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## eWell: A Good System Made Better, Post-Katrina

The devastation wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita prompted a major revision to the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) "eWell" system that improved preparations for future hurricane seasons. The new feature provides faster, more efficient access to hurricane damage reports and gives offshore operators a faster and more reliable method for reporting production curtailment, evacuations, and damage – before and after a storm.

MMS's electronic reporting system – eWell – is a key method of communications between MMS and offshore energy operators. Since its launch in 2004, eWell has improved the speed and efficiency of communications, particularly in the permitting process. About 97 percent of offshore operators in the Gulf of Mexico use the eWell system.

Thanks to the eWell system, the traditional, manual system of completing transactions – wherein energy companies completed written forms that had been developed by MMS and mailed back to MMS – is no more.

To ensure operators are well versed in the new system's features, MMS held workshops in New Orleans and Houston in June 2006.

MMS manages offshore oil and gas exploration as well as renewable energy sources including wind, wave, solar, and underwater current on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments. MMS also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands.

For more information on MMS and new and improving offshore safety procedures and requirements in the OCS, contact the MMS Office of Public Affairs at 202-208-3985 or visit [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov).

***Ocean Energy and Value for America***