

Union Calendar No. 144

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1964

[Report No. 113-197]

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 2013 through 2023, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

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 2013 through 2023, 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 2013
5 through 2023.”.

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 other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate
12 and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally re-
13 sponsible manner, for all surface development activities,
14 including for the construction of pipelines and roads, nec-
15 essary to—

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN**
2 **AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

3 (a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY
4 PLAN.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, within 180
5 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue—

6 (1) a new proposed integrated activity plan
7 from among the non-adopted alternatives in the Na-
8 tional Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity
9 Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of
10 the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

11 (2) an environmental impact statement under
12 section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental
13 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for
14 issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petro-
15 leum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and max-
16 imum development of oil and natural gas resources
17 of such reserve.

18 (b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECI-
19 SION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection
20 (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated
21 Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary
22 of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including
23 the integrated activity plan and environmental impact
24 statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have
25 no force or effect.

1 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOP-**
2 **MENT.**

3 The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations
4 not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
5 this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that
6 the Department of the Interior is supporting development
7 of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-
8 Alaska.

9 **SEC. 7. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED**
10 **ACTIVITY PLAN.**

11 At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity
12 plan issued under section 5(a)(1) shall—

13 (1) require the Department of the Interior to
14 respond within 5 business days to a person who sub-
15 mits an application for a permit for development of
16 oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum
17 Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of such appli-
18 cation; and

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

21 (A) specifies deadlines for decisions and
22 actions on permit applications; and

23 (B) provide that the period for issuing
24 each permit after submission of such an appli-
25 cation shall not exceed 60 days without the con-
26 currence of the applicant.

1 **SEC. 8. 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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