



**NEWS RELEASE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Office of Public Affairs

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Release: June 14, 2005**  
**Release: 3281**

Contact: Gary Strasburg  
(202) 208-3985

**Interior Official to Bring Energy Message to Florida:  
Highlights Alternative to Oil and Gas Dependence**

WASHINGTON - America has grown increasingly reliant on oil and natural gas to fuel its economy. Today, Gasoline prices are nearly 50% higher than last summer, oil prices are at a 25-year high and natural gas prices have reached sustained high historic levels. To make matters worse, domestic production is not keeping pace with increasing demand.

Minerals Management Service Director Johnnie Burton will describe what MMS, the steward of America's natural resources and manager of resource assets, is doing to address this situation, and the choices that will determine the Nation's economic future.

Ms. Burton will deliver her energy awareness message, "America's National Energy Policy – Making Choices" Thursday, June 16 to the Kiwanis Club of South Lake-Clermont and the Minneola Lion Club and on Friday, June 17 to the South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Media should call MMS Public Affairs at (202) 208-3985 to coordinate coverage or to schedule interviews.

**What: Speech - America's National Energy Policy – Making Choices**

**When:** 7:30 a.m. June 16, 2005

**Where:** Kiwanis Club/Rotary Club of South Lake-Clermont Meeting  
Diamond Players Golf Club  
2601 Diamond Club Drive  
Clermont, FL 34711

**When:** 11:45 a.m. June 16, 2005

**Where:** Minneola Lions Club Luncheon  
On The Corner Seafood and Steaks  
801 W. Montrose Street  
Clermont, FL 34711

**When:** 7:15 a.m. June 17, 2005

**Where:** South Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Jenkins Auditorium  
691 Montrose Street  
Clermont, Florida 34711

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

**MMS Main Website:** [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)

**\*\*\*MMS: Securing Ocean Energy and Economic Value for America\*\*\***

[Return to News Releases](#)