

**From:** [White, Katherine M](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Rachael S](#); [Triebisch, George F](#); [Myers, Casey A](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 2:22:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [Deputy Secretary Meeting Request Form.docx](#)

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Hi Rachael,

The Dep Sec's office received a request for an external meeting that he won't be able to accept. He's passing it on to see if you or someone in PMB would want to take it instead?

The meeting is with:

- Zig Serafin, CEO, Qualtrics
- Kevin Briggs, Vice President Federal, Qualtrics
- Matt Chong, Area Vice President – Federal, Qualtrics
- Dana J Thompson, Partner, Fulcrum Public Affairs

And the topic is:

Goal: Build a relationship to support the Dept with its new highly visible Executive Orders, policies, and newly formed Strategic Initiatives. We would also touch upon areas such as DEI / Social Equity; better empowering the Dept, and how to enhance the NPS experiences.

To get better acquainted with Qualtrics as a potential partner and to identify places where further, more in-depth dialogue might be warranted.

It may involve discussion of the Department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion directives/policies.

The request form is attached here. Let us know what you think. Thanks!

-Katie

**Katie White**

Executive Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

1849 C Street NW, Room 5113

Washington, DC 20240

Phone: 202-208-6411

[Katherine.White@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Katherine.White@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Rees, Gareth C <Gareth\_Rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 8, 2021 1:32 PM  
**To:** White, Katherine M <katherine\_white@ios.doi.gov>; Myers, Casey A <casey\_myers@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

Hi,

We have declined this for the Dep Sec. Would Rachael or someone in PMB want to do this?

Thanks

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-227-9181

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**From:** Dana Thompson <[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:43 AM

**To:** Rees, Gareth C <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

Hello there Gareth,

Thank you again for all that you are doing to help evaluate the request of Zig Serafin. I thought I would check in to see if you have any insight into whether the Deputy Secretary might be able to meet virtually with him next week.

Best wishes to you,  
Dana

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**From:** "[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)" <[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 9:17 AM

**To:** "Rees, Gareth C" <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

Good morning Gareth,

I hope your week is proceeding in a smooth way.

I wanted to check with you to see if the Deputy Secretary could confirm a time to meet virtually with Zig of Qualtrics.

Thanks so much!

Dana

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**From:** "dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com" <[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)>

**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 1:20 PM

**To:** "Rees, Gareth C" <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

Hello Gareth,

I've attached the completed form. If the Deputy Secretary can't do a Zoom in either of the windows suggested, we would very much appreciate your help to identify alternate times.

Thank you for your help.

Dana

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**From:** "Rees, Gareth C" <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 12:05 PM

**To:** "dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com" <[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

Good afternoon Dana,

Thank you for your request to meet with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau. Please find attached a meeting request form. Once we receive your completed form, we will process your request and respond to you as soon as possible. At this time, all meetings are being conducted virtually. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (fingers crossed we'll be in the office tomorrow).

Regards

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-227-9181

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**From:** Dana Thompson <[dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:dana.thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:42 AM

**To:** Rees, Gareth C <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Requesting a meeting with Deputy Secretary Beaudreau for Qualtrics CEO Zig Serafin on Tuesday, October 12

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good morning Gareth,

I hope you are well. I am prayerful that the Senate will pass the CR and then that the House will do the same so that our agency programs can maintain continuity.

I would like to follow up on the request that I had intimated to the Deputy Secretary on a separate channel. (I had mentioned two companies, but the second company is reconfiguring its approach before making its request).

Zig Serafin, CEO of a company called Qualtrics will be in town on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. We have already begun to build an itinerary of meetings throughout the day with other agencies, but **would Deputy Secretary Beaudreau happen to be available either at 11:30 AM, 12:00 PM, or 2:00 PM?** Below, please find some contextual information for the request and on the nature of the proposed dialogue with the Deputy Secretary, followed by the bio of CEO Serafin (also attached).

**Our goal for the meeting:**

- This is a relationship-building meeting to support the Department of Interior with its new highly visible Executive Orders, Policies, and newly formed Strategic Initiatives.

**How to frame the conversation:**

- DEI and Social Equity:
  - Aligns to America the Beautiful Initiative
  - Organizations around the U.S. are taking action to create a more diverse and inclusive

workforce. In addition, our government agencies cannot effectively solve our communities' concerns around equity and social justice without understanding and strengthening the social capital in our communities. Implement a program that empowers communities within the Interior like the tribal space and conduct equity impact analyses and measures service delivery with an equity lens so you can strengthen community engagement and trust while ensuring voice and action to drive lasting change.

