

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[A2407-014-004-065516, #O2509-014-004-125222;LLAK930000.L13100000.EI0000]

Notice of Availability of the 2025 Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, Integrated Activity Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, announces the availability of the record of decision (ROD) for the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, Integrated Activity Plan (NPR—A IAP).

DATES: The Secretary of the Interior signed the ROD on December 22, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The ROD is available on the BLM ePlanning website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/117408/510>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Serena Sweet, BLM Alaska State Office Planning and Project Management Branch, phone 907-271-4543 or email, ssweet@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Sweet. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*), as amended, and its implementing regulations, require oil and gas leasing in the NPR—A and the protection of surface values to the extent consistent with the exploration, development, and transportation of oil and gas. The NPRPA, a dominant-use statute, excludes the NPR—A from the application of section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), as amended, which provides the statutory authority for the BLM to develop resource management plans to guide management of the public lands. Because of this exemption, the BLM conducts planning of all BLM-managed lands within the NPR—A with an IAP, which is not developed as a resource management plan and does not

implement the multiple use mission otherwise applicable on BLM lands.

The ROD being noticed here completes the priorities set forth in sections 3(b)(xii) and (xiv) of Executive Order 14153, “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential.” In the ROD, the Secretary adopted alternative E as described and analyzed in the 2020 IAP EIS and the 2025 IAP environmental assessment. The ROD, effective immediately as the Department’s operative decision for the NPR—A IAP, is consistent with section 50105 of Public Law 119-21 (known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act), enacted July 4, 2025, and Public Law 119-47, enacted December 5, 2025, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the 2022 NPR—A IAP ROD under the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801-808.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*)

Kevin J. Pendergast,
State Director, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

[Docket No. BOEM-2023-0046]

Gulf of America, Outer Continental Shelf, Record of Decision To Reaffirm Decisions for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261 and Gulf of America Regional OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales and Post-Lease Activities: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the record of decision (ROD) to reaffirm decisions for Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261 (Lease Sales 259 and 261) and its intent to use the Gulf of America Regional OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales and Post-Lease Activities: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GOA Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS) for, among other things, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis that can be tiered to when conducting post-lease and site-specific reviews of plans, permits and other approvals. This ROD concludes

the programmatic NEPA process for the GOA Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS.

ADDRESSES: The ROD and associated information are available on BOEM’s website at <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/gulf-america-lease-sales-259-and-261-supplemental-environmental-impact-statement>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Rucker, Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. (MS GM 623E), New Orleans, LA 70123-2394, by telephone at 504-736-2421, or by email at BOEMGOANEP@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BOEM is reaffirming the decisions for Lease Sales 259 and 261 as they were held and is also relying on the GOA Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS for that decision. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued Secretary’s Order (S.O.) 3423 (February 7, 2025), which directed the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) to the Gulf of America (GOA) in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 14172, “Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness”, (January 20, 2025). Throughout this ROD, BOEM uses the new GOA name where appropriate. However, legacy documents, such as previously published reports and environmental documents, remain unchanged as the GOM.

On March 6, 2023, in *Healthy Gulf v. Burgum*, several environmental nonprofit organizations (plaintiffs) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, against the Secretary of the Interior and BOEM challenging Lease Sale 259.

Additionally, on August 25, 2023, the same plaintiffs filed a complaint challenging Lease Sale 261. In those complaints, Plaintiffs allege that the ROD and SEIS violate the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, and request that the court find that any bids that BOEM received during the lease sales are not acceptable, vacate the ROD and SEIS, and vacate or enjoin any leases executed pursuant to the ROD and any lease activities executed pursuant to the lease sales. On November 29, 2023, the court stayed the Lease Sale 261 pending resolution of Lease Sale 259 litigation.

On March 27, 2025, in the challenge to Lease Sale 259, the court found that BOEM’s NEPA analysis for Lease Sale 259 had improperly evaluated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and impacts to the Rice’s whale. Concerning BOEM’s GHG analysis, the court found that BOEM had not adequately