

**The NewsRoom**

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**Lars Herbst Named Regional Director for the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region***Brings 23 Years of Federal Energy Experience*

**NEW ORLEANS** – Minerals Management Service (MMS) Director Randall Luthi today announced the selection of Lars Herbst as the new regional director of MMS's Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region.

"Lars Herbst brings to the position of regional director a wealth of knowledge and a great perspective to the job," said Luthi. "His past managerial experience provides a firm foundation to guide the region," he continued, "while his recent efforts to work cooperatively with industry and other federal agencies to increase safety will help ensure that the region continues to be a vital source of energy for the nation."

As the Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, Mr. Herbst manages the leasing of OCS lands off five Gulf Coast states for oil, gas, and other mineral development, and supervises the regulation of operations and protection of the environment on more than 7,000 leases, which involve more than 4,000 platforms. He manages a staff of 550, including geologists, geophysicists, petroleum engineers, biologists, environmental scientists, and offshore inspectors.

Mr. Herbst began his career with MMS in 1983 as a staff engineer. He has served as district manager of the New Orleans district, as deputy regional supervisor and regional supervisor of Field Operations. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Louisiana and holds a BS degree in petroleum engineering from Louisiana State University.

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