

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF AWARDS**

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|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Agency/Bureau DOI/MMS/ENVD | Name of Employee (last, first, middle initial) or Group (attach list of participants) Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas History Project Team | |
| Social Security No. XXX-XX-____ | Position Title | Pay Plan-Series/Grade/Step |
| Duty Station | Period Covered For Award (MM/DD/YY) From June 2002 To June 2010 | Cost Account Number |

COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE AWARD SECTION BELOW

MONETARY AWARD:

Performance-Based Cash Award

Exceptional (Level 5) Performance Rating \$ _____ or % _____

Superior (Level 4) Performance Rating \$ _____ or % _____

Quality Step Increase

 (Exceptional (Level 5) Performance Rating Required)

Star (Special Thanks for Achievement) Award \$ _____

Productivity Improvement Award \$ _____

Invention/Patent Award \$ _____

NON-MONETARY AWARD:

Time-Off Recognition Performance-Based Non-Performance Based

 Number of Hours: _____

Non-Monetary Recognition

 Cash Value of \$ _____

HONOR AWARD:

Distinguished Service Award

Cooperative Conservation Award

Meritorious Service Award

Outstanding Service Award

Unit Award for Excellence of Service

Superior Service Award

Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service Award

Valor Award

Citizen's Award for Bravery

Exemplary Act Award

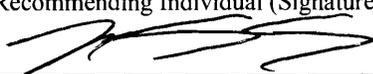
BUREAU-SPECIFIC AWARD:

Name of Award: _____

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DI-451
Rev. 5/08

RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Recommending Individual (Signature)  | Date 11/18/09 | Reviewing Official (Signature) | Date |
| Title: Chief, Environmental Division | | Title: | |
| Approving Official (Signature & Title) | | | Date |

HONOR AWARD REVIEW APPROVAL

| | | |
|---|------|---------|
| HR Review of Official Personnel Folder | Date | Finding |
| Bureau Office of Civil Rights (Signature) | Date | Finding |
| Department Office of Civil Rights (Signature) | Date | Finding |
| Office of Inspector General (Signature) | Date | Finding |
| Departmental Ethics Office (Signature) | Date | Finding |
| Office of the Solicitor (Signature) (For Non-Departmental Employees) | Date | Finding |

JUSTIFICATION

| |
|--|
| <u>Summary of Accomplishments/Contributions Being Recognized by Award</u> |
| See attached justification |

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FINANCIAL ACTION RECORD This record is to initiate payment, accounting and tax transactions for **only** non-monetary recognition of significant value.

Recipient Name: _____ Social Security Number: xxx-xx-_____

Bureau Sub-Bureau Block Org. Code Cost Account

NONMONETARY RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE (Date Presented: _____)

Cash Value of Award (Hours Code 66A) \$ _____ (Net Amount)
Value Including Taxes (Cash Value divided by .55) (Hours Code 30A) \$ _____ (Gross Amount)

Disposition of this form: Original to servicing personnel office, copy to recipient. FAX this form to the Payroll Operations Division. This fax is in lieu of original. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL OF THIS DOCUMENT TO PAYROLL.**

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Cooperative Conservation Award Nomination for the History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana

Nomination Category: External: Conservation that Furthers the Mission of the
Department of the Interior

Criterion B: Managing or influencing resource use to enhance public benefit, promote,
responsible use, and ensure optimal value

Introduction

Since 2002 the Minerals Management Service (MMS), several academic institutions, and the people of southern Louisiana have collaborated to document the development of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico and its influence on shaping Louisiana's culture, geography, society, and economy. The history of the evolution of the industry is the remarkable story of innovation, entrepreneurship, tenacity, and hard work. This is an industry that started in the late 1920's and early 1930's with oil production in the lakes, marshes, and bayous of southern Louisiana and progressively moved into deeper and deeper offshore waters. Today there are over 4,000 offshore structures in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, representing significant capital investment and technological innovation and achievement. These structures produce most of the 27 percent of U.S. oil production and 14 percent of U.S. natural gas production annually that come from the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The stories of inventiveness and entrepreneurship are ageless, but the pioneers of the industry are not. Their stories needed to be captured while the men and women from the early days of the industry are still here to tell their stories.

