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MMS, RUSSIAN SCIENCE AGENCY TO POOL RESOURCES
IN REGULATING OFFSHORE OIL, GAS AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
(#40043)

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to foster cooperation in regulating exploration for and development of offshore oil, gas and mineral resources with officials of a counterpart agency in Russia.

The agreement between the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the Committee of the Russian Federation on Geology and the Use of Underground Resources (ROSKOMNEDRA) was signed June 23.

"MMS and ROSKOMNEDRA have developed working relationships on several levels since the mid-1980s," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "This agreement formalizes that relationship, and will help both agencies carry out their respective scientific and technological missions."

MMS is the federal agency that manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects and disburses royalties from offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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