- Empower and listen to the field:
  - Aligns to the Clean Energy Executive Order, specifically Section 216
  - DOI can modernize its research by empowering the field workers by securing and consolidating some of our nation's most critical research on a single platform that will listen to everyone. This includes scientists, researchers, park rangers, law enforcement, first responders, and seasonal workers.
- Enhance the National Park Experience
  - Aligns to America the Beautiful Initiative and the Great American Outdoors Act
  - Collect and analyze data to prioritize maintenance across the Park Systems. By leveraging Public Comment and feedback from Park Employees, DOI can help identify and prioritize backlogs more efficiently and effectively.
  - We can help visitors have a voice when modernizing the National Parks to improve services, preserving the lands while creating safe outdoor opportunities.

### **Specific Initiatives that could be important for the Deputy Secretary and DOI:**

- Clean Energy Future: [Executive Order](#)
  - Interior is looking at the following steps around ***oil and natural gas development of public lands and offshore waters***. With that, the Interior is pending completing a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices. (Section 208)
  - As part of Section 216, DOI will be working with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishers, and other key stakeholders to ***achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030***.
- America the Beautiful: identifies priority areas for the administration's early focus, investments, and collaboration:
  - ***Creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities***
  - ***Supporting Tribally led Conservation and restoration priorities***
  - ***Increasing access for outdoor recreation***

Zig Serafin's bio is attached, and by way of a background on Qualtrics, hopefully you will find the below factoids helpful:

### **Background on Qualtrics**

- Qualtrics is a small company doing big things. Qualtrics is an intelligent cloud platform that helps organizations manage and improve experiences in core areas of service

including customer, employee product and brand. The Qualtrics platform helps organizations listen, understand and take action on experience data. Qualtrics excels in capturing experience data at large scale across channels such as web, text, phone and chat. Qualtrics cloud services and data scientists help organizations know what to ask about, how to ask and where to ask to collect the right data at the right time.

- Footprint: 12,000 active customers; 3,300 employees; 25+ countries of presence
- \$60B total addressable market
- Recently filed for IPO from SAP
- Securely collect more than 3 billion responses annually in support of customers
- 75% of the Fortune 500 rely on the Qualtrics
- 99 of top 100 business schools use Qualtrics
- In 2020, [Forrester ranked Qualtrics #1 in 7 employee experience categories](#). Qualtrics is the only Leader who received a “Differentiated” rating in seven of Forrester’s ten criteria.
- Qualtrics was named a Leader in Gartner’s 2020 Magic Quadrant for the Voice of the Customer. Qualtrics was the highest positioned vendor for Ability to Execute, and one of the highest placed vendors in Completeness of Vision.
- Securely collect more than 3 billion responses annually in support of customers

### Background on Qualtrics in Public Sector

- They have 100+ federal customers, including every cabinet-level agency
- They have 450+ government customers across federal and state and local governments
- Qualtrics is authorized at the FedRAMP Moderate level ([Government website](#))
- They announced plans for DoD Impact Level 4 in September ([Blog link](#))
- Health and Human Services (HHS) is one of its larger customers

### How Qualtrics has helped Federal agencies

- **The U.S. Air Force used Qualtrics to engage on racial injustice:** Qualtrics was used as part of an intra-service Air Force study to understand racial injustice or bias experiences.
- **GSA used Qualtrics to improve customer focus: Consolidated 27 separate customer engagement** surveys into a central customer satisfaction platform to collect feedback across the entire enterprise.
- **HHS closed the experience gap with Qualtrics:** Uses feedback from across all nine domains to triage website problems - everything from broken links to confusing content - to make strategic improvements. **More than 750,000 responses** acted on annually; **10% increase in users finding the information they need.**
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to improve the quality of health:** CMS uses Qualtrics to improve the quality, measures and outcomes in hospitals, nursing homes, and among clinician providers, with the overarching effect of saving lives. **Reports are viewed twice daily by the Administrator to understand the impact of COVID** and projects to improve the quality of response.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,  
Dana

*Dana J. Thompson*

*Partner & Co-Founder*

*Fulcrum Public Affairs*

*Washington, DC 20003*

*(202) 297-3688*

*[Dana.Thompson@fulcrum-dc.com](mailto:Dana.Thompson@fulcrum-dc.com)*

*T: @djthom01 | T: @Fulcrum\_DC*

*IG: danajthom06 | IG: fulcrumpublicaffairs*

# Meeting Information Request Form

To ensure that the appropriate individual within the Department of the Interior is meeting with you on a given matter and because the Office of the Deputy Secretary is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards, we need the information requested below before we can agree to schedule a meeting.

**Please respond to the questions below and send your response to [gareth.rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth.rees@ios.doi.gov).** Providing detailed responses and including any written materials you would like shared in advance of the meeting in a single submission will assist with a timely response.

