

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish in the Department of the Interior an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals and a Bureau of Ocean Energy, an Ocean Energy Safety Service, and an Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To establish in the Department of the Interior an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals and a Bureau of Ocean Energy, an Ocean Energy Safety Service, and an Office of Natural Resources Revenue, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR**  
2 **ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS AND ASSIST-**  
3 **ANT SECRETARY OF OCEAN ENERGY AND**  
4 **SAFETY.**

5 There shall be in the Department of the Interior—

6 (1) an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and  
7 Minerals, who shall—

8 (A) be appointed by the President, by and  
9 with the advise and consent of the Senate;

10 (B) report to the Secretary of the Interior;

11 (C) be paid at the rate payable for level III  
12 of the Executive Schedule; and

13 (D) be responsible for—

14 (i) the safe and responsible develop-  
15 ment of our energy and mineral resources  
16 on Federal lands in appropriate accordance  
17 with United States energy demands; and

18 (ii) ensuring multiple-use missions of  
19 the Department of the Interior that pro-  
20 mote the safe and sustained development  
21 of energy and minerals resources on public  
22 lands (as that term is defined in the Fed-  
23 eral Land Policy and Management Act of  
24 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

25 (2) an Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy  
26 and Safety, who shall—

1 (A) be appointed by the President, by and  
2 with the advise and consent of the Senate;

3 (B) report to the Under Secretary for En-  
4 ergy, Lands, and Minerals;

5 (C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV  
6 of the Executive Schedule; and

7 (D) be responsible for ensuring safe and  
8 efficient development of energy and minerals on  
9 the Outer Continental Shelf of the United  
10 States; and

11 (3) an Assistant Secretary of Land and Min-  
12 erals Management, who shall—

13 (A) be appointed by the President, by and  
14 with the advise and consent of the Senate;

15 (B) report to the Under Secretary for En-  
16 ergy, Lands, and Minerals;

17 (C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV  
18 of the Executive Schedule; and

19 (D) be responsible for ensuring safe and  
20 efficient development of energy and minerals on  
21 public lands and other Federal onshore lands  
22 under the jurisdiction of the Department of the  
23 Interior, including implementation of the Min-  
24 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and  
25 the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation

1 Act (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and administra-  
2 tion of the Office of Surface Mining.

3 **SEC. 2. BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
5 Department of the Interior a Bureau of Ocean Energy (re-  
6 ferred to in this section as the “Bureau”), which shall—

7 (1) be headed by a Director of Ocean Energy  
8 (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and

9 (2) be administered under the direction of the  
10 Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

11 (b) DIRECTOR.—

12 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be ap-  
13 pointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be  
15 compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the  
16 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,  
17 United States Code.

18 (c) DUTIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
20 rior shall carry out through the Bureau all func-  
21 tions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary re-  
22 lating to the administration of a comprehensive pro-  
23 gram of offshore mineral and renewable energy re-  
24 sources management.

1           (2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director  
2 shall promulgate and implement regulations—

3           (A) for the proper issuance of leases for  
4 the exploration, development, and production of  
5 nonrenewable and renewable energy and min-  
6 eral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf;

7           (B) relating to resource identification, ac-  
8 cess, evaluation, and utilization;

9           (C) for development of leasing plans, lease  
10 sales, and issuance of leases for such resources;  
11 and

12           (D) regarding issuance of environmental  
13 impact statements related to leasing and post  
14 leasing activities including exploration, develop-  
15 ment, and production, and the use of third  
16 party contracting for necessary environmental  
17 analysis for the development of such resources.

18           (3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry  
19 out through the Bureau any function, power, or duty  
20 that is—

21           (A) required by section 3 to be carried out  
22 through the Ocean Energy Safety Service; or

23           (B) required by section 4 to be carried out  
24 through the Office of Natural Resources Rev-  
25 enue.

1 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
2 AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall affect the au-  
3 thorities of the Bureau of Land Management under the  
4 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43  
5 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or of the Forest Service under the  
6 National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law  
7 94–588).

8 **SEC. 3. OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY SERVICE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
10 Department of the Interior an Ocean Energy Safety Serv-  
11 ice (referred to in this section as the “Service”), which  
12 shall—

13 (1) be headed by a Director of Energy Safety  
14 (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and.

