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Gulf of Mexico Program

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GULFSTREAM NATURAL GAS SYSTEM WINS 3RD PLACE GULF GUARDIAN AWARD

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss. – The Gulf of Mexico Program recently announced that Gulfstream Natural Gas System, will receive a third place Gulf Guardian Award for 2003 in the Business Category. The award will be presented to representatives of Gulfstream at the Southern States Environmental Conference and Exhibition scheduled Sept. 23-25, in Biloxi.

Four years ago the Gulf of Mexico Program developed the Gulf Guardian awards as a method of recognizing and honoring the businesses, community groups, individuals, and agencies that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive. The Gulf of Mexico Program began in 1988 to protect, restore, and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in economically sustainable ways. Award entries were received from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. A first, second, and third place award are given each year in six categories – individual, business, youth and education, nonprofit organizations, government, and partnership efforts.

“Our oceans and coasts are precious resources,” said Jimmy Palmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator in Atlanta. “Coastal and marine waters provide some of the most diverse and biologically productive habitats on the planet,” he added. “This year’s Gulf Guardian Award winners are doing their part to keep these valuable resources healthy and productive.”

"The implementation of comprehensive environmental protection measures was critical to the successful construction of the Gulfstream project," said Al Taylor, Gulfstream vice president of Operations. "As the first interstate transmission pipeline constructed across the Gulf of Mexico, we recognize we have a unique relationship with the Gulf. That makes this award very special to Gulfstream and we are honored to receive it."

Gulfstream Natural Gas System is a \$1.6 billion natural gas pipeline providing Florida access to its first new natural gas supply source in more than 40 years. Placed into service May 28, 2002, it became the first transmission pipeline constructed across the Gulf of Mexico, extending from Alabama to Florida. The pipeline stretches 581 miles and required a team of 2,500 workers. Gulfstream worked closely with several federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the public and environmental conservation groups, to minimize any adverse environmental impacts to the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.

Gulf of Mexico Program Office Acting Director Bryon O. Griffith said, “Our 2003 Gulf Guardian Award winners are to be commended for taking action to preserve and restore the Gulf of Mexico.” “One out of every six jobs in the United States is marine-related, generating \$54 billion in

goods and services annually. Protecting these waters makes sense economically, aesthetically, and environmentally. Acting as one community to protect our one and only Gulf of Mexico is essential to our way of life and our standard of living.”

For a list of all the Gulf Guardian Award winners for 2003, visit the Gulf of Mexico Program web site at <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo> and click on the Gulf Guardian Award button on the left.

The Gulf of Mexico Program is underwritten by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is a non-regulatory, inclusive consortium of state and federal government agencies and representatives of the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, scientists, environmentalists, and community leaders from all five Gulf States. The Gulf Program seeks to improve the environmental health of the Gulf in concert with economic development.

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Editor's Note: For more information about the Gulf Guardian Awards and the Gulf of Mexico Program, call Terry Hines Smith at 228-688-1159. For more information about Gulfstream Natural Gas System, call Chris Stockton at (713) 215-2010.