If you have any questions you may contact the Deputy Secretary's Office at (202) 208-6291.

<b>Requesting individual/organization:</b> Please identify the person(s) name and affiliation) requesting the meeting, including any background information on the affiliated organization(s).	Dana J. Thompson, Partner, Fulcrum Public Affairs on behalf of Mr. Zig Serafin, CEO, Qualtrics International Inc.. The company has 3,300 employees, has a presence in 25+ countries, has a total addressable market of \$60 billion, and recently filed for an IPO from SAP.	
<b>Contact information (Name, Email, Phone):</b> Identify if organizing and day of contact(s) is the same or different	<b>Organizing Contact(s):</b>  <b>Name:</b> Dana J Thompson ("he/his") <b>Email:</b> Dana.Thompson@fulcrum-dc.com <b>Phone:</b> (202) 297-3688	<b>Day of Contact(s):</b>  <i>SAME</i>  <b>Name:</b> <b>Email:</b> <b>Phone:</b>
<b>Proposed meeting date (if date is flexible please indicate a proposed date range):</b>  Please identify any time sensitivity that impacts the date of the meeting, such as court-ordered or statutory deadline:	Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at either 11:30 AM, 12:00 PM, or 2:00 PM. (if neither of these windows work please advise on alternate optimal times).  Mr. Serafin will be in town and is scheduled to travel back to Qualtrics headquarters on that day.	
<b>FOR IN PERSON MEETING IN A NON-FEDERAL BUILDING COVID-19 Safety Plan</b>		
<b>Describe precautionary measures in place.</b>	(we were informed that the Deputy Secretary is only conducting meetings virtually at this moment)	
<b>Are masks required?</b>	N/A	
<b>What's the reduced capacity of the meeting venue/location?</b>	N/A	
<b>Proposed meeting location (City, State):</b>	N/A	



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DRAFT / DELIBERATIVE

PARTICIPANTS	
<b>Expected meeting participants (name, title, and organizational affiliation):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zig Serafin, CEO, Qualtrics</li> <li>• Kevin Briggs, Vice President Federal, Qualtrics</li> <li>• Matt Chong, Area Vice President – Federal, Qualtrics</li> <li>• Dana J Thompson, Partner, Fulcrum Public Affairs</li> </ul>
<b>Are any expected meeting participants registered lobbyists or lobbying organizations, and/or registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? (If yes, please identify.)</b>	Dana J Thompson is a registered lobbyist.
<b>Are any expected meeting participants a partisan political candidate, a representative of a political party or a registered political action committee (PAC)? (If yes, please identify.)</b>	No
MEETING TOPIC(S)	
<b>Describe the proposed meeting topic/ agenda, provide available briefing materials, and identify desired outcome(s):</b>	Goal: Build a relationship to support the Dept with its new highly visible Executive Orders, policies, and newly formed Strategic Initiatives. We would also touch upon areas such as DEI / Social Equity; better empowering the Dept, and how to enhance the NPS experiences.
<b>Please describe the action sought from the Office of the Deputy Secretary:</b>	To get better acquainted with Qualtrics as a potential partner and to identify places where further, more in-depth dialogue might be warranted.
<b>Will the meeting involve legislation, broad policy options, or other general matters that involve a large and diverse range of persons and interests? (If yes, please describe.)</b>	It may involve discussion of the Department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion directives/policies.
<b>Will the meeting involve regulations, rules, or other matters that impact a specific industry, sector of the economy, or group of persons? (If yes, please describe.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Energy Executive Order</li> <li>• Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government</li> <li>• America the Beautiful</li> </ul>
<b>Will the meeting involve a litigation matter, a permit, a grant, a contract, or any other matter that involves specific parties? (If yes, please identify the matter and list the specific parties.)</b>	NO

