

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1163

To amend title 10, United States Code, to transfer jurisdiction over Naval Oil Shale Reserves Numbered 1 and 3 to the Secretary of the Interior and to authorize the leasing of such reserves for oil and gas exploration and production.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY (for himself and Mr. MCINNIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on National Security, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to transfer jurisdiction over Naval Oil Shale Reserves Numbered 1 and 3 to the Secretary of the Interior and to authorize the leasing of such reserves for oil and gas exploration and production.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION, NAVAL OIL**
2 **SHALE RESERVES NUMBERED 1 AND 3.**

3 (a) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—Chapter 641 of title 10,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new section:

6 **“§ 7439. Certain oil shale reserves: transfer of juris-**
7 **isdiction and petroleum exploration, devel-**
8 **opment, and production**

9 “(a) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—(1) Upon the enact-
10 ment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall trans-
11 fer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdic-
12 tion over all public domain lands included within Oil Shale
13 Reserve Numbered 1 and those public domain lands in-
14 cluded within the undeveloped tracts of Oil Shale Reserve
15 Numbered 3.

16 “(2) Not later than one year after the date of the
17 enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall
18 transfer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative ju-
19 risdiction over those public domain lands included within
20 the developed tract of Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3,
21 which consists of approximately 6,000 acres and 24 natu-
22 ral gas wells, together with pipelines and associated facili-
23 ties.

24 “(3) Notwithstanding the transfer of jurisdiction, the
25 Secretary of Energy shall continue to be responsible for
26 all environmental restoration, waste management, and en-

1 vironmental compliance activities that are required under
2 Federal and State laws with respect to conditions existing
3 on the lands at the time of the transfer.

4 “(b) AUTHORITY TO LEASE.—(1) Beginning on the
5 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the
6 Interior may lease public domain lands in Oil Shale Re-
7 serves Numbered 1 and 3 (including the developed tract
8 of Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3) to one or more private
9 entities for the purpose of exploration for, and develop-
10 ment and production of, petroleum and natural gas (other
11 than in the form of oil shale). Any such lease shall be
12 made and any monies received by the United States in
13 connection with any such leases shall be disposed of in
14 accordance with the requirements of the Mineral Leasing
15 Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) regarding the lease of oil and
16 gas lands and shall be subject to valid existing rights.

17 “(2) Notwithstanding the delayed transfer of the de-
18 veloped tract of Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3 under sub-
19 section (a)(2), the Secretary of the Interior shall endeavor
20 to enter into a lease under paragraph (1) with respect to
21 the developed tract before the end of the one-year period
22 beginning on the date of the enactment of this section.

23 “(3) Section 7431 of this title shall not apply to the
24 lease of lands by the Secretary of the Interior under this
25 subsection.

1 “(c) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior,
 2 acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Man-
 3 agement, shall manage the surface estate in the lands
 4 transferred under subsection (a) in accordance with the
 5 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
 6 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and other laws applicable to the pub-
 7 lic lands.

8 “(d) TRANSFER OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT.—The
 9 lease of lands by the Secretary of the Interior under this
 10 section may include the transfer, at fair market value, of
 11 any well, gathering line, or related equipment owned by
 12 the United States on the lands transferred under sub-
 13 section (a) and suitable for use in the exploration, develop-
 14 ment, or production of petroleum on the lands.

15 “(e) COST MINIMIZATION.—The Secretary of the In-
 16 terior shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure
 17 that the cost of compliance with this section is mini-
 18 mized.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
 21 at the end the following new item:

“7439. Certain oil shale reserves: transfer of jurisdiction and petroleum explo-
 ration, development, and production.”.

