



Oil and Gas Production on Federal Lands and Waters

5 Things You Should Know

America produces energy in ways that are the cleanest, safest, and most efficient in the world. Amidst rising energy prices and record inflation, Americans will suffer the consequences of the Biden administration's anti-energy agenda. The administration's policies have driven up energy costs to crisis levels, increased our reliance on Russian oil and gas, and directly funded Putin's war in Ukraine. We must defeat Russia's global hold on energy by unlocking America's energy potential, permitting pipelines, and producing domestically to meet our own needs and the needs of our allies.

1.) President Biden has taken numerous actions to block oil and gas development on Federal lands and waters.

- President Biden cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline, shut down the Congressionally-authorized oil and gas program in the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, and put a moratorium on oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters.
- His administration has delayed or blocked the issuance of permits necessary for American energy development, initiated mineral withdrawals in resource rich areas, added layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape to permitting decisions and threatened energy producers with increased regulation and royalty rates.
- Biden's actions make it clear that his administration intends to fight oil and gas development in the U.S. every step of the way. **The overall chilling effect Biden's actions have on domestic investment cannot be overstated.**

2.) The Biden administration is making false claims regarding “non-producing” leases and permits.

- Operations cannot commence with only a single permit in hand. Leaseholders must apply and wait for a variety of permits, authorizations, and rights-of-way to commence exploration and production.
- Permitted leases take time to explore and bring to production, if resources in commercial quantities are even discovered.
- **“Non-producing” does not mean “unused.”** Leases currently considered “non-producing” may yield production in the near term, as exploration and operations needed for future production are ongoing.
- **The decision to use a permit at any given time is a calculation based on availability of permits, acreage and equipment.** An approved permit to drill may not currently be used for production for a number of reasons, including:
 - additional permits are required to begin operations;
 - the Federal government has failed to approve necessary rights-of-way needed for roads and infrastructure;
 - parcels needed to develop a field have not yet been offered in a lease sale;
 - parcels turn out not to be productive at commercial levels after exploratory drilling;
 - seasonal stipulations may be in place for species mitigation;
 - difficulty securing financing due to the administration's hostile regulatory agenda;
 - equipment availability has been affected by President Biden's supply chain crisis.



3.) Biden's Department of the Interior (DOI) has not issued ANY new energy leases

- The Biden administration has not issued any new onshore or offshore leases to date. If President Biden's administration had issued new leases in 2021, **new production could be happening today.**
- **DOI has not held any onshore lease sales despite a statutory requirement** in the Mineral Leasing Act to hold quarterly sales in each state with eligible lands.
- In November 2021, DOI held one offshore lease sale, which was vacated by a district court in February 2022. The administration has chosen not to appeal this decision. As a result, **no new offshore leases have been issued.**
- DOI has not scheduled the three remaining sales under the current "5-year plan" for offshore leasing, and is rapidly running out of time to do so.
- Leaseholders have nominated additional parcels for sale that are needed to develop currently held leases. Many such projects cannot move forward until President Biden holds additional sales. The Trump administration completed environmental reviews on numerous parcels for which the Biden administration could schedule a sale immediately.
- Conducting regular lease sales signal that