



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

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**Interior Official to Bring Energy Message to Newport News Area:  
Highlights Alternatives to Foreign 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. Hurricane activity shut in oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, although there was no loss of life and no significant discharge of oil. 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" Tuesday, November 29, 2005, at noon to the Rotary of Newport News, Virginia.

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: Noon, Tuesday, November 29, 2005**  
**Where: James River Country Club**  
1500 Country Club Road  
Newport News, Va. 23606  
Phone: (757) 596-3112  
Fax: (757) 596-4807

MMS, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages offshore oil and gas exploration as well as renewable and alternative energy sources such as wind, wave, and solar on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 21 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, and contributes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other special use funds, with Fiscal Year 2005 disbursements of approximately \$9.9 billion and more than \$153 billion since 1982.

**MMS Main Website:** [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)  
**Gulf of Mexico Website:** [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)

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