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***NEWS RELEASE***

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**MMS To Recognize Corporate Citizens and Leaders**

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today revealed plans to formally recognize outstanding corporate behavior that helps MMS better meet its mission objectives. Winners of the first MMS Corporate Citizen and Corporate Leadership Awards will be announced next April in Houston.

"Cooperation and support from our corporate customers are essential to the success of the Nation's offshore mineral development and mineral royalty collection programs," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman. "The Corporate Citizen and Corporate Leadership Award programs were developed to recognize extraordinary contributions made by certain members the business community."

The MMS Corporate Citizen Award will be presented to businesses that demonstrate superlative performance in operational safety and fiscal responsibility. Businesses or individuals that perform unusual acts which improve the effectiveness or efficiency of MMS program activities will receive the MMS Corporate Leadership Award.

The Corporate Citizen and Corporate Leadership Awards ceremony is scheduled for April 16, 1999, in Houston, Texas. Presentation of the awards will be a highlight of a day-long workshop on Outer Continental Shelf operations issues, hosted by the MMS.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf; and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$6 billion in revenues each year from federal offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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