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## News Release

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### **Interior Department's Royalty Audit Program Earns Highest Rating from Independent Peer Review**

**DENVER** – The Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue's (ONRR) audit organization has received the highest possible rating following an independent peer review that examined three years of the agency's royalty auditing work.

“This review demonstrates that ONRR's audit program staff is working diligently to collect every dollar due from energy companies producing on federal and American Indian lands,” said Greg Gould, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources Revenue in the DOI's Office of Policy, Management and Budget. “In Fiscal Year 2010, ONRR's Audit and Compliance Management program completed 162 audits and 1,233 compliance reviews. Since 1982, the program has collected \$3.7 billion in additional royalties because of these compliance efforts.” Those collections added to the \$231 billion disbursed by ONRR since 1982 to various federal, state and American Indian accounts.

The peer review examined the period Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2010, and reviewed randomly selected audits performed during that time period. It examined the quality control system, procedures, and other elements of ONRR's compliance program. Conducted by Williams, Adley & Co., the review concluded “the system of quality control for the audit function of the ONRR was suitably designed to meet the requirements of the quality control standards ... to provide reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in accordance with applicable professional auditing standards in all material respects.” The ONRR received a rating of “pass,” which is the highest rating that can be received.

According to Gould, “This is the third consecutive peer review rating indicating that ONRR performs its audit functions in accordance with the highest professional standards.”

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, under the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, is responsible for collecting and disbursing revenues from energy production that occurs onshore on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf. ONRR makes disbursements on a monthly basis from royalties, rents and bonuses it collects from mineral companies.