Background

The MMS is responsible for managing the ocean energy and mineral resources on the 1.7 billion acres of the OCS. The bureau is committed to an orderly and timely development of the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources, protection of the environment, and receipt of fair market value for its resources. The Outer Continental Lands Act, among other things, requires MMS to conduct studies to collect information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments. This information is collected through the MMS Environmental Studies Program and is used by the bureau's scientists, rule makers, modelers, and decision makers to predict, assess, and manage the impacts from offshore energy and minerals exploration, development, and production on the human, marine, and coastal environments.

The MMS Environmental Studies Program funded a project to document and explain the evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry in southern Louisiana (the Offshore Oil and Gas History Project) in an objective and comprehensive manner. While the project has its roots in meeting the bureau's information needs to carry out its mission, the project goes way beyond filling those needs. It describes the story of the offshore oil and gas industry and its related service industries in a way that is useful to the people of Louisiana, the local communities, and the industry as well as to MMS.

The project also fills a gap in the literature by documenting the development and growth of the offshore oil and gas industry and related service industries in Louisiana that started in the coastal zone and moved into deeper and deeper water.

Partnership Organization

The project began as a cooperative agreement between MMS and Louisiana State University which had additional partnering agreements with the University of Arizona and the University of Houston. This partnering arrangement took the project from the early days of the industry through to about 1970. The current phase of the project documenting the history of the industry since 1970 (the deep water phase) is being conducted as a cooperative agreement between MMS and the University of Houston which has a partnering arrangement with the University of Arizona. The MMS Project Officer, initiator, and project champion is Dr. Harry Luton from the MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region. Dr. Allan Pulsipher from Louisiana State University managed the initial agreement and the project through the initial phase. Dr. Tyler Priest from the University of Houston is managing the deep water phase of the research. The key researchers from the University of Arizona, who have been with the project since the beginning, are Drs. Diane Austin and Thomas McGuire. All of these researchers were assisted by others from their institutions. The project would not have been possible without the tremendous cooperation of the people of southern Louisiana who so generously gave of their time and knowledge and shared their pictures and artifacts from their working days in the industry.

Methods

The project combines oral history, documentary research, interviews, and economic analysis to establish the basis for understanding the evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry. The project gathers information from the industry's pioneering engineers, managers, and entrepreneurs who created the technology and companies required to produce oil and gas offshore. Oral histories are collected from workers, family members of workers, community leaders, and others whose lives were shaped by the industry. Interviews were conducted with government representatives and political leaders who developed the strategies and laws that MMS uses to regulate and manage the development of offshore oil and gas on the OCS.

In the initial phase of the project, the researchers worked through the alumni networks for many companies to gain access to industry managerial and scientific personnel. They attended retiree reunions, placed notices in professional association newsletters and joined alumni email listserves to identify and contact people to interview. They worked closely with the Offshore Energy Center in Houston, which also collects oral histories of offshore industry pioneers. Most of the oral histories from former managers, engineers, and geoscientists were collected in areas near Houston, New Orleans, and Dallas, which have large numbers of industry retirees.

To reach the pioneers of the industry, the researchers established relationships with business and community leaders to develop mechanisms to gain the trust of and open communication lines with the industry's pioneers. In addition, the researchers identified

and trained local school teachers in two southern Louisiana communities (New Iberia and Houma) to serve as teacher-researchers and to share information about the study in their communities. In Morgan City, the researchers worked with the editor of the local newspaper to write and publish articles about the pioneers who had been interviewed for the project. They also worked through local groups such as local retirees clubs, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program's Management Conference, local Desk and Derrick Clubs (an organization for women working in the petroleum industry), the United Houma Nation Tribal Council, and local campuses of the Louisiana Technical College to inform local residents about the study and identify people to interview. In addition, the researchers networked with local historians, librarians, and archivists to find potential participants. The researchers are building off of the contacts established in the first phase to find interviewees for the current phase of the project.

Accomplishments

Over 450 oral histories were recorded and transcribed in the first phase of the project. These focused on the industry's pioneers. Many of the people interviewed for the project used photographs of the events, people, or equipment to illustrate what they were describing. The researchers developed a "photo interview" technique that was designed so the interviewee could share photographs and tell stories related to them. In addition to interviews recorded on tape or compact disc, photographs, diagrams and other materials were gathered and scanned. Oral histories are still being conducted in the deep water phase of the project. At the end of the project, over 600 oral histories will have been completed.

