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News Desk Alert:

Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 175 Receives 469 Bids on 344 Tracts

The U. S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service announced at 10 a.m. today that it has received 469 bids on 344 tracts offered in the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 175. Last year's Central Gulf Sale 172 received 272 bids on 207 tracts.

Lease Sale 175 will take place tomorrow, March 15, 2000, at 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center (Cabildo Rooms), 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana. The sale will be broadcast on the following radio stations from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on the day of the sale under the sponsorship of The Offshore Oil Scouts Association:

KNOL (89.3 FM) in Dallas
KTSU (90.9 FM) in Houston
KRVS (88.7 FM) in Lafayette
WTUL (91.5 FM) in New Orleans

The MMS is the Federal agency that manages the Nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the OCS; and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion in yearly revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and American Indian lands.