<p><b>With which Bureau(s) or Office(s) does the proposed meeting agenda most align?</b> (Please list all, if more than one.)</p>	<p>NPS</p>
<p align="center"><b>LOGISTICS/OTHER*</b></p>	
<p><b>Please supply any other pertinent background information for the meeting.</b> Draft agenda, organization website, prior engagement with DOI officials, etc.</p>	<p>We suggest framing the conversation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>DEI and Social Equity:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligns to America the Beautiful Initiative</li> <li>• Organizations around the U.S. are taking action to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce. In addition, our government agencies cannot effectively solve our communities' concerns around equity and social justice without understanding and strengthening the social capital in our communities. Implement a program that empowers communities within the Interior like the tribal space and conduct equity impact analyses and measures service delivery with an equity lens so you can strengthen community engagement and trust while ensuring voice and action to drive lasting change.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Empower and listen to the field:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligns to the Clean Energy Executive Order, specifically Section 216</li> <li>• DOI can modernize its research by empowering the field workers by securing and consolidating some of our nation's most critical research on a single platform that will listen to everyone. This includes scientists, researchers, park rangers, law enforcement, first responders, and seasonal workers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Enhance the National Park Experience</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligns to America the Beautiful Initiative and the Great American Outdoors Act</li> <li>• Collect and analyze data to prioritize maintenance across the Park Systems. By leveraging Public Comment and feedback from Park Employees, DOI can help identify and prioritize backlogs more efficiently and effectively.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can help visitors have a voice when modernizing the National Parks to improve services, preserving the lands while creating safe outdoor opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Initiatives that could be important for the Deputy Secretary and DOI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Clean Energy Future: <a href="#">Executive Order</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interior is looking at the following steps around <i>oil and natural gas development of public lands and offshore waters</i>. With that, the Interior is pending completing a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices. (Section 208)</li> <li>As part of Section 216, DOI will be working with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishers, and other key stakeholders to <i>achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>America the Beautiful</u>: identifies priority areas for the administration's early focus, investments, and collaboration:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities</i></li> <li><i>Supporting Tribally led Conservation and restoration priorities</i></li> <li><i>Increasing access for outdoor recreation</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>If the Deputy Secretary is unable to meet, is a surrogate desired?</b> If yes, anyone specific?	
<b>Any additional notes or information?</b>	

**From:** [Flanagan, Denise A](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Rachael S](#)  
**Cc:** [Lockwood-Shabat, Eugene](#); [O'Connor, Niall W](#)  
**Subject:** Question: Interior Approps requests briefing - Who is POC? FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Interior Issues Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:49:13 AM

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Rachael,

Jocelyn emailed yesterday after the news release to ask to set up a briefing as soon as possible on how Interior plans to proceed with Federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing as required by the district court while the government appeal is pending. Melissa and Kristin chimed in they are interested as well.

Who should we reach out to set up a briefing? Is it ASLM? Please let us know how to proceed. Thanks,  
Denise

Denise Flanagan  
Director of Budget  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 4108  
Washington DC 20240  
202-208-5309 (Direct Line)  
202-316-1383 (Cell)  
[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)

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**From:** Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <[Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 6:43 PM  
**To:** Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <[Melissa\\_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hunn, Jocelyn <[Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov)>; O'Connor, Niall W <[niall\\_oconnor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:niall_oconnor@ios.doi.gov)>; Culp, Rita <[Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov)>; Lesofski, Emy (Appropriations) <[Emy\\_Lesofski@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Emy_Lesofski@appro.senate.gov)>; [Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov) <[Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov)>; Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations) <[Ryan\\_Hunt@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov)>; Agnew, Lucas (Appropriations) <[Lucas\\_Agnew@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Lucas_Agnew@appro.senate.gov)>; Coe, Tyler <[Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Interior Issues Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing Program

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Same here, thanks!

On Aug 16, 2021, at 7:43 PM, Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <[Melissa\\_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov)> wrote:

Our team would also like the same. Thank you!

On Aug 16, 2021, at 7:05 PM, Hunn, Jocelyn <[Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov)> wrote:

Good evening Niall,

Tyler and I would like to request a briefing on how Interior plans to proceed with Federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing as required by the district court while the government appeal is pending. Can you please set something up as soon as possible on this?

Thank you,  
Jocelyn

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US Department of the Interior News Release



Date: Monday, August 16, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Interior Issues Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing Program

**WASHINGTON** – Please see below for a statement from the Department of the Interior:

“The Department of the Interior (Interior) confirmed today that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has appealed the preliminary injunction entered by the district court in *Louisiana v. Biden*, which enjoined Interior from implementing the pause in new federal oil and gas leasing as set forth in Section 208 of Executive Order 14008. DOJ is appealing that decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing will continue as required by the district court while the government’s appeal is pending.

“The appeal of the preliminary injunction is important and necessary. Together, federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing programs are responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions and growing climate and community impacts. Yet the current programs fail to adequately incorporate consideration of climate impacts into leasing decisions or reflect the social costs of greenhouse gas emissions including, for example, in royalty rates. Furthermore, past operation of the programs did not adequately reflect the breadth of the Interior Secretary’s stewardship responsibilities, including conserving wildlife habitat, protecting historic and cultural resources, ensuring that public lands are available for multiple uses, protecting marine, coastal, and human environments, meeting trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, and providing a fair return to taxpayers. Moreover, the federal oil and gas programs inadequately account for environmental harms to lands, waters, and other resources, foster speculation by oil and gas companies, and frequently leave impacted communities out of important conversations



about how they want the public lands and waters managed.

