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MMS ANNOUNCES BLACKFEET NATION PARTICIPATION
IN INDIAN MINERALS COOPERATIVE AUDIT PROGRAM (#40007)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service today announced that it will reimburse the Blackfeet Indian Nation as much as \$110,000 during Fiscal Year 1994 for auditing costs while participating in the MMS's Cooperative Audit Program.

The addition of the Blackfeet Nation, which is located east of Glacier National Park in western Montana, brings the number of participating tribes to seven, including the Arapaho, the Shoshone, the Navajo Nation, the Ute, the Southern Ute, and the Ute Mountain Ute.

The program enables a tribe to join with MMS in providing additional audit coverage of revenues derived from oil, gas and other mineral leases located on tribal land.

"I am pleased to announce that the Blackfeet Nation has joined our auditing team," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "Sharing resources and information through this working partnership increases our auditing coverage and effectiveness," he added.

In recent years more than \$150 million in mineral revenues have been collected from Indian leases annually.

Under provisions of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, the MMS reimburses participating Indian tribes for costs of cooperative audits, such as salaries and travel expenses.

The MMS is responsible for the collection, accounting for and disbursement of nearly \$4 billion annually in mineral revenues from federal and Indian lands.

--MMS-RMP--

Subject: PR-1/31/94 Sec. 202/Blackfeet Nation to Participate in
Co-op Audit Prgm(#40007)