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Summary of Report entitled *The Truth About America's Energy: Big Oil Stockpiles Supplies and Pockets Profits*[*]

While the oil industry and some Members of Congress argue that opening more federal lands and waters would lead to lower gasoline prices, the facts prove otherwise. The fact is that the Nation simply cannot drill its way to lower prices at the pump. Other options, from greater energy efficiencies to the development of alternative fuels, are essential to reducing dependency on petroleum fuels and lowering fuel costs.

Increased Domestic Drilling Activity Has Not Led To Lower Gasoline Prices

- Between 1999 and 2007, drilling permits for oil and gas development on public lands increased more than 361%, yet gasoline prices have also risen dramatically.

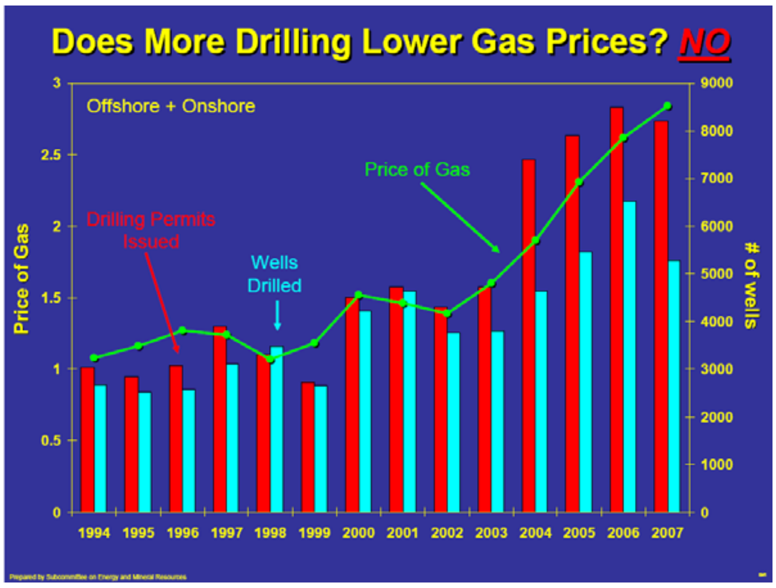
Energy Companies Are Not Using Federal Lands Already Open to Energy Development

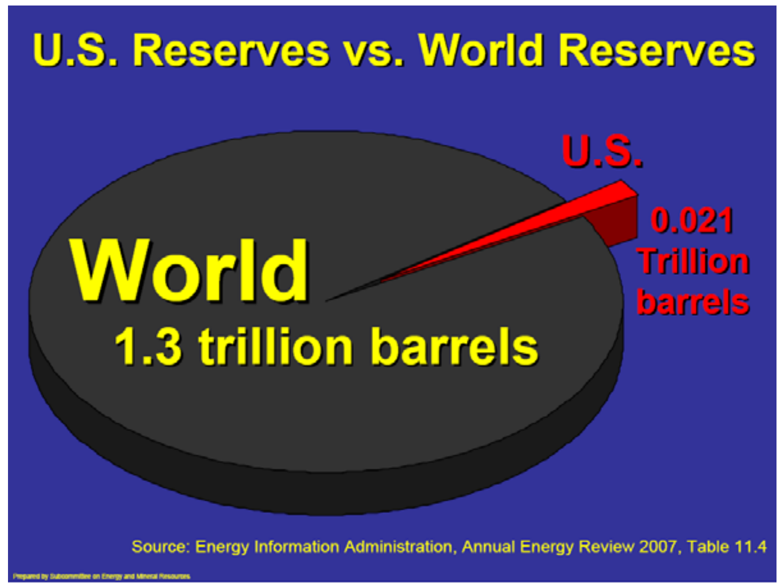
- Even if increased domestic drilling activity could affect the price of gasoline, there is yet no justification to open additional federal lands because oil and gas companies have shown that they cannot keep pace with the rate of drilling permits that the federal government is handing out.
- Since 2004, the Bureau of Land Management has issued 28,776 permits to drill on public land; in that same time, only 18,954 wells were actually drilled.
- Oil and gas companies have stockpiled nearly 10,000 extra permits that they are not using.
- Onshore, of the 47.5 million acres of federal lands leased by oil and gas companies, only about 13 million acres are actually producing oil and gas.
- Offshore, only 10.5 million of the 44 million leased acres are currently producing oil or gas.
- Combined, oil and gas companies hold leases to nearly 68 million acres of federal land that are not producing oil and gas.
- The 68 million acres of ***currently leased***, inactive federal land could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, which would nearly double the total amount of U.S. oil production, and increase natural gas production by 75%.
- Development of and production from the 68 million acres ***currently under lease*** but not in production would cut U.S. imports of oil by one-third.

