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News Release

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

Office of Public Affairs

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ONRR disburses FY 2010 GOMESA payments *\$2.3 million disbursed to Treasury, Gulf states, special funds*

DENVER – The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed more than \$2.3 million to U.S. Treasury accounts, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to four coastal states and eligible political subdivisions under provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), Rhea Suh, the Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, announced today.

Assistant Secretary Suh, who now oversees the Department’s mineral revenue management functions, added “These revenues provide an important boost to help communities working on conservation projects and restoration of coastal areas.”

“This distribution marks the third disbursement flowing from the 2006 legislation which mandated that adjacent Gulf coast states and political subdivisions receive a benefit from certain energy lease sales in Gulf of Mexico waters,” said ONRR Director Greg Gould.

Of the \$2,309,231 disbursed, the U.S. Treasury General Fund received \$1,154,615; the Land and Water Conservation Fund – which provides funds and matching grants for various land and water projects – received \$288,654; and the four Gulf of Mexico coastal states and eligible subdivisions received \$865,962.

The four states and their eligible political subdivisions receiving revenues from the GOMESA leases include Alabama, which received \$257,277; Louisiana, which received \$278,407; Mississippi, with \$233,550; and Texas, which received \$96,728.

According to Gould, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act provides that the four Gulf coast states and eligible coastal political subdivisions – or counties and parishes – receive 37.5 percent of the oil and gas qualified leasing revenues from certain Outer Continental Shelf areas.

He added the law directs that the funds be used for coastal protection, including mitigating damage to fish, wildlife or natural resources; carrying out a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; mitigating the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects; and planning assistance and administrative costs in complying with the law.

A complete list of the disbursements and eligible political subdivisions receiving funds is available online at: www.onrr.gov and <http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/PDFs/GOMESAFY2010Final.pdf>

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