

- (B) increase methane recovery efficiency;
- (C) prevent spoilage of domestic coal reserves; and
- (D) minimize water disposal associated with methane extraction; and

(4) expand mining research capabilities at institutions of higher education.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title IX, §964, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 892.)

§ 16295. Oil and gas research programs

(a) In general

The Secretary shall conduct a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of oil and gas, including—

- (1) exploration and production;
- (2) gas hydrates;
- (3) reservoir life and extension;
- (4) transportation and distribution infrastructure;
- (5) ultraclean fuels;
- (6) heavy oil, oil shale, and tar sands; and
- (7) related environmental research.

(b) Objectives

The objectives of this program shall include advancing the science and technology available to domestic petroleum producers, particularly independent operators, to minimize the economic dislocation caused by the decline of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas resources.

(c) Natural gas and oil deposits report

Not later than 2 years after August 8, 2005, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on the latest estimates of natural gas and oil reserves, reserves growth, and undiscovered resources in Federal and State waters off the coast of Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi.

(d) Integrated clean power and energy research

(1) Establishment of center

The Secretary shall establish a national center or consortium of excellence in clean energy and power generation, using the resources of the Clean Power and Energy Research Consortium in existence on August 8, 2005, to address the critical dependence of the United States on energy and the need to reduce emissions.

(2) Focus areas

The center or consortium shall conduct a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application on integrating the following 6 focus areas:

- (A) Efficiency and reliability of gas turbines for power generation.
- (B) Reduction in emissions from power generation.
- (C) Promotion of energy conservation issues.
- (D) Effectively using alternative fuels and renewable energy.
- (E) Development of advanced materials technology for oil and gas exploration and use in harsh environments.

- (F) Education on energy and power generation issues.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title IX, §965, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 892.)

§ 16296. Low-volume oil and gas reservoir research program

(a) Definition of GIS

In this section, the term “GIS” means geographic information systems technology that facilitates the organization and management of data with a geographic component.

(b) Program

The Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to maximize the productive capacity of marginal wells and reservoirs.

(c) Data collection

Under the program, the Secretary shall collect data on—

- (1) the status and location of marginal wells and oil and gas reservoirs;
- (2) the production capacity of marginal wells and oil and gas reservoirs;
- (3) the location of low-pressure gathering facilities and pipelines; and
- (4) the quantity of natural gas vented or flared in association with crude oil production.

(d) Analysis

Under the program, the Secretary shall—

- (1) estimate the remaining producible reserves based on variable pipeline pressures; and
- (2) recommend measures that will enable the continued production of those resources.

(e) Study

(1) In general

The Secretary may award a grant to an organization of States that contain significant numbers of marginal oil and natural gas wells to conduct an annual study of low-volume natural gas reservoirs.

(2) Organization with no GIS capabilities

If an organization receiving a grant under paragraph (1) does not have GIS capabilities, the organization shall contract with an institution of higher education with GIS capabilities.

(3) State geologists

The organization receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall collaborate with the State geologist of each State being studied.

(f) Public information

The Secretary may use the data collected and analyzed under this section to produce maps and literature to disseminate to States to promote conservation of natural gas reserves.

(Pub. L. 109–58, title IX, §966, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 893.)

§ 16297. Complex Well Technology Testing Facility

The Secretary, in coordination with industry leaders in extended research drilling technology,