



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Minerals Revenue Management
P.O. Box 25165
Denver, Colorado 80225-0165
www.mmr.mms.gov



MAR 29 2004

Dear Reporter:

Subject: Reconnection of the Department of Interior Internet Services

As you may be aware, your ability to electronically report mineral revenues was temporarily interrupted this month by a court order. This is to inform you that the court order has been temporarily stayed and that all electronic reporting capability has been restored. Please report as normal.

On March 15, 2004, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction requiring most Department of the Interior organizations, including the Minerals Management Service (MMS), to disconnect from the Internet and to shut down automated systems that have Internet connectivity. This injunction was issued pursuant to the *Cobell v. Norton* litigation.

In response to this preliminary injunction, the MMS directed its contractors to shut down the financial system that is used to receive, process, and distribute mineral revenues. The Inovis website you normally use to submit your electronic MMS reports (Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance (Form MMS-2014); Oil and Gas Operations Report (Form MMS-4054); and Production Allocation Schedule Report (Form MMS-4058)) was temporarily unavailable.

On March 24, 2004, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted the motion for a temporary stay to the preliminary injunction, allowing MMS to reconnect to the Internet and restore the operations of its automated systems. Therefore, **while the temporary stay is in place, we are able to receive and process reports and payments in the normal manner.**

The MMS will continue with its normal financial operations until it receives further orders from the appeals court. At this time, we cannot estimate when the court will take action. We will notify you if there is a change in these reporting instructions.

If you have any questions, feel free to call your MMS contact at the following numbers:

- 800-525-7922 – Production Reporting
- 800-525-0309 – Royalty Reporting
- 800-525-9167 – Rental Payments

Sincerely,

Phillip D. Sykora
Chief, Financial Management

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