural gas, oil, and other mineral resources on the OCS, and collects, accounts for, and disburses about $6 billion yearly in revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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MMS's Website Address: http://www.mms.gov
MMS's 24-Hour Fax-on-Demand Service: (202) 219-1703