“These issues have been the subject of numerous critical reports over decades by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Interior’s Office of Inspector General (OIG), Congressional Committees, and other independent reviewers. For example, the federal oil and gas program has been on GAO’s ‘High Risk List’ for more than a decade, which notes programs and operations that are ‘vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement, or in need of transformation.’ GAO has issued frequent reports outlining serious concerns with the onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing programs. As far back as 1989, GAO noted that BLM ‘is not exercising balanced stewardship over the public lands.’ In just the last three years, GAO has highlighted deficiencies with noncompetitive leasing, royalty relief policies, data collection, ensuring a fair return, and bonding and reclamation practices in the onshore program, and about decommissioning liabilities, safety and environmental oversight, fiscal returns from the leasing program, and pipeline safety and decommissioning in the offshore program.

“The OIG has regularly highlighted energy management in its annual reports of ‘Major Management and Performance Challenges facing the U.S. Department of the Interior,’ stating, ‘many of DOI’s energy programs are vulnerable to waste, fraud, and mismanagement, which can jeopardize public safety and environmental integrity and increase the financial burden on the American public.’

“Interior will proceed with leasing consistent with the district court’s injunction during the appeal. In complying with the district court’s mandate, Interior will continue to exercise the authority and discretion provided under the law to conduct leasing in a manner that takes into account the program’s many deficiencies. Separately, Interior continues to review the programs’ noted shortcomings, including completing a report. The Department also will undertake a programmatic analysis to address what changes in the Department’s programs may be necessary to meet the President’s targets of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

“Pursuant to resolution of another litigation matter involving leasing activity on the public lands, Interior will release a notice of intent to conduct a review of the federal coal leasing program later this week.”

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## About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation’s trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

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This email was sent to [niall\\_oconnor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:niall_oconnor@ios.doi.gov) by: U.S. Department of the Interior - 1849 C Street, N.W. - Washington DC 20240 - 202-208-3100



**From:** [Moss, Adrienne](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Rachael S](#); [Wallace, Andrew G](#); [Rezaeerood, Paniz](#)  
**Cc:** [Flanagan, Denise A](#); [TAYLOR, TIFFANY](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:33:38 AM

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Thank you all. I will put together a draft response along the lines of Rachael's email and send some hing back to he group to review.

Adrianne Moss  
Deputy Director, Office of Budget  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 4106  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone 202-208-3944 (Direct Line)  
Phone 202-262-5809 (Cell)  
Email: [Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)

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**From:** Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 7:43 PM  
**To:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>; Moss, Adrienne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Rezaeerood, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Thanks Drew. I wasn't planning on giving the list necessarily, but I did want to know the answer to the question, and your answer below gives us plenty to work with. I think a version of what you're saying – engagement is ongoing but we'll be happy to meet if helpful – is fine.

---

**From:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>; Moss, Adrienne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Rezaeerood, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

A couple of points: the sentence being quoted lists a list of engagement targets and is in the present tense, a significant amount of the engagement is in the future, and I don't know if DOI is in the practice of listing off Congressional offices we've talked to based on a committee staff inquiry. Suffice to say Members and staff have shared their views on this policy.

FYI, Tribal consultation notices went out, I'm not sure when those were. Governor meetings are on the books and being scheduled via the various governors associations. NACo has reached out for a meeting.

Congressional engagement has been ongoing to some extent and scheduled engagement opportunities are in the planning stages. We're focused on the authorizers but whether to do some kind of engagement meeting with approps subcommittee is an idea to consider too. Of course we expect this topic to come up in FY22 hearings, as it did during the confirmation process—all congressional engagement.

As a result I think the appropriate response is something like "the Department engages with members of Congress on an ongoing basis on a variety of issues, including this one. We look forwards to engaging further with members of the Interior appropriations subcommittee" or something like that but happy to discuss further.

---

**From:** Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:34 PM  
**To:** Moss, Adrienne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Rezaeerood, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>; Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

I think the next step is knowing the answer to the question about who the Department has been talking to, and then we can figure it out from there. Paniz, do you have that information?

---

**From:** Moss, Adrienne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:28 PM  
**To:** Rezaeerood, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>; Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>; Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Re: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Paniz,

Yes, he is.

I had this hope that maybe someone else had already asked...

Thank you.

Adrianne Moss  
Deputy Director, Office of Budget  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 4106  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone 202-208-3944 (Direct Line)



Phone 202-262-5809 (Cell)  
Email: [Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Rezaeero, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:23 PM  
**To:** Moss, Adrianne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>; Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>; Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Assuming the gentleman referenced below is a staffer with the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I defer to Rachael on next steps in response.

