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President Obama Makes History – Offers Lowest Number of Offshore Lease Sales EVER

Rates worse than even President Jimmy Carter

The non-partisan Congressional Research Service this week released a new [report](#) comparing President Obama's offshore drilling lease plan for 2012-2017 with previous plans offered over the last 30 years by prior Administrations. As the chart below shows, the 15 lease sales in President Obama's new plan represent the lowest number of lease sales ever offered in a plan since the process began in 1980.

Table 1. OCSLA Section 18 Submissions to Congress 1980 through 2012

Years	Administration Submitting Plan	Congress	Number of Sales Listed in Submission	Number of Sales Held	Approximate Acreage Leased (in millions)
1980-1982 ^a	Carter	96 th	36	12	4.1
1982-1987	Reagan	97 th	40	23	19.4
1987-1992	Reagan	100 th	24	17	24.7
1992-1997	George H.W. Bush	102 nd	18	12	26.8
1997-2002	Clinton	105 th	16	12	18.8
2002-2007	George W. Bush	107 th	20	15	24.3
2007-2012	George W. Bush	110 th	21; revised to 16	11	20.5 (as of 2011)
2012-2017	Obama	112 th	15	NA	NA

Source: CRS. Data reflecting approximate acreage leased from one lease sale (Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 216/22 held on June 20, 2012) is not yet available. "NA" indicates Not Applicable.

a. This program was originally referred to as the Comprehensive Program 1980-1985. It was later renamed the Comprehensive Program 1980-1982 due mainly to judicial activity, *California v. Watt*, 688 F.2d 1290 (D.C. Cir. 1981).

The impacts of President Obama's anti-offshore drilling policies haven't been limited to just his new plan. The Obama Administration has also delayed and cancelled several lease sales – conducting only 11 out of the 21 originally scheduled sales in the previous 2007-2012 lease plan.

Despite his rhetoric of supporting an all-of-the-above energy plan, President Obama's actions show that he has consistently blocked access to American energy resources. During times of record-high gasoline prices, President Obama is offering a plan that keeps 85 percent of our offshore areas off-limits to energy production and will go down in history as the President who has done the least to support offshore American energy production and American jobs.

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