15 (2) be administered under the direction of the  
16 Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

17 (b) DIRECTOR.—

18 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be ap-  
19 pointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

20 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be  
21 compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the  
22 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,  
23 United States Code.

24 (c) DUTIES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
2           rior shall carry out through the Service all functions,  
3           powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating  
4           to the administration of safety and environmental  
5           enforcement activities related to offshore mineral  
6           and renewable energy resources on the Outer Conti-  
7           nental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf  
8           Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) including the  
9           authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regu-  
10          lations to ensure the safe and sound exploration, de-  
11          velopment, and production of mineral and renewable  
12          energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in  
13          a timely fashion.

14          (2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director  
15          shall be responsible for all safety activities related to  
16          exploration and development of renewable and min-  
17          eral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, in-  
18          cluding—

19                 (A) exploration, development, production,  
20                 and ongoing inspections of infrastructure;

21                 (B) the suspending or prohibiting, on a  
22                 temporary basis, any operation or activity, in-  
23                 cluding production under leases held on the  
24                 Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with

1 section 5(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
2 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(1));

3 (C) cancelling any lease, permit, or right-  
4 of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf, in ac-  
5 cordance with section 5(a)(2) of the Outer Con-  
6 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.  
7 1334(a)(2));

8 (D) compelling compliance with applicable  
9 Federal laws and regulations relating to worker  
10 safety and other matters;

11 (E) requiring comprehensive safety and en-  
12 vironmental management programs for persons  
13 engaged in activities connected with the explo-  
14 ration, development, and production of mineral  
15 or renewable energy resources;

16 (F) developing and implementing regula-  
17 tions for Federal employees to carry out any in-  
18 spection or investigation to ascertain compli-  
19 ance with applicable regulations, including  
20 health, safety, or environmental regulations;

21 (G) implementing the Offshore Technology  
22 Research and Risk Assessment Program under  
23 section 21 of the Outer Continental Shelf  
24 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1347);



1 (H) summoning witnesses and directing  
2 the production of evidence;

3 (I) levying fines and penalties and disquali-  
4 fying operators;

5 (J) carrying out any safety, response, and  
6 removal preparedness functions; and

7 (K) the processing of permits, exploration  
8 plans, development plans; and

9 (d) EMPLOYEES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure  
11 that the inspection force of the Bureau consists of  
12 qualified, trained employees who meet qualification  
13 requirements and adhere to the highest professional  
14 and ethical standards.

15 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The qualification re-  
16 quirements referred to in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) shall be determined by the Secretary,  
18 subject to subparagraph (B); and

19 (B) shall include—

20 (i) three years of practical experience  
21 in oil and gas exploration, development, or  
22 production; or

23 (ii) a degree in an appropriate field of  
24 engineering from an accredited institution  
25 of higher learning.

1           (3) ASSIGNMENT.—In assigning oil and gas in-  
2           spectors to the inspection and investigation of indi-  
3           vidual operations, the Secretary shall give due con-  
4           sideration to the extent possible to their previous ex-  
5           perience in the particular type of oil and gas oper-  
6           ation in which such inspections are to be made.

7           (4) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Director shall  
8           require that an individual to be hired as an inspec-  
9           tion officer undergo an employment investigation  
10          (including a criminal history record check).

11          (5) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—Individuals  
12          hired as inspectors must be able to read, speak, and  
13          write English well enough to—

14                (A) carry out written and oral instructions  
15                regarding the proper performance of inspection  
16                duties; and

17                (B) write inspection reports and state-  
18                ments and log entries in the English language.

19          (6) VETERANS PREFERENCE.—The Director  
20          shall provide a preference for the hiring of an indi-  
21          vidual as a inspection officer if the individual is a  
22          member or former member of the armed forces and  
23          is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement, or  
24          retainer pay on account of service as a member of  
25          the armed forces.

1 (7) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—

2 (A) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—The  
3 Director shall provide that an annual evaluation  
4 of each individual assigned inspection duties is  
5 conducted and documented.

