

## **The NewsRoom**

Release: #3203

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### **MMS to Investigate Gas Release on Platform Gail**

At approximately 10:00 a.m. PST on November 18 the Minerals Management Service was notified of a natural gas leak from a single well on Venoco, Inc.'s Platform Gail, located 9.9 miles offshore Ventura County, California. All oil and gas production on Platform Gail was immediately shut-in and all non-essential personnel were evacuated. There have been no reports of injuries or significant water pollution.

The MMS immediately established contact with Venoco and the U.S. Coast Guard and began to closely monitor the situation for potential hazards. MMS's emergency response coordinator was dispatched to the Incident Command Center in Carpinteria, California.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. PST the MMS was notified by Venoco that the well was plugged and the leak stopped.

As soon as possible, MMS inspectors will board the facility and begin a full investigation into today's natural gas leak.

The MMS stands committed to ensure the safety of offshore personnel and protection of the marine environment.

The Minerals Management Service is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in FY 2003 and more than \$143 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

#### **Relevant Web Sites:**

[MMS Main Website](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Website](#)

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[MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America](#)  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**