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scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Vincent Devito  
**Sent:** 2017-10-25T13:46:25-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: GOING AT 2PM: Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report  
**Received:** 2017-10-25T13:46:34-04:00

Need to incorporate the ECEP SP. please stand by.

> On Oct 25, 2017, at 12:54 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi all -- Below please find the (hopefully) final version of our press  
> release, with the report attached. Please let Alex and Heather know ASAP if  
> you have any issues/concerns.

> Thanks,

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> [image: news release]

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> Date: October 25, 2017

> Contact: Interior\_Press@ios.doi.gov

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> \*Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report\*

> \*Outlines Trump Administration's bold approach to achieving American  
> energy dominance\*

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> \*WASHINGTON\* – U.S. Secretary Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior  
> released the "Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that  
> Potentially Burden Domestic Energy" report which was produced in response  
> to Executive Order 13783. The report identified agency actions that  
> potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy  
> resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear  
> energy resources. Interior oversees America's oil, gas, coal, hydropower,  
> and renewable energy resources produced on federal lands and waters, which  
> account for almost one-fifth of the Nation's energy and generate on  
> average \$10 billion per year in annual revenue.

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> "Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the  
> environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the  
> review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and  
> burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the  
> production or transmission of our domestic energy," \*said Secretary of the  
> Interior Ryan Zinke\*. "Our public lands are meant to be managed for the  
> benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate  
> and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under  
> reasonable regulations. Following President Trump's leadership, Interior is  
> fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and  
> revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations – all while doing  
> so in an environmentally responsible way."

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> "The federal government can and must be a better business partner," \*Vincent  
> DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, said\*. "Secretary  
> Zinke's bold approach to achieving American energy dominance is making our

> nation freer, more secure, and more prosperous. Regulations should not  
> unnecessarily burden energy production, but that is what occurs in many  
> cases. The recent actions outlined in this energy report show how Interior  
> is rolling back some of these burdensome regulations that add little or no  
> value, while promoting responsible energy development.”  
>  
> The report identified a number of burdens that specifically impede the  
> production and transportation of energy resources, including, but not  
> limited to:  
>  
> - \*Obama-Era 5-Year Program\* Under the last Administration, 94% of the  
> Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) was put off-limits from leasing, having an  
> adverse effect on jobs and energy dominance, while drastically reducing  
> access to future revenue.  
> - Trump Administration Action: Secretarial Order 3350, America-First  
> Offshore Energy Strategy  
> <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-signs-orders-implementing-america-first-offshore-energy-strategy>>  
> started  
> the process of developing a new 5-Year Program to responsibly develop the  
> OCS and generate much-needed revenue.  
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>  
> - \*Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium (Secretarial Order 3338,  
> Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the  
> Federal Coal Program)\* Nearly 40% of our nation's coal comes from  
> public lands. The 2016 coal moratorium undermines American energy  
> security, inhibits job creation, and reduces revenues to state and local  
> governments.  
> - Action: Secretarial Order 3348, Concerning the Federal Coal  
> Moratorium  
> <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-takes-immediate-action-advance-american-energy-independence>>  
> repealed  
> the Obama-era moratorium on new federal coal leases.  
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> - \*Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule (RIN 1004-AE26)\*  
> The compliance costs of the existing 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing are  
> not justified. All 32 states with federal oil and gas leases and some  
> tribes currently have laws or regulations that address hydraulic fracturing  
> operations.  
> - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence  
> <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-takes-immediate-action-advance-american-energy-independence>>  
> put  
> the rule under review. The BLM published a rulemaking to rescind the rule  
> on July 25th.  
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> - \*Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource  
> Conservation AKA the Venting and Flaring Rule (RIN 1004-AE14)\* The rule  
> imposes a substantial burden on industry, especially for marginal well  
> production in energy-rich states like New Mexico, particularly the  
> requirements that are set to become effective on January 17, 2018.  
> - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence

- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-takes-immediate-action-advance-american-energy-independence>>
- > put
- > the rules under review for subsequent action by the Department.
- > On October
- > 5, 2017, the BLM issued a proposed rule to temporarily suspend certain
- > requirements of the rule. The BLM is also actively reviewing the
- > underlying
- > regulation for potential revision.
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- > - \*Unnecessarily lengthy NEPA reviews delay projects\* The NEPA process
- > has added extra time and analysis to project completion, which adds to
- > uncertainty for industry and higher costs for taxpayers. This is
- > particularly true for Departmental actions that impact energy and
- > infrastructure projects, such as resource management planning, permitting,
- > and issuance of rights-of-way for pipeline projects and electricity
- > transmission.
- > - Actions: The Department has identified a number of rules and
- > regulations to revise or rescind such as the Master Leasing
- > Plans, the NEPA
- > Compliance for Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement Petitions, and the
- > Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans. In addition, the Deputy Secretary
- > issued an August memo setting a deadline of one year and limiting EIS
- > statements to 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.
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- > - \*Holding energy producers hostage via Compensatory Mitigation
- > (Secretarial Order 3330)\* Current compensatory mitigation policies
- > have reduced predictability, created conflicts, and unnecessarily increased
- > permitting/authorization timelines. Additionally, industry stakeholders
- > believe the mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority.
- > Currently, Interior and its bureaus lack a consistent terminology and
- > framework for mitigation.
- > - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-takes-immediate-action-advance-american-energy-independence>>
- > reexamined the use of mitigation policies and practices in order
- > to better
- > balance conservation strategies and job creation. Bureaus at the Interior
- > will review various handbooks and manuals on the use of mitigation for
- > energy and infrastructure projects.
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- > - \*Systematic delays in the leasing program and permitting process \*The
- > long period from when acreage is first nominated to when those acres are
- > offered at a lease sale, as well as delays between the lease sale date and
- > when leases are awarded reduces industry certainty and hinders states from
- > receiving their share of lease sale revenues. These delays have
- > rendered industry less able to plan for and execute exploration and
- > production strategies in a timely fashion, and less able to respond
- > effectively to changing market conditions.
- > - Action: Secretarial Order 3354 Supporting and Improving the Federal
- > Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing
- > Program
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-order-streamline-process-federal->

onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing>.

- > In January 2017 there were 92 vacancies in key positions related to the
- > permitting process. Since that time this administration has filled nearly
- > half of those positions. The BLM is also modernizing the software used to
- > track and coordinate permitting while seeking to add regional teams that
- > will be able to greatly streamline the permitting process. So
- > far this year
- > the BLM has decreased their processing time for APDs by an average of 46
- > days.
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- > - \*Endangered Species Act\* The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is taken
- > into consideration for both on- and offshore energy and infrastructure
- > projects. It has far-reaching negative impacts on energy production and
- > transmission as well as on critical infrastructure projects. ESA abuses
- > have led to increased costs and delays on projects.
- > - Action: Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation
- > and Cooperation with Western States
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-signs-order-improve-sage-grouse-conservation-strengthen-communication>>
- > Work with the Western Governors Association and other local partners to
- > develop recommendations to improve the application of the ESA. Launch a
- > review of ESA regulations and policy documents regarding outdated,
- > unnecessary, ineffective, and inconsistently aligned with Executive and
- > Secretarial Orders.
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- > The report also detailed extensive action taken to advance American Energy
- > Dominance at the Department of the Interior, including, but not limited to:
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- > - Secretarial Order 3351: Strengthening the Department of the Interior's
- > Energy Portfolio
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-secretary-announces-vincent-devito-counselor-energy-policy>>
- > - Secretarial Order 3352: National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-signs-order-jump-start-alaskan-energy>>
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- > - Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and
- > Cooperation with Western States
- > <<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-signs-order-improve-sage-grouse-conservation-strengthen-communication>>
- > - Reestablishing the Royalty Policy Committee to ensure the public
- > continues to receive the full value of energy produced on federal lands.
- > - Review, repeal, and rewriting of the following rules: the BSEE Well
- > Control and BOP Rules, the ONRR Valuation Rule, and the OSMRE Stream
- > Protection Rule.
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- > <DOI Submission for Publication.pdf>