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AOGC director honored as outstanding regulator

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) presented the 2009 Marland Award to Lawrence Bengal, Director of the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, at the IOGCC's Annual Meeting recently held in Biloxi, Mississippi. The presentation was made by 2009 IOGCC Chairman, Governor Brad Henry of Oklahoma. Bengal serves as Arkansas's official representative to the Commission, where he serves as Chairman of the IOGCC Carbon Capture and Geologic Storage Task Force.

The annual E.W. Marland Award was established in 1994 to recognize an outstanding oil and gas state regulator. E.W. Marland was a U.S. Congressman and the 10th governor of Oklahoma. He is considered the "Father of the Commission." The IOGCC is a multi-state government agency that works to ensure our nation's oil and natural gas resources are conserved and maximized while protecting health, safety and the environment. It advocates for environmentally-sound ways to increase the supply of American energy by providing governors of member states with a clear and unified voice to Congress, while also serving as the authority on issues surrounding these vital resources.

Lawrence Bengal holds a degree in geology from the University of Wisconsin and has more than 30 years' experience in the public and private sector. Bengal has served as a researcher with the Illinois State Geological Survey, as a project manager for a geologic and mining engineering consulting firm engaged in projects throughout the U.S., as an independent consulting petroleum geologist, and as Supervisor of the Illinois Oil and Gas Division.

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