ctorn)

CONTACT: Tom DeRocco (202) 208-3983

3:15 P.M. (Eastern)

HURRICANE OPAL - REPORT #3

To keep you informed about the effect of Hurricane Opal on offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico, the Minerals Management Service will provide status reports as information becomes available.

Number of Operators reporting: 82

*Gas Production Shut-In: 1.04 billion cubic feet

**Oil Production Shut-In: 162,000 barrels

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE BACK ON LINE TODAY.

DAMAGE REPORTS

- Yesterday, MMS personnel flew over the Main Pass and Mobile facilities closest to the hurricane path and observed no damage. Some bubbling was observed, however, which may indicate some damage to gas pipelines.
- We have one report of the loss of a jack-up(#) workover barge offshore Louisiana (Main Pass area), about 80 miles southeast of New Orleans. Owned by Falcon Operators, Inc., the jack-up was working for Mobil Oil.
- At this time, only 15-20 operators have submitted preliminary damage reports indicating little damage; additional reports are expected as operators are able to get crews out to platforms and drilling rigs to conduct inspections.
- * Daily Gas Production in the Gulf averages about 13 billion cubic feet
- ** Daily Oil Production in the Gulf averages about 800,000 barrels
- # A jack-up workboat lowers its legs into the water and raises (i.e., jacks-up) its platform above the water to perform workover

on wells and construction or repair work on oil and gas platforms.

NOTE: SINCE MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 IS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY, THE NEXT HURRICANE OPAL REPORT WILL BE ISSUED TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCT.10.

-MMS-