



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3445

Subject: Unleashing American Offshore Energy

Sec. 1. **Purpose.** This Order further implements provisions of Executive Order (EO) 14154 and Secretary's Order (SO) 3418, both entitled, "Unleashing American Energy," and directs the Department of the Interior (Department) Bureaus and Offices to take additional steps, as necessary, to develop our Nation's abundant energy resources. To follow through on those directives, this Order hereby announces the intent of the Department to terminate the inadequate "2024-2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program" (10th National Program) that was approved by the Biden administration with a new, more expansive National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program as soon as possible and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (11th National Program).

Sec. 2. **Authority.** This Order is issued under section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended. Other authorities include, but are not limited to, section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA, 43 U.S.C. 1344), EO 14154, and SO 3418.

Sec. 3. **Background.**

Executive Directives

EO 14154 established that it is the policy of the United States to "encourage energy exploration and production on federal lands and waters, including the Outer Continental Shelf, to meet the needs of our citizens and solidify the United States as a global energy leader long into the future," and directed the removal of impediments imposed on the development and use of our Nation's abundant energy and natural resources by the Biden administration's burdensome regulations. SO 3418 further directed all Assistant Secretaries to develop an action plan to "suspend, revise, or rescind documents" related to, among other actions, the 10th National Program.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act

Congress enacted OCSLA in 1953, granting the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) broad authority to lease and regulate the development of mineral resources on the OCS. Section 18(a) of OCSLA specifically requires the Secretary to "prepare and periodically revise and maintain an oil and gas leasing program," which he determines "will best meet national energy needs" and "to assure receipt of fair market value for the lands leased and the rights conveyed by the Federal Government."

President Trump's First Term

During President Trump's first term, the Department took significant steps to develop the Nation's offshore oil and gas resources. On January 4, 2018, the Department released a draft proposal for the 2019-2024 National Program that called for up to 47 lease sales in 90 percent of the total OCS acreage and more than 98 percent of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources for oil and gas exploration and production. During President Trump's first term, the Department also held six successful lease sales in the Gulf of America (GOA) region that resulted in nearly \$1 billion in revenue for bonus bids alone:

1. Lease Sale 250 (March 21, 2018), which resulted in high bids for 148 tracts covering 815,403 acres.
2. Lease Sale 251 (Aug. 15, 2018), which resulted in high bids for 144 tracts covering 801,288 acres.
3. Lease Sale 252 (March 20, 2019), which resulted in high bids for 227 tracts covering 1,261,133 acres.
4. Lease Sale 253 (August 21, 2019), which resulted in high bids for 151 tracts covering 835,006 acres.
5. Lease Sale 254 (March 18, 2020), which resulted in high bids for 71 tracts covering 397,285 acres.
6. Lease Sale 256 (November 18, 2020), which resulted in high bids for 93 tracts covering 517,733 acres.

Importantly, offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production in the GOA region has been the largest annual producer of oil from the Federal estate. Over the past 20 years, offshore energy production in the GOA region has generated nearly \$150 billion in total revenue for the United States, those coastal States, and their parishes and counties.

This responsible production serves as an incredible source of revenue for not only the United States, but also many coastal States that are entitled to revenue sharing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. The bonus bids, rentals, and royalties received by these States have acted as a much-needed source of income for States like Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama, and their coastal parishes and counties. Indeed, over that same period, State and local governments have received \$2.8 billion in total revenue from offshore oil and gas production.

Notably, offshore oil and gas production also serves as an important source of funding for Federal conservation efforts. Since 2003, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund have received nearly \$20.5 billion and \$3 billion, respectively, in funding because of these activities.

The Biden Administration

The Biden administration, however, subverted Congress's clear instruction in OCSLA to administer a National Program that best meets the Nation's energy needs. Despite the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) decision to analyze as many as 11 lease sales in its July 8, 2022 Proposed Program and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Department and BOEM instead chose to approve a Proposed Final Program (PFP) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the 10th National Program on December 14, 2023, that provides for only three lease sales in the GOA region and no lease sales in Alaska—the fewest sales ever proposed by the Department.