Paniz Rezaeero  
Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs - House  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
[paniz\\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov)

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

---

**From:** Moss, Adrianne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:19 PM  
**To:** Rezaeero, Paniz <[paniz\\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paniz_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wallace, Andrew G <[andrew\\_wallace@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov)>; Taylor, Rachael S <[rachael\\_taylor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rachael_taylor@ios.doi.gov)>; Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Staff Feedback on the Notice re: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Paniz,

We heard from Darren Benjamin (Interior Appropriations Minority staff) in response to the updated notice on the Fossil Fuels Program Review. As you can see from his message below, he's asking for a list of the House GOP Members contacted as part of the outreach on this issue.

Please let me know how you would like us to respond.

Thank you.

Adrianne Moss  
Deputy Director, Office of Budget  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 4106  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone 202-208-3944 (Direct Line)  
Phone 202-262-5809 (Cell)  
Email: [Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Benjamin, Darren <[Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: For Your Awareness: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

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Tiffany,

Per the statement below, "In addition to the forum, the Interior Department is conducting extensive outreach to Members of Congress, Governors, Tribes, and other state and local elected leaders.", can you please share the list of House GOP Members already contacted?

Thanks,  
D.

---

**From:** TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** O'Connor, Niall W <[niall\\_oconnor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:niall_oconnor@ios.doi.gov)>; Hunn, Jocelyn <[Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov)>; Coe, Tyler <[Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov)>; Benjamin, Darren <[Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov)>; Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations) <[Ryan\\_Hunt@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov)>; 'Agnew, Lucas (Appropriations)' <[Lucas\\_Agnew@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Lucas_Agnew@appro.senate.gov)>  
**Cc:** Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; Moss, Adrianne <[Adrianne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrianne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Lockwood-Shabat, Eugene <[eugene\\_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:eugene_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: For Your Awareness: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Hi -

The participant list for Thursday's forum is now updated at this link and copied below <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-details-public-forum-federal-oil-and-gas-program>

Thanks,  
Tiffany

# Interior Department Announces Details for Public Forum on Federal Oil and Gas Program

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3/18/2021

Last edited 3/22/2021

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Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**WASHINGTON** – The Interior Department today released additional information about the upcoming virtual forum regarding the federal oil and gas program, including the public's viewing options and ability to submit written input to inform Interior's review. The public forum is part of Interior's comprehensive review of the federal oil and gas program as called for in Executive Order 14008 and will feature several panels to highlight perspectives from invited participants including industry representatives, labor and environmental justice organizations, natural resource advocates, Indigenous organizations, and other experts.

**DATE:** Thursday, March 25, 2021

**TIME:** 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

**REGISTRATION:** The forum will take place via Zoom Webinar. Anyone interested in viewing the forum may [register via Zoom](#). A livestream of the event will also be available at [doi.gov/events](https://doi.gov/events). The forum will be recorded and have live captions.

The information gathered at the forum will help inform an interim report from the Department that will be completed in early summer. The report will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future.

Members of the public can submit additional information through April 15 to inform Interior's interim report at [energyreview@ios.doi.gov](mailto:energyreview@ios.doi.gov).

The agenda for the forum is below:

**1:00 pm:** Welcome and introductory remarks by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Interior leadership.

**1:15 pm:** Presentations by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on offshore and onshore oil and gas programs.

**1:50 pm:** Presentations and Q&A by invited individuals representing environmental justice and frontline communities, academia, oil and gas industry trade associations, Indigenous organizations, conservation organizations, and labor groups. The list of participants includes:

- Maite Arce, President & CEO, Hispanic Access Foundation
- Mario Atencio, Board of Directors, Diné C.A.R.E.
- Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Alaska Federation of Natives
- Sharon Buccino, Senior Director, Land Division, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Nathalie Eddy, Interim Field Team Manager and Colorado & New Mexico Field Advocate, Earthworks
- Wendell Hibdon, Director of Energy and Infrastructure, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters
- Wendy Kirchoff, Vice President of Regulatory Policy, American Exploration & Production Council
- Michael LeVine, Senior Arctic Fellow, Ocean Conservancy
- Frank Macchiarola, Senior Vice President, Policy, Economics & Regulatory Affairs, American Petroleum Institute
- Sean McGarvey, President, North America Building Trades Union
- Erik Milito, President, National Ocean Industries Association
- Jacqui Patterson, Director, NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program
- Brian C. Prest, Fellow, Resources for the Future
- Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians
- Mark Squillace, Raphael J. Moses Professor of Law, University of Colorado Law School Getches-Wilkinson Center
- Dr. Beverly Wright, Executive Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Dr. David Yoskowitz, Senior Executive Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M, Corpus Christi

**4:30 pm:** Adjourn

In addition to the forum, the Interior Department is conducting extensive outreach to Members of Congress, Governors, Tribes, and other state and local elected leaders.

