

## Implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005

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| SECTION  | SUBJECT  | DEPARTMENT<br>OR BUREAU | IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE   |
|----------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Sec. 347 | Oil and Gas Leasing in<br>the National Petroleum<br>Reserve in Alaska                | BLM                     | No action to date. Regulations required as soon as practicable<br>after enactment regarding changes to renewal procedures for<br>leases and exploration incentives.  |
| Sec. 349 | Orphaned, Abandoned, or<br>Idled Wells on Federal<br>Land                            | BLM, MMS                | Pilot program to be developed for new leases on which one<br>or more orphaned wells are located. Secretary authorized<br>to issue regulations as appropriate. This program will<br>entail reimbursement to a lessee for reclamation of<br>orphaned/abandoned wells through a royalty credit<br>against the Federal share of royalties.   |
| Sec. 350 | Combined Hydrocarbon<br>Leasing  | BLM                     | BLM published an Interim Final Rule on October 7, 2005<br>amending 43 C.F.R. Part 3140 to allow for separate oil<br>and gas leases and tar sands leases, and special combined<br>hydrocarbon leases in tar sands areas. <i>See</i> 70 Fed. Reg.<br>58854, 58874 (Oct. 7, 2005).  |
| Sec. 352 | Oil and Gas Lease Acreage<br>Limitations   | BLM                     | No action to date. Regulation change needed to conform<br>existing requirements to statute. BLM intends to issue<br>direct final rule.   |
| Sec. 357 | OCS Inventory of all oil and gas resources   | MMS                     | MMS requested public comment on the new 5-year leasing program (2007-2012) and EIS for OCS oil and gas leasing. <i>See</i> 70 Fed. Reg. 49669 (Aug. 24, 2005).   |
| Sec. 362 | Timely Action on Leases<br>and Permits; Expeditious<br>Compliance with NEPA,<br>NHPA | USDA,<br>BLM,<br>FWS    | No action to date. Proposed regulations to be published for<br>comment detailing specific timeframes for processing lease<br>applications, Resource Management Plans, and related<br>documents. Requires development and implementation<br>of Best Management Practices. No deadline for final rule.<br>Proposed regulations must be published within 180 days<br>of development of Best Management Practices. |
| Sec. 363 | Consultation   | BLM, USDA               | Interior and USDA are establishing a joint data retrieval<br>system. Interior and USDA shall enter into a MOU to<br>establish administrative procedures and lines of authority<br>that ensure timely processing of oil and gas lease applications.   |
| Sec. 364 | EPCA Studies   | USGS, BLM               | Requires more detailed description of impediments to development.  |

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| Sec. 365  | Pilot Project to Improve<br>Permit Coordination;<br>Cost Recovery   | BLM                      | On July 19, 2005, BLM proposed increased fees related to oil<br>and gas operations to assist in cost recovery, including additional<br>fees for APDs. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 banned fee<br>recovery related to APDs and geophysical exploration permits.<br>BLM's final rule did not include these fees. <i>See</i> 70 Fed. Reg.<br>58854, 58855 (Oct. 7, 2005).   |
| Sec. 365  | Pilot Project to Improve<br>Permit Coordination;<br>Memorandum of<br>Understanding  | DOI, USDA,<br>Epa, usace | On October 24, 2005, Secretary Norton signed the MOU<br>to expedite the Federal oil and gas permit processing. The<br>Energy Policy Act established the Federal Permit Streamlining<br>Pilot Project in 7 BLM Field Offices to improve the efficiency<br>in processing oil and gas use authorizations and permit<br>coordination. Mineral Leasing Act revenue distribution<br>has been changed for a BLM Permit Processing Improvement<br>Fund which shall be available to the Secretary, without further<br>appropriation, for FY 2006 through 2015. |
| Sec. 366  | Deadline for<br>Considering APDs  | BLM                      | Proposed rule to be issued in connection with revision of<br>Onshore Order No. 1. On Sept. 13, 2005, BLM issued<br>Instruction Memorandum 2005-235 for Interim Guidance.  |
| Sec. 368  | Energy Right of Way<br>Corridors on Federal<br>Lands (pipelines,<br>electricity transmission<br>and distribution facilities<br>on federal Land) | BLM, FS                  | On September 28, 2005, the Department of the Interior<br>published a notice of intent to prepare a programmatic EIS<br>for Energy Right of Way Corridors on federal lands. Public<br>comments are due by November 28, 2005. <i>See</i> 70 Fed. Reg.<br>56647 (Sept. 28, 2005).  |
| Sec. 369  | Oil Shale, Tar Sands,<br>and Other Strategic<br>Unconventional Fuels  | BLM                      | Industry nominated nineteen parcels for oil shale research and<br>development on federal lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.<br>An interdisciplinary team is considering the nominations and<br>will then make recommendations for awarding leases.   |
| Sec. 390  | NEPA Categorical<br>Exclusions  | FS, BLM,<br>USDA         | On Sept. 30, 2005, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2005-247 which provides guidance on use of NEPA categorical exclusions. The final provision will be included in revised Onshore Order No. 1. BLM may issue another rulemaking to define when the phrase "subject to rebuttable presumption" will apply.  |
| Sec. 1835 | Split-Estate Issues   | BLM                      | No action to date. Secretary to review the current policies<br>and practices with respect to management of Federal subsurface<br>oil and gas development activities and their effects. Report to<br>Congress no later than 180 days after enactment.  |

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