6 (B) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—An  
7 individual employed as an inspector may not  
8 continue to be employed in that capacity unless  
9 the evaluation demonstrates that the indi-  
10 vidual—

11 (i) continues to meet all qualifications  
12 and standards;

13 (ii) has a satisfactory record of per-  
14 formance and attention to duty based on  
15 the standards and requirements in the in-  
16 spection program; and

17 (iii) demonstrates the current knowl-  
18 edge and skills necessary to courteously,  
19 vigilantly, and effectively perform Inspec-  
20 tion functions.

21 (8) LIMITATION ON RIGHT TO STRIKE.—Any  
22 individual that conducts permitting or inspections  
23 under this section may not participate in a strike, or  
24 assert the right to strike.

1           (9) PERSONNEL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding  
2           any other provision of law, the Director may employ,  
3           appoint, discipline and terminate for cause, and fix  
4           the compensation, terms, and conditions of employ-  
5           ment of Federal service for individuals as the em-  
6           ployees of the Service in order to restore and main-  
7           tain the trust of the people of the United States in  
8           the accountability of the management of our Na-  
9           tion’s energy safety program.

10           (10) TRAINING ACADEMY.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-  
12           tablish and maintain a National Offshore En-  
13           ergy Health and Safety Academy (referred to in  
14           this paragraph as the “Academy”) as an agency  
15           of the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

16           (B) FUNCTIONS OF ACADEMY.—The Sec-  
17           retary, through the Academy, shall be respon-  
18           sible for—

19                   (i) the initial and continued training  
20                   of both newly hired and experienced off-  
21                   shore oil and gas inspectors in all aspects  
22                   of health, safety, environmental, and oper-  
23                   ational inspections;

24                   (ii) the training of technical support  
25                   personnel of the Bureau;

1 (iii) any other training programs for  
2 offshore oil and gas inspectors, Bureau  
3 personnel, Department personnel, or other  
4 persons as the Secretary shall designate;  
5 and

6 (iv) certification of the successful  
7 completion of training programs for newly  
8 hired and experienced offshore oil and gas  
9 inspectors.

10 (C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—In performing func-  
12 tions under this paragraph, and subject to  
13 clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into  
14 cooperative educational and training agree-  
15 ments with educational institutions, related  
16 Federal academies, other Federal agencies,  
17 State governments, safety training firms,  
18 and oil and gas operators and related in-  
19 dustries.

20 (ii) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—Such  
21 training shall be conducted by the Acad-  
22 emy in accordance with curriculum needs  
23 and assignment of instructional personnel  
24 established by the Secretary.

1           (11) USE OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.—In  
2 performing functions under this subsection, the Sec-  
3 retary shall use, to the extent practicable, the facili-  
4 ties and personnel of the Department of the Interior.  
5 The Secretary may appoint or assign to the Acad-  
6 emy such officers and employees as the Secretary  
7 considers necessary for the performance of the du-  
8 ties and functions of the Academy.

9           (12) ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

10           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
11 work with appropriate educational institutions,  
12 operators, and representatives of oil and gas  
13 workers to develop and maintain adequate pro-  
14 grams with educational institutions and oil and  
15 gas operators that are designed—

16                   (i) to enable persons to qualify for po-  
17 sitions in the administration of this Act;  
18 and

19                   (ii) to provide for the continuing edu-  
20 cation of inspectors or other appropriate  
21 Department of the Interior personnel.

22           (B) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
23 ANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial  
24 and technical assistance to educational institu-  
25 tions in carrying out this paragraph.

1 (e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out  
2 through the Service any function, power, or duty that is—

3 (1) required by section 2 to be carried out  
4 through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

5 (2) required by section 4 to be carried out  
6 through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

7 **SEC. 4. OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
9 Department of the Interior an Office of Natural Resources  
10 Revenue (referred to in this section as the “Office”) to  
11 be headed by a Director of Natural Resources Revenue  
12 (referred to in this section as the “Director”).

13 (b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be ap-  
15 pointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

16 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be  
17 compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the  
18 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,  
19 United States Code.

20 (c) DUTIES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
22 rior shall carry out, through the Office, all functions,  
23 powers, and duties vested in the Secretary and relat-  
24 ing to the administration of offshore royalty and rev-  
25 enue management functions.