*Note: This press release was updated on March 22, 2021, to include a list of participants.*

---

**From:** O'Connor, Niall W <[niall\\_oconnor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:niall_oconnor@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:37 PM

**To:** Hunn, Jocelyn <[Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov)>; Tyler Coe <[Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov)>; [Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov) <[Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov)>; Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations) <[Ryan\\_Hunt@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov)>; 'Agnew, Lucas (Appropriations)' <[Lucas\\_Agnew@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Lucas_Agnew@appro.senate.gov)>

**Cc:** Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; Moss, Adrienne <[Adrienne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrienne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Lockwood-Shabat, Eugene <[eugene\\_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:eugene_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov)>


TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>

**Subject:** Re: For Your Awareness: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Hi All,

I wanted to follow up with additional information on the virtual forum mentioned in the 3/9 press release. It includes details on how to register along with dates/times/speakers.

Have a nice afternoon,  
Niall



Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Interior Department Announces Details for Public Forum on Federal Oil and Gas Program

**WASHINGTON** – The Interior Department today released additional information about the upcoming virtual forum regarding the federal oil and gas program, including the public's viewing options and ability to submit written input to inform Interior's review. The public forum is part of Interior's comprehensive review of the federal oil and gas program as called for in Executive Order 14008 and will feature several panels to highlight perspectives from invited participants including industry representatives, labor and environmental justice organizations, natural resource advocates, Indigenous organizations, and other experts.

**DATE** Thursday, March 25, 2021  
**TIME** 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET  
**REGISTRATION** The forum will take place via Zoom Webinar. Anyone interested in viewing the forum may [register via Zoom](#). A livestream of the event will also be available at [doi.gov/events](https://doi.gov/events). The forum will be recorded and have live captions.

The information gathered at the forum will help inform an interim report from the Department that will be completed in early summer. The report will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future.

Members of the public can submit additional information through April 15 to inform Interior's interim report at [energyreview@ios.doi.gov](mailto:energyreview@ios.doi.gov).

The agenda for the forum is below:

- 1 00 pm:** Welcome and introductory remarks by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Interior leadership.
- 1 15 pm:** Presentations by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on offshore and onshore oil and gas programs.
- 1 50 pm:** Presentations and Q&A by invited individuals representing environmental justice and frontline communities, academia, oil and gas industry trade associations, Indigenous organizations, conservation organizations, and labor groups. A list of participants will be updated on Interior's website as available.
- 4 30 pm:** Adjourn

In addition to the forum, the Interior Department is conducting extensive outreach to Members of Congress, Governors, Tribes, and other state and local elected leaders.

###

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**From:** O'Connor, Niall W <[niall\\_oconnor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:niall_oconnor@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:45 AM

**To:** Hunn, Jocelyn <[Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov)>; Tyler Coe <[Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tyler.Coe@mail.house.gov)>; Darren Benjamin <[Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov)>; Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations) <[Ryan\\_Hunt@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov)>; 'Agnew, Lucas (Appropriations)' <[Lucas\\_Agnew@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Lucas_Agnew@appro.senate.gov)>

**Cc:** Flanagan, Denise A <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>; Moss, Adrienne <[Adrienne\\_Moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Adrienne_Moss@ios.doi.gov)>; Lockwood-Shabat, Eugene <[eugene\\_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:eugene_lockwood-shabat@ios.doi.gov)>; TAYLOR, TIFFANY <[Tiffany\\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV](mailto:Tiffany_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)>; Mazyck, Carla D <[carla\\_mazyck@ios.doi.gov](mailto:carla_mazyck@ios.doi.gov)>; Gordon, Bill J <[Bill\\_Gordon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Bill_Gordon@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** For Your Awareness: Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

Hi All,

Please see today's press release about the March 25 virtual forum as part of the comprehensive review of the Federal oil and gas program called for in EO 14008.

Thanks,  
Niall



Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Interior Department Outlines Next Steps in Fossil Fuels Program Review

**WASHINGTON** – As part of the comprehensive review of the federal oil and gas program called for in Executive Order 14008, the Interior Department will host a virtual forum on Thursday, March 25th. The day-long forum will feature several panels to highlight perspectives from industry representatives, labor and environmental justice organizations, natural resource advocates, and other experts.

Fossil fuel extraction on public lands accounts for nearly a quarter of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Multiple bills in Congress have been introduced in recent years to reform the program, including those to better ensure the public is not shut out of land management and leasing decisions; to address the mounting cleanup and remediation costs of orphan wells scattered across the country; and to provide a fair return to taxpayers for the use of their resources.