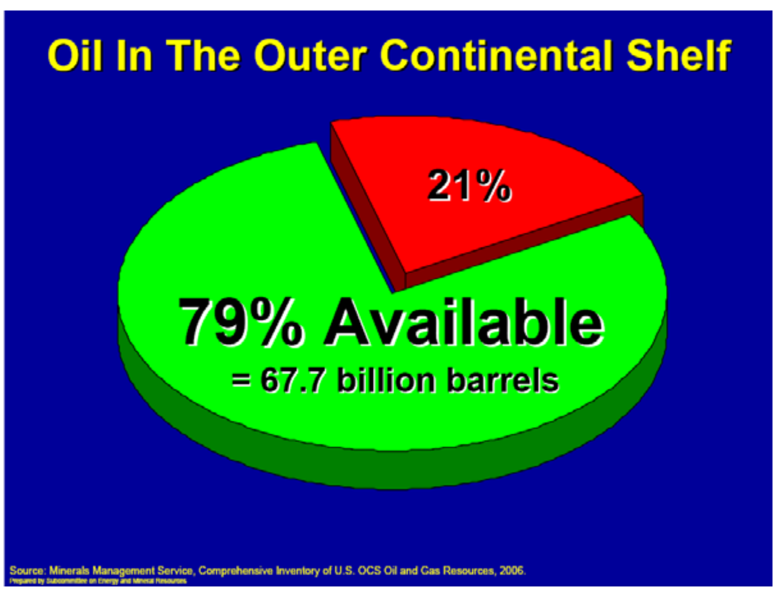
Vast Majority of Federal Oil and Gas Resources Already Available for Development

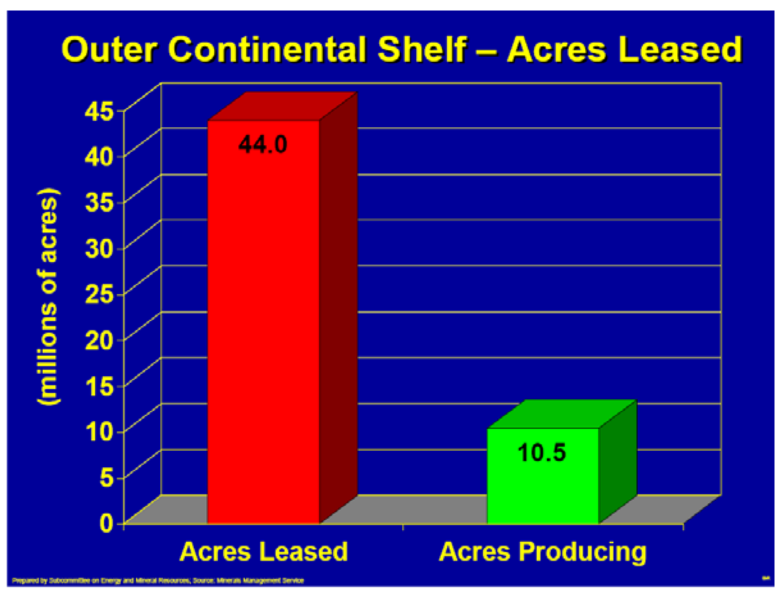
- According to the Minerals Management Service, of all the oil and gas believed to exist on the Outer Continental Shelf, 82% of the natural gas and 79% of the oil is located in areas that are currently open for leasing.
- The Department of the Interior recently released a report that shows that only 38% of the oil and 16% of the natural gas are excluded from leasing- largely because those resources are underneath National Parks and wilderness areas that have significant scenic, recreational, and wildlife values.

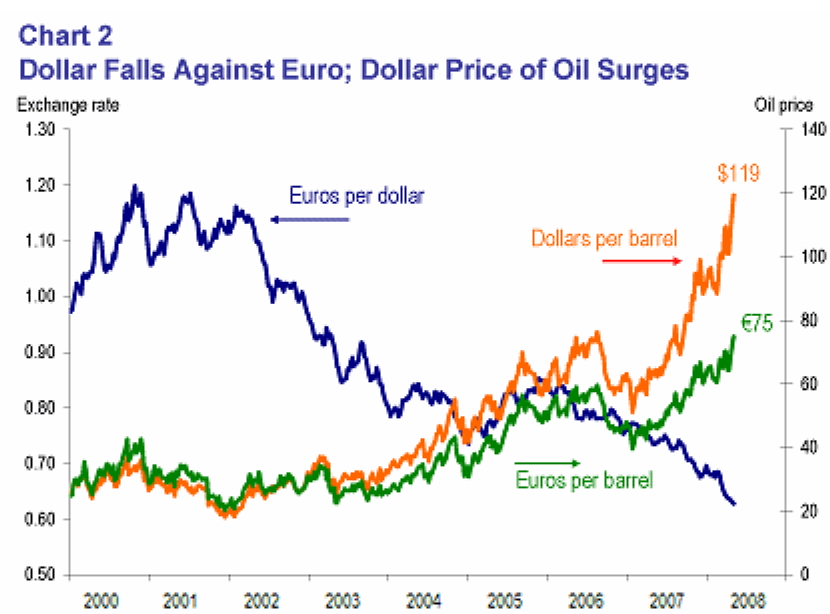
[*] The Truth About America's Energy: Big Oil Stockpiles Supplies and Pockets Profits is A Special Report by the Committee on Natural Resources Majority Staff (June 2008). This summary was compiled by the Office of Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott. The full report can be found at: http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/images/stories/Documents/truth_about_americas_energy.pdf.











Source: Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas - USA