1           (2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary  
2 shall carry out, through the Office, all functions,  
3 powers, and duties previously assigned to the Min-  
4 erals Management Service (including the authority  
5 to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations) re-  
6 garding offshore royalty and revenue collection; roy-  
7 alty and revenue distribution; auditing and compli-  
8 ance; investigation and enforcement of royalty and  
9 revenue regulations; and asset management for on-  
10 shore and offshore activities.

11          (d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out  
12 through the Office any function, power, or duty that is—

13           (1) required by section 2 to be carried out  
14 through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

15           (2) required by section 3 to be carried out  
16 through the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

17 **SEC. 5. ETHICS AND DRUG TESTING.**

18          (a) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Interior  
19 shall certify annually that all Department of the Interior  
20 officers and employees having regular, direct contact with  
21 lessees, contractors, concessionaires, and other businesses  
22 interested before the Government as a function of their  
23 official duties, or conducting investigations, issuing per-  
24 mits, or responsible for oversight of energy programs, are  
25 in full compliance with all Federal employee ethics laws



1 and regulations under the Ethics in Government Act of  
2 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and part 2635 of title 5, Code of  
3 Federal Regulations, and all guidance issued under sub-  
4 section (c).

5 (b) DRUG TESTING.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
6 random drug testing program of all Department of the  
7 Interior personnel referred to in subsection (a).

8 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the  
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue  
10 supplementary ethics and drug testing guidance for the  
11 employees for which certification is required under sub-  
12 section (a). The Secretary shall update the supplementary  
13 ethics guidance not less than once every 3 years there-  
14 after.

15 **SEC. 6. ABOLISHMENT OF MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERV-**  
16 **ICE.**

17 (a) ABOLISHMENT.—The Minerals Management  
18 Service is abolished.

19 (b) COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Completed administrative  
21 actions of the Minerals Management Service shall  
22 not be affected by the enactment of this Act, but  
23 shall continue in effect according to their terms until  
24 amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set  
25 aside, or revoked in accordance with law by an offi-

1 cer of the United States or a court of competent ju-  
2 risdiction, or by operation of law.

3 (2) COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION DE-  
4 FINED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term  
5 “completed administrative action” includes orders,  
6 determinations, memoranda of understanding,  
7 memoranda of agreements, rules, regulations, per-  
8 sonnel actions, permits, agreements, grants, con-  
9 tracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, and privi-  
10 leges.

11 (c) PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Subject to the author-  
12 ity of the Secretary of the Interior and the officers of the  
13 Department of the Interior under this Act—

14 (1) pending proceedings in the Minerals Man-  
15 agement Service, including notices of proposed rule-  
16 making, and applications for licenses, permits, cer-  
17 tificates, grants, and financial assistance, shall con-  
18 tinue, notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or  
19 the vesting of functions of the Service in another  
20 agency, unless discontinued or modified under the  
21 same terms and conditions and to the same extent  
22 that such discontinuance or modification could have  
23 occurred if this Act had not been enacted; and

24 (2) orders issued in such proceedings, and ap-  
25 peals therefrom, and payments made pursuant to

1 such orders, shall issue in the same manner and on  
2 the same terms as if this Act had not been enacted,  
3 and any such orders shall continue in effect until  
4 amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set  
5 aside, or revoked by an officer of the United States  
6 or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation  
7 of law.

8 (d) PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.—Subject to the au-  
9 thority of the Secretary of the Interior or any officer of  
10 the Department of the Interior under this Act, pending  
11 civil actions shall continue notwithstanding the enactment  
12 of this Act, and in such civil actions, proceedings shall be  
13 had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered and enforced  
14 in the same manner and with the same effect as if such  
15 enactment had not occurred.

16 (e) REFERENCES.—References relating to the Min-  
17 erals Management Service in statutes, Executive orders,  
18 rules, regulations, directives, or delegations of authority  
19 that precede the effective date of this Act are deemed to  
20 refer, as appropriate, to the Department, to its officers,  
21 employees, or agents, or to its corresponding organiza-  
22 tional units or functions. Statutory reporting requirements  
23 that applied in relation to the Minerals Management Serv-  
24 ice immediately before the effective date of this Act shall  
25 continue to apply.

