MMS Alaska OCS Region News Release

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North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak, Sr., Named to OCS Policy Committee

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has named North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak, Sr., to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee.

Mr. Ahmaogak is serving his fourth term as mayor of Alaska's North Slope Borough, the largest borough in Alaska. He is a member of the Barrow Whaling Captains Association and is actively involved in Alaska Native subsistence activities. He has also served as a Delegate to the International Whaling Commission at the 1997 Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

In addition to being a whaling captain, Mr. Ahmaogak has a long history of serving on Alaska Native Corporation Boards and Committees. He has also worked as President of several Corporations and as Director of the Property Tax Department for the North Slope Borough.

Mr. Ahmaogak was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and attended Sheldon Jackson Junior College and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He and his wife, Maggie, Executive Director of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, live in Barrow.

The OCS Policy Committee advises the MMS Director and the Secretary of the Interior on the offshore management of our natural gas and oil, mineral resources, and other issues that affect the Nation's outer continental shelf and coastal communities. The committee is composed of representatives from coastal states, the oil and gas industries, the environmental community, and other constituents.

The MMS is the federal agency that manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects, and last year disbursed about \$6 billion in revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.