

IADC Briefing Book

Access to Public Land and Water



In the U.S., the Department of Interior's (DoI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing 264 million acres of surface acre public lands located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska. The agency also manages an additional 300 million acres of below ground mineral estate located around the country. The DoI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for managing oil and gas acreage on the U.S. outer continental shelf.

Key Messages

- The U.S. uses nearly 20 million barrels of oil per day. [1] In 2015, according to data from the Energy Information Association, the U.S. produced more than 79 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas and 9.4 million barrels per day of crude oil. [2][3] Ensuring access to federal lands and waters ensures that the oil and gas industry is able to supply the country's energy needs. These resources belong to all Americans and Congress charged the DoI, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to pursue development of our natural resources. [4] While oil can be obtained through overseas sources, producing them on U.S. soil has the added benefit of jobs and taxes, contributing to the overall economy.
- In the past, there were frontiers that were inaccessible for oil and gas operations, due primarily to geography and the difficulty and expense involved in accessing the reserves. Presently, in many instances, technology has made drilling in these areas economically feasible.
- IADC members believe that the U.S. requires energy policies that facilitate energy exploration and production, as these activities fuel the economy. Case in point: the oil and gas industry supports more than \$1 trillion in total value added to the economy, representing 7.3% of U.S. GDP. [5]
- BOEM has consistently disregarded industry's requests to open portions of the Atlantic to drilling exploration, even with the knowledge that it could result in thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars of new investment. The area is believed to contain 3.3 billion barrels of oil and 31.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas off the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. [6]
- IADC remains steadfast in supporting policies that enable safe and efficient drilling activities.

Resources

1. Energy Information Association: <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=33&t=6>
2. Energy Information Association: <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=25832>
3. Energy Information Association: https://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/report/global_oil.cfm

4. Federal Land Policy and Management Act:
<http://www.blm.gov/or/regulations/files/FLPMA.pdf>
5. American Petroleum Institute (API): <http://www.api.org/~media/files/policy/soae-2013/soae-report-2013.pdf>
6. New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/15/us/politics/in-reversal-us-plan-on-drilling-to-be-pulled.html>