

Union Calendar No. 165

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2150

[Report No. 112-249]

To amend the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including at least one lease sale in the Reserve each year in the period 2011 through 2021, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FLORES, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Additional sponsors: Mr. RIVERA, Mr. LANDRY, and Mr. DENHAM

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including at least one lease sale in the Reserve each year in the period 2011 through 2021, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This bill shall be called the “National Petroleum Re-
5 serve Alaska Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL**
7 **POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RE-**
8 **SERVE IN ALASKA.**

9 It is the sense of Congress that—

10 (1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
11 remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal
12 status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas
13 resources to the United States; and

14 (2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively
15 advance oil and gas development within the Reserve
16 by facilitating the expeditious exploration, produc-
17 tion, and transportation of oil and natural gas from
18 and through the Reserve.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA:**
20 **LEASE SALES.**

21 Section 107(a) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Pro-
22 duction Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a(a)) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an
25 expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas

1 in the reserve in accordance with this Act. Such program
2 shall include at least one lease sale annually in those areas
3 of the reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities
4 of oil and natural gas each year in the period 2011
5 through 2021.”.

6 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLAN-**
7 **NING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD**
8 **CONSTRUCTION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
10 sion of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation
11 with the Secretary of Transportation, shall facilitate and
12 ensure permits, in an environmentally responsible manner,
13 for all surface development activities, including for the
14 construction of pipelines and roads, necessary to—

15 (1) develop and bring into production any areas
16 within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
17 that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

18 (2) transport oil and gas from and through the
19 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to existing
20 transportation or processing infrastructure on the
21 North Slope of Alaska.

22 (b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any
23 Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accord-
24 ance with the following timeline:

1 (1) Permits for such construction for transpor-
2 tation of oil and natural gas produced under existing
3 Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the
4 Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be ap-
5 proved within 60 days after the date of enactment
6 of this Act.

7 (2) Permits for such construction for transpor-
8 tation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal
9 oil and gas leases shall be approved within 6 months
10 after the submission to the Secretary of a request
11 for a permit to drill.

12 (c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of
13 the Reserve, within 270 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit
15 to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan
16 for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure
17 that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that
18 all leasable tracts in the Reserve are within 25 miles of
19 an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve
20 future development of the Reserve.

21 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOP-**
22 **MENT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
24 issue regulations within 180 days after the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act that establish clear requirements to en-

1 sure that the Department of the Interior is supporting de-
2 velopment of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum
3 Reserve in Alaska.

4 (b) DEADLINES.—At a minimum, the regulations
5 shall—

6 (1) require the Department to respond within 5
7 business days acknowledging receipt of any permit
8 application for such development; and

9 (2) establish a timeline for the processing of
10 each such application, that—

11 (A) specifies deadlines for decisions and
12 actions on permit applications; and

13 (B) provide that the period for issuing
14 each permit after submission of such an appli-
15 cation shall not exceed 60 days without the con-
16 currence of the applicant.

17 (c) ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY
18 WITH DEADLINES.—If the Department fails to comply
19 with any deadline under subsection (b) with respect to a
20 permit application, the Secretary shall notify the applicant
21 every 5 days with specific information regarding the rea-
22 sons for the permit delay, the name of the specific Depart-
23 ment office or offices responsible for issuing the permit
24 and for monitoring the permit delay, and an estimate of
25 the time that the permit will be issued.

1 **SEC. 6. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
3 complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically re-
4 coverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petro-
5 leum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and un-
6 conventional oil and natural gas.

7 (b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The re-
8 source assessment required by subsection (a) shall be car-
9 ried out by the United States Geological Survey in co-
10 operation and consultation with the State of Alaska and
11 the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

12 (c) TIMING.—The resource assessment required by
13 subsection (a) shall be completed within 24 months of the
14 date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (d) FUNDING.—The United States Geological Survey
16 may, in carrying out the duties under this section, coop-
17 eratively use resources and funds provided by the State
18 of Alaska.

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