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## CONOCO AND BP RECOGNIZED FOR OFFSHORE SAFETY EXCELLENCE (#30017)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today presented its 1992 Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) to Conoco, Inc., and BP Exploration, Inc. The event marked Conoco's third consecutive SAFE Award and BP's first.

The prestigious award recognizes the two companies' safety records, technical procedures and corporate commitment to protection of the environment while conducting offshore natural gas and oil operations.

This is the first year two companies have shared the award.

"On Secretary Bruce Babbitt's behalf, I'm happy to recognize the obvious commitment these two companies have made to strong protection of our ocean environment and to safe offshore oil and natural gas operations in general," said Carolita Kallaur, Acting Director of MMS. "Any company earning this award has demonstrated that it has made environmental protection an important part of its corporate ethic. Winning three consecutive times, as Conoco has, proves that this ethic is a real driving force within the company."

MMS established the SAFE award in 1983 to recognize and commend operating companies that expend extra effort to conduct operations on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner. The award is presented each year at the Washington, D.C., convention of the National Ocean Industries Association.

Conoco qualified for the award by its selection as recipient of the Lafayette, Louisiana District SAFE award for the first six months of 1992. The citation lauds the company for training requirements which "...far exceed those of the OCS Regulations. This is evident in the knowledge Conoco, Inc.'s personnel display in conducting day-to-day operations."

BP was the winner of two 1992 New Orleans, Louisiana District SAFE awards for its operations for the first six months of last year. One award was for its drilling activities; the other covered its production operations. "By receiving two District Awards," the citation says, "BP Exploration, Inc. has demonstrated an across-

the-board commitment to safety and pollution prevention."

MMS selects one operator in each of its 12 OCS Operational Districts and then chooses the national SAFE award winner from the District winners. Criteria for nominees include accuracy of record-keeping, equipment maintenance, cooperation with MMS and utilization of new technology.

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