

**The NewsRoom**

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**MMS Announces a Project to Enhance Gulf Coast Area Meteorological/Air Quality Data Analysis and Modeling**

The Minerals Management Service has awarded a new contract to Vaisala, Inc. for a project to support Gulf coast area meteorological data analysis and air quality modeling. Under this contract, a radar wind profiler has been deployed to measure meteorological parameters essential to robust coastal zone meteorological/air quality data analysis and modeling.

The radar wind profiler data, combined with other onshore and offshore meteorological/air quality information, will benefit current and future air quality modeling simulations conducted by MMS, Gulf Coast, States and national regional air quality planning organizations (RPOs). The States and RPOs are responsible for State Implementation Plans addressing ozone, fine particulate matter, and regional haze.

In addition to the air quality regulatory uses, the data will also be accessible by the public for research or other operational purposes. The data can be acquired at the [National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration, National Profiler Network](#).

In October 2004, Vaisala installed the radar wind profiler at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) facility in Chauvin, Louisiana. LUMCON management and staff provided outstanding support during all phases of the project, from planning to site preparation, radar profiler installation, and testing/evaluation. Additional information is available at the [LUMCON weather website](#).

The Minerals Management Service is the federal bureau in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in federal offshore waters. Currently, about 30 percent of the oil and 23 percent of the gas produced domestically comes from these federal waters. The bureau also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed approximately \$8 billion in Fiscal Year 2004 and more than \$143 billion since it was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

**Relevant Web Sites:**  
[BOEM Main Website](#)**Media Contacts:****Debra Winbush** (504) 736-2597**Caryl Fagot** (504) 736-2590

[MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America](#)  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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