This award is presented to Exxon for the professional manner in which they conducted production operations on Platforms Harmony and Heritage and in recognition of their accident free record for the period January 1 through December 31, 1998.

During the rating period, Minerals Management Service (MMS) personnel conducted 11 unannounced partial production inspections and 1 announced complete (annual) production inspection at each platform with only 3 incidents of noncompliance (INC’s) detected at Platform Harmony. Results of these inspections revealed that Exxon had an outstanding record in conducting overall operations in accordance with MMS regulations and the criteria set up for the SAFE award program. Procedures to promote communication and operational review among production personnel were excellent. Exxon was extremely cooperative with MMS personnel and provided support when needed. Management and field personnel were exemplary in awareness, knowledge, and application of Federal, State, and County operating regulations.

In addition, Exxon completed the installation of the Platform Heritage to Platform Harmony gas pipeline with no accidents or INC’s detected. The project was well-coordinated with timely and accurate submittals. Environmental and safety briefings aboard the lay barge were thorough and well-presented. Field and management personnel were exemplary in adherence to applicable regulations and permit conditions. No adverse impact to fishermen or complaints from environmental groups resulted from the pipe laying operation.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Director of Minerals Management Service join me in commending Exxon for its part in accelerating development of offshore mineral resources while maintaining a constant awareness for the safety of personnel, protection of the environment, and adherence to operating regulations.