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MMS ANNOUNCES JICARILLA APACHE PARTICIPATION  
IN INDIAN MINERALS COOPERATIVE AUDIT PROGRAM (#40086)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced that it will reimburse the Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe as much as \$142,147 during Fiscal Year 1995 for auditing costs while participating in the MMS' Cooperative Audit Program.

The addition of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, which is located in northern New Mexico, brings the number of participating tribes to eight, including the Arapaho, the Shoshone, the Blackfoot Nation, the Navajo Nation, the Ute, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute.

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

"We welcome the Jicarilla Apache Tribe to our auditing team," said Acting MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman. "We have had a long-term relationship sharing auditing responsibilities which are of great importance to the Department of the Interior as well as to the tribe," she added, "and this agreement will strengthen that relationship. This agreement reflects the administration's commitment to an equal partnership with American Indian tribes."

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.

MMS is the agency which manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and which collects and disburses nearly \$4 billion annually in revenues from OCS leases and from onshore leases on Federal and Indian lands.

--MMS-RMP--

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Participation in Indian Minerals Cooperative Audit Program (#40086)