Interviewees granted the researchers permission to place their interviews and digital copies of their photographs in the public domain. This extraordinary collection of stories and photographs is available for unrestricted scholarly, educational, and public use.

Transcribed and digital copies of the oral interview transcripts as well as the project databases and digital photographs are archived at the University of Houston, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Nicholls State University, and Louisiana State University. The same material has also been given to the Morgan City Archives, the Lafourche Parish Library, and the Terrebonne Parish Library so that residents of southern Louisiana (i.e., those who granted the interviews) have local access to the information.

To facilitate use of the information by other researchers, a spreadsheet of participants and a bibliographic database were constructed to indicate how each person was selected for participation in the study, highlights of the individual's career and personal history, and to summarize the main topics discussed during the interview. Both the spreadsheet and database can be printed into booklets and used electronically. In electronic form, they can be searched by participant name, occupation, and any keyword. A spreadsheet was also created to organize the thousands of digital photos collected during the project and digital copies of the photos were organized in folders and stored on compact disc.

The researchers organized sessions about the collection and its potential as a research tool at conferences of the American Society for Environmental History, the Southern Historical Association, and the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Summary information from each interview was posted on a project website, <http://gulfoil.bara.arizona.edu/>. Each posting includes a photograph of the interviewee. The site is available to those participating in the project and anyone else interested in the people who developed the offshore oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

The researchers worked with a local company to produce a travelling exhibit, “The Offshore Oil and Gas History Project,” which first opened at the Southdown Museum in Houma, and travelled to the southern Louisiana communities of Raceland, Morgan City, and Lockport. Prior to the exhibit openings, the researchers and local supporters of the project hosted receptions for the study participants from the local area. The exhibit is still on display in southern Louisiana.

The first phase of the project (the industry up to about 1970) produced six volumes of material: Papers on the Evolving Offshore Industry (vol. I), Bayou Lafourche: Oral Histories of the Oil and Gas Industry (vol. II), Morgan City’s History in the Era of Oil and Gas – Perspectives of Those who were There (vol. III), Terrebonne Parish (vol. IV), Guide to the Interviews (vol. V), and A Collection of Photographs (vol. VI). Research on the industry since 1970 is still underway. The communication mechanisms for this phase of the project are still under development, but will similarly be tailored to the needs of the project sponsor, MMS, and the people and communities that collaborate with the research team.

Summary

The Minerals Management Service, Louisiana State University, the University of Houston, the University of Arizona, and the people of southern Louisiana are collaborating to document the history of the offshore oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico from the early days of oil production from lakes, bayous, and marshes to the deep waters of the OCS. The project combines oral history, documentary research, interviews, and economic analysis to understand the evolution of the industry. At the conclusion of the project over 600 oral histories will have been completed. Oral histories and other project-related materials are housed at local universities and at local libraries and archives in the southern Louisiana communities.



The Early Days



Platform in 2,940 Feet of Water

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Partnership Team

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Diane E. Austin, Ph.D.

Thomas McGuire, Ph.D.

University of Houston, Departments of History and Business

Joseph Pratt, Ph.D.

Tyler Priest, Ph.D.

The students and colleagues of the Principal Investigators who assisted them on all aspects of the project

The People of Southern Louisiana

Citation

The Department of the Interior recognizes the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas History Project Team for its outstanding contribution to documenting the development of the offshore oil and gas industry and its influence on shaping Louisiana's culture, geography, society, and economy. Since 2002, the team, led and funded by the Minerals Management Service's Environmental Studies Program, with researchers from Louisiana State University, the University of Houston, and the University of Arizona, has collaborated with the people of southern Louisiana to document the development of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico

Under the guidance of the Project Officer and champion, Dr. Harry H. Luton (MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region), researchers from Louisiana State University (Allan G. Pulsipher), the University of Houston (Tyler Priest and Joseph Pratt), and the University of Arizona (Diane Austin and Thomas McGuire) collected oral histories from the men and women of southern Louisiana who were there from the humble beginnings of the offshore oil and gas industry and as the industry expanded into a national and international force. These researchers were assisted by others from their institutions and beyond.

The Department is grateful to the men and women of southern Louisiana who generously gave their time and support to this project by sharing their stories with the research team. The Department also thanks them for their significant contribution to the development of the Nation's offshore oil and gas resources and the development of a now global industry.