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## MMS NAMES NEW DIRECTOR FOR GULF OF MEXICO REGION

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has announced that Chris Oynes has been named Regional Director of the agency's Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region. That region's headquarters are in New Orleans.

Oynes, an Interior employee since 1976, had served as MMS's Acting Regional Director in the Gulf since the retirement of J. Rogers (Rod) Percy in August, 1993. He had previously been Deputy Regional Director in the Gulf Regional Office since 1986.

Before becoming Deputy Regional Director, he was the chief of the Leasing Management Division for MMS in its Washington, D.C., headquarters office. While there, he was responsible for the development of the 1982-1987 Natural Gas and Oil OCS leasing program.

Oynes holds a Juris Doctor Degree from George Washington University and has 20 years' Federal experience directly related to policy development and operational activities associated with energy matters.

He and his wife, Rena, have two sons, Erick and Jonathan. They reside in Mandeville, LA.

"Chris has been doing an outstanding job as Acting Regional Director for more than a year," said MMS Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman. "He was chosen over some very stiff competition in a nationwide search. I'm confident that he will continue to build on the record of achievement and service to MMS's customers that he's already established."

In his new position, Oynes will report to Thomas Gernhofer, MMS's Associate Director for the Offshore Program.

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