

MMS AWARDS LA \$135K (205 AGRMNT) (#30047)

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MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE AWARDS LOUISIANA
\$135,000 FOR STATE'S ASSISTANCE WITH AUDITS (#30047)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced that it will award the State of Louisiana \$135,000 in Fiscal Year 1994 to fund state audits of mineral leases on federal public lands within its boundaries.

"The award provided funds for a work plan agreed to under Section 205 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982," according to MMS Director Tom Fry. Under the agreement, State officials perform audits and other related reviews on federal oil, gas and other solid mineral leases located in Louisiana.

The MMS's Cooperative and Delegated Audit Program enables participating states to supplement MMS's audit coverage of revenues from leases within state. MMS reimburses states for the costs of audits, such as salaries and travel expenses. Other participants include California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Four Indian tribes--the Navajo Nation, the Ute, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute--are similarly reimbursed for audit work on their respective tribal lands under Section 202 of FOGRMA.

"More than \$4 million in auditing assistance was reimbursed to states last year," Fry said. "Sharing resources and information in our working partnership has increased our auditing coverage and effectiveness. I am pleased that this cooperation continues," he added.

Through its Royalty Management Program the MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion in revenues associated with federal and Indian mineral leases each year.

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