1 **SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXECUTIVE**  
2 **SCHEDULE PAY RATES.**

3 (a) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND  
4 MINERALS.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code,  
5 is amended by inserting after the item relating to “Under  
6 Secretaries of the Treasury (3)” the following:

7 “Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Min-  
8 erals, Department of the Interior.”.

9 (b) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 5315 of title  
10 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Assistant  
11 Secretaries, Department of the Interior (6)” and inserting  
12 the following:

13 “Assistant Secretaries, Department of the Inte-  
14 rior (7).”.

15 (c) DIRECTORS.—Section 5316 of title 5, United  
16 States Code, is amended by striking “Director, Bureau of  
17 Mines, Department of the Interior.” and inserting the fol-  
18 lowing new items:

19 “Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy, Depart-  
20 ment of the Interior.

21 “Director, Ocean Energy Safety Service, De-  
22 partment of the Interior.

23 “Director, Office of Natural Resources Rev-  
24 enue, Department of the Interior.”.

1 **SEC. 8. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ENERGY SAFETY AD-**  
2 **VISORY BOARD.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior  
4 shall establish, under the Federal Advisory Committee  
5 Act, an Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory  
6 Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”)—

7 (1) to provide the Secretary and the Directors  
8 established by this Act with independent scientific  
9 and technical advice on safe, responsible, and timely  
10 mineral and renewable energy exploration, develop-  
11 ment, and production activities; and

12 (2) to review operations of the National Off-  
13 shore Energy Health and Safety Academy estab-  
14 lished under section 3(d), including submitting to  
15 the Secretary recommendations of curriculum to en-  
16 sure training scientific and technical advancements.

17 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 (1) SIZE.—The Board shall consist of not more  
19 than 11 members, who—

20 (A) shall be appointed by the Secretary  
21 based on their expertise in oil and gas drilling,  
22 well design, operations, well containment and  
23 oil spill response; and

24 (B) must have significant scientific, engi-  
25 neering, management, and other credentials and  
26 a history of working in the field related to safe

1 energy exploration, development, and produc-  
2 tion activities.

3 (2) CONSULTATION AND NOMINATIONS.—The  
4 Secretary shall consult with the National Academy  
5 of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineer-  
6 ing to identify potential candidates for the Board  
7 and shall take nominations from the public.

8 (3) TERM.—The Secretary shall appoint Board  
9 members to staggered terms of not more than 4  
10 years, and shall not appoint a member for more  
11 than 2 consecutive terms.

12 (4) BALANCE.—In appointing members to the  
13 Board, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced rep-  
14 resentation of industry and research interests.

15 (c) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall appoint the Chair  
16 for the Board from among its members.

17 (d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet not less than  
18 3 times per year and shall host, at least once per year,  
19 a public forum to review and assess the overall energy  
20 safety performance of Outer Continental Shelf mineral  
21 and renewable energy resource activities.

22 (e) OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS  
23 AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—As part of its duties under  
24 this section, the Board shall, by not later than 180 days

1 after the date of enactment of this section and every 5  
2 years thereafter, submit to the Secretary a report that—

3 (1) assesses offshore oil and gas well control  
4 technologies, practices, voluntary standards, and  
5 regulations in the United States and elsewhere; and

6 (2) as appropriate, recommends modifications  
7 to the regulations issued under this Act to ensure  
8 adequate protection of safety and the environment,  
9 including recommendations on how to reduce regula-  
10 tions and administrative actions that are duplicative  
11 or unnecessary.

12 (f) REPORTS.—Reports of the Board shall be sub-  
13 mitted by the Board to the Committee on Natural Re-  
14 sources of the House or Representatives and the Com-  
15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate  
16 and made available to the public in electronically acces-  
17 sible form.

18 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Board,  
19 other than full-time employees of the Federal Government,  
20 while attending meeting of the Board or while otherwise  
21 serving at the request of the Secretary or the Director  
22 while serving away from their homes or regular places of  
23 business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per  
24 diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703

1 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Gov-  
2 ernment serving without pay.