Over the last few years the oil and gas industry has stockpiled millions of acres of leases on public lands and waters. Onshore, of the more than 26 million acres under lease to the oil and gas industry, nearly 13.9 million (or 53%) of those acres are non-producing. Offshore, of the more than 12 million acres of public waters under lease, over 9.3 million (or 77%) of those acres are non-producing. Onshore and offshore, the oil and gas industry currently holds approximately 7,700 unused, approved drilling permits.

Yet in spite of these facts, the Trump administration offered for lease more than 25 million acres of public land onshore and more than 78 million acres offshore for oil, gas and mineral development. While only 5.6 million onshore acres were purchased and 5 million offshore, this result clearly indicates that it is time for the Interior Department to take steps to better manage our public lands.

"The federal oil and gas program is not serving the American public well. It's time to take a close look at how to best manage our nation's natural resources with current and future generations in mind," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management Laura Daniel-Davis. "This forum will help inform the Department's near-term actions to restore balance on America's lands and waters and to put our public lands' energy programs on a more sound and sustainable conservation, fiscal and climate footing."

The information gathered at the forum, which will be livestreamed, will help inform an interim report from the Department that will be completed in early summer. The report will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future.

In addition to the forum, the Interior Department is conducting outreach to Members of Congress, Governors, Tribes, and other state and local elected leaders. Members of the public will be able to offer written comments to inform the interim report. Details on how to view the forum or submit comments will be forthcoming.

###

### About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



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The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of Interior  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

September 17, 2021

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Earlier this year, we applauded President Biden's pause on new federal oil and gas leasing in order to assess needed changes to our oil and gas leasing system. As part of the pause, the Department of Interior committed to providing a report that would outline a roadmap for needed modernizations to this system. We appreciate your commitment to developing the report and implementing its recommendations, and anxiously await its publication.

The recent decision in *Louisiana v. Biden*, requiring the administration to end the pause, creates a renewed urgency to reform our nation's oil and gas leasing program. The system is broken, as reported in myriad GAO reports in recent years. It is past time to fix it.

We were dismayed to see the scale of the acres nominated for potential lease. We understand that the Department of Interior will consider the leasing system's known deficiencies and aim to address them prior to offering new parcels for lease. However, accounting for these deficiencies on a lease-by-lease basis does not provide needed consistency or certainty that a programmatic update provides. We ask that you release your report and initiate a rule making process to address some of the most pressing problems with the system as soon as possible.

We also recognize that while it is imperative that DOI address needed reforms administratively, Congress can provide the long-term certainty and durability that Americans and our public lands deserve. We see an opportunity for Congress to provide this certainty through wise fiscal reform of our nation's oil and gas program in the reconciliation bill under current consideration. We urge you to ask Congress to adopt important updates to the oil and gas leasing system that include: (1) raising bonding rates for new wells to ensure companies, not taxpayers, pay to plug and reclaim old wells; (2) raising royalty rates to more closely reflect the rates on private and state lands, and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return on their minerals; and (3) end speculative and non-competitive leasing so the government does not waste funds prioritizing a single use over all others on lands that would likely never be developed.

According to reports issued by U.S. Government Accountability Office and Taxpayers for Common Sense, these updates to the leasing system would contribute billions of dollars of additional revenue to the treasury over the next decade. This money could help pay for the administration's visionary agenda to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It would also ensure that future generations can enjoy our public lands as much as we do.

The outdated oil and gas leasing system creates uncertainty for the landscape and the tens of millions of people that depend on public lands for food, water, fiber, and recreation. It also deprives taxpayers of important revenue that could be used to address many of our most pressing issues.

Fall is approaching, and millions of people are making plans for trips to America's public lands. Whether hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, or enjoying other outdoor activities, these people have much in common. They value wide open spaces, clean air and water, and abundant wildlife. They also want certainty that their children and grandchildren will have the same opportunities. We urge you to act.

Sincerely,

Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Coalition to Protect American National Parks  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Northwest  
Conservation Voter of New Mexico  
Continental Divide Trail Coalition  
Earthjustice  
Earthkeepers 360  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)  
League of Conservation Voters  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Nevada Conservation League  
Nevada Wildlife Federation  
New Mexico Wild  
New Mexico Wildlife Federation  
North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
Nuestra Tierra  
Partnership for Responsible Business  
Penn Future  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
Vet Voice Foundation  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Organization of Resource Councils  
The Wilderness Society  
Wild Montana

Cc: Ms. Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, US Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, US House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, US Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McCarthy, Minority Leader, US House of Representatives