

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 771

To permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

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

3 SECTION 1. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN
4 CERTAIN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTI-
5 NENTAL SHELF.

6 Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
7 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

1 “(p) PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN
2 CERTAIN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any
4 other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue a
5 lease for the exploration, development, or production of
6 oil, natural gas, or any other mineral in—

7 “(1) the eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area;

8 “(2) the Straits of Florida planning area; or

9 “(3) the South Atlantic planning area, extend-
10 ing from the Straits of Florida planning area to the
11 border between the States of Florida and Georgia.”.

12 **SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

13 (a) CONDITIONS FOR BIDDING ON OPTION TO
14 LEASE.—The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42
15 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
16 24 the following:

17 **“SEC. 24A. CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF OPTION TO LEASE.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The sale of an option to enter
19 into an oil and gas lease described in section 25 (including
20 a lease to drill an exploratory well) shall be contingent
21 on—

22 “(1) the preparation, in accordance with the
23 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
24 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) of an environmental impact

1 statement concerning the activities to be conducted
2 under the oil and gas lease; and

3 “(2) after preparation of the environmental im-
4 pact statement, the completion by the affected State
5 of a consistency certification in accordance with sec-
6 tion 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of
7 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)).

8 “(b) EXCLUDED PLANS.—This section does not apply
9 to a plan for the production and transportation of natural
10 gas described in section 25(k).”.

11 (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA TO DEVELOPMENT
12 PLANS.—Section 25(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf
13 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(d)) is amended by striking
14 “unless the State” and inserting “unless the State, after
15 completion of the environmental impact statement under
16 section 24A.”.

17 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF
18 PLANS.—Section 25(h)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf
19 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(h)(1)) is amended in the first
20 sentence by striking “sixty” each place it appears and in-
21 serting “90”.

22 (d) APPLICABILITY TO LEASES IN THE GULF OF
23 MEXICO.—Section 25 of the Outer Continental Shelf
24 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351) is amended—

4 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “accompanied by a
9 statement” and inserting “accompanied
10 by—

11 “(A) a statement”;

12 (ii) by striking the period at the end
13 and inserting “; and”; and

14 (iii) by inserting the following:

15 “(B) a copy of the environmental impact
16 statement for the oil and gas lease prepared
17 under section 24A”; and

18 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 "(3) SUBMISSION OF STATEMENTS.—Except for any
21 privileged or proprietary information (as the term is de-
22 fined in regulations promulgated by the Secretary), the
23 Secretary, not later than 10 days after receipt of the state-
24 ments described in paragraph (2), shall—

1 “(A) submit the statements to the Governor of
2 any affected State, and, upon request, to the chief
3 executive officer of any affected local government;
4 and

5 “(B) make the statements available to any ap-
6 propriate interstate regional entity and the public.”.

7 (2) Section 25(e)(2) of the Outer Continental
8 Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)) is amended
9 by striking “approved,” and inserting “approved (in-
10 cluding plans for exploratory wells),”.

11 (3) Section 25(f) of the Outer Continental Shelf
12 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(f)) is amended by strik-
13 ing “the draft environmental impact statement” and
14 insert “a copy of the environmental impact state-
15 ment for the lease prepared under section 24A”.

16 (4) Section 25(h)(1) of the Outer Continental
17 Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(h)(1)) is amended
18 by striking “subsection (e) of this section” and in-
19 serting “section 24A”.

20 **SEC. 3. BUYBACK OF OFFSHORE LEASES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may
22 purchase the rights to oil and gas development and pro-
23 duction covered by the following outstanding leases in the
24 Gulf of Mexico:

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)
10 \$90,162,402.

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