

**§ 15912. Comprehensive inventory of OCS oil and natural gas resources**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct an inventory and analysis of oil and natural gas resources beneath all of the waters of the United States Outer Continental Shelf (“OCS”). The inventory and analysis shall—

- (1) use available data on oil and gas resources in areas offshore of Mexico and Canada that will provide information on trends of oil and gas accumulation in areas of the OCS;
- (2) use any available technology, except drilling, but including 3-D seismic technology to obtain accurate resource estimates;
- (3) analyze how resource estimates in OCS areas have changed over time in regards to gathering geological and geophysical data, initial exploration, or full field development, including areas such as the deepwater and subsalt areas in the Gulf of Mexico;
- (4) estimate the effect that understated oil and gas resource inventories have on domestic energy investments; and
- (5) identify and explain how legislative, regulatory, and administrative programs or processes restrict or impede the development of identified resources and the extent that they affect domestic supply, such as moratoria, lease terms and conditions, operational stipulations and requirements, approval delays by the Federal Government and coastal States, and local zoning restrictions for onshore processing facilities and pipeline landings.

**(b) Reports**

The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the inventory of estimates and the analysis of restrictions or impediments, together with any recommendations, within 6 months of August 8, 2005. The report shall be publicly available and updated at least every 5 years.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title III, §357, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 720.)

PART B—ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS

**§ 15921. Management of Federal oil and gas leasing programs**

**(a) Timely action on leases and permits**

**(1) Secretary of the Interior**

To ensure timely action on oil and gas leases and applications for permits to drill on land otherwise available for leasing, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall—

- (A) ensure expeditious compliance with section 4332(2)(C) of this title and any other applicable environmental and cultural resources laws;
- (B) improve consultation and coordination with the States and the public; and
- (C) improve the collection, storage, and retrieval of information relating to the oil and gas leasing activities.

**(2) Secretary of Agriculture**

To ensure timely action on oil and gas lease applications for permits to drill on land other-

wise available for leasing, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

- (A) ensure expeditious compliance with all applicable environmental and cultural resources laws; and
- (B) improve the collection, storage, and retrieval of information relating to the oil and gas leasing activities.

**(b) Best management practices**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 18 months after August 8, 2005, the Secretary shall develop and implement best management practices to—

- (A) improve the administration of the onshore oil and gas leasing program under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.); and
- (B) ensure timely action on oil and gas leases and applications for permits to drill on land otherwise available for leasing.

**(2) Considerations**

In developing the best management practices under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider any recommendations from the review under section 361.<sup>1</sup>

**(3) Regulations**

Not later than 180 days after the development of the best management practices under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish, for public comment, proposed regulations that set forth specific timeframes for processing leases and applications in accordance with the best management practices, including deadlines for—

- (A) approving or disapproving—
  - (i) resource management plans and related documents;
  - (ii) lease applications;
  - (iii) applications for permits to drill; and
  - (iv) surface use plans; and
- (B) related administrative appeals.

**(c) Improved enforcement**

The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall improve inspection and enforcement of oil and gas activities, including enforcement of terms and conditions in permits to drill on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture, respectively.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

In addition to amounts made available to carry out activities relating to oil and gas leasing on public land administered by the Secretary and National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, there are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010—

- (1) to the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management—
  - (A) \$40,000,000 to carry out subsections (a)(1) and (b); and
  - (B) \$20,000,000 to carry out subsection (c);
- (2) to the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$5,000,000 to carry out subsection (a)(1); and

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.