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Oklahoma City's Hamersley and Keel Recognized for Indian Outreach

James Hamersley and David Keel, part of the Indian Outreach Team of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service, were recognized Feb. 2 in Washington, D.C. by Interior Secretary Gale Norton. The two, who work out of the MMS office in Oklahoma City, were awarded the prestigious "Secretary's Four C's Award" for their outreach efforts to promote Tribal control and self-determination over trust lands and resources.

The Indian Outreach Team received the Four C's Award because of their outstanding contributions to Indian Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners in establishing long-term partnerships designed to conserve natural energy resources and strengthen infrastructures and economics for future generations.

The team, working closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of Trust Funds Management, has worked diligently to ensure a fair return for minerals produced on Tribal lands and on lands owned by individual Indian mineral owners. Since MMS was created in 1982, more than \$3.7 billion has been distributed on behalf of 41 Indian Tribes and 30,000 individual Indian mineral owners.

Hamersley and Keel also have led numerous outreach efforts to help individual Indian mineral owners resolve a variety of issues. The team organized more than 70 outreach sessions in Indian country during 2004, and resolved some 6,000 Indian inquiries.

Hamersley, a Supervisory Minerals Revenue Specialist in the MMS Oil and Gas Indian Compliance and Asset Management division, has worked for MMS since the agency was created, and has been with the Federal government for more than 26 years.

Keel, also a Supervisory Minerals Revenue Specialist with MMS, has been with the MMS since 1990 and with the Department of the Interior since 1986.

The two work at the MMS Oklahoma/Texas Region Office in Oklahoma City, OK. Both men have been extremely active in efforts to help individual Indian mineral owners resolve a variety of issues, often traveling to remote locations in the Western United States to help ensure that Indian interests are protected.

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine,

and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS's collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for acquisition of state and federal park and recreation land, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

MMS: Securing Ocean Energy and Economic Value for America