To that end, the Biden administration ultimately chose not to schedule a lease sale until 2025, following the Secretary's decision to approve the PFP and ROD, thus failing to administer a program that would meet the Nation's energy needs. This abdication, among other decisions made by the Biden administration, resulted in the national energy emergency declared by President Trump on January 20, 2025. Not only did the Biden administration choose to ignore the need to develop our Nation's oil and gas resources in the OCS, but it also chose to hinder the development of one of the Biden administration's own priorities—offshore wind energy—given the mandate provided for in section 50265(b)(2) of the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, which prohibits the Secretary from issuing a lease for offshore wind development unless an offshore oil and gas lease sale has been held during the preceding 1-year period that makes not less than 60,000,000 acres in the OCS available for leasing.

Notably, on January 6, 2025, a mere 2 weeks before the end of his term, President Biden also issued two memoranda under section 12(a) of OCSLA that withdrew historically large areas of the OCS from being considered for oil or natural gas leasing, including for exploration, development, and production. This decision arbitrarily and capriciously eliminated the potential to lease and develop oil and gas reserves in many of the withdrawn areas because these exclusions could have been nominated by stakeholders, in accordance with section 18(f) of OCSLA, or proposed by the Secretary for analysis during the planning process.

The Biden administration's war on fossil fuel production and *de-facto* cancellation of offshore energy leasing activities has had a material impact on these revenues to the Federal Government, States, and coastal political subdivisions. This injustice deserves immediate remedy.

One Big Beautiful Bill Act

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed H.R. 1, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), into law. Section 50102(a)(1) of the OBBBA required a minimum of 30 lease sales in the GOA, with at least one sale required by the end of 2025 and at least two annually through 2039. Section 50102(a)(2) also mandated a minimum of six offshore lease sales through 2032 in Alaska, with at least one held in 2026. These sales are to occur *in addition to* those lease sales held under the 10th National Program, which Congress pointedly articulated "does not satisfy the requirements" of section 50102(a)(1). The plain language and sale benchmarks in section 50102 of OBBBA evidence that the Biden administration abdicated its statutory duties under OCSLA and caused the national energy emergency.

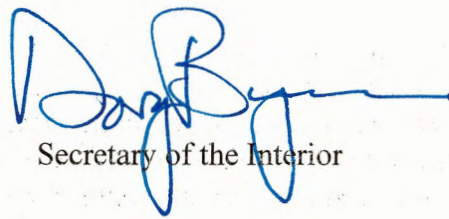
The Department will hold four lease sales pursuant to the OBBBA in the next year—one in December 2025, two in March 2026, and one in August 2026—to account for the Biden administration's dereliction of duty, which will provide much-needed clarity and stability for U.S. industry and encourage continued investment in deepwater infrastructure, which is foundational to national energy resilience. The domestic offshore industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, contributes tens of billions to U.S. gross domestic product annually, and generates substantial Federal and State revenues. The economic and energy-security gains from these sales are both immediate and long-lasting.

Sec. 4. Directive. This Order hereby directs the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management, in consultation with the Solicitor and Director of BOEM, to terminate the 10th National Program and take the steps necessary to finalize, publish, and implement the 11th National Program not later than 1 year after the date of the issuance of this Order, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

Sec. 5. **Implementation.** The Deputy Secretary is responsible for implementing all aspects of this Order, in coordination with the Assistant Secretaries and the Solicitor.

Sec. 6. **Effect of this Order.** This Order is intended to focus the Department's resources to ensure that an expansive 11th National Program is finalized and implemented as soon as possible and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in order to address the national energy emergency and develop our Nation's abundant energy resources. This Order and any resulting directives, reports, and recommendations are not intended to, and do not create any right or benefit, substantial or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 7. **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, or until the final 11th National Program is approved by the Secretary with notification to Congress and the President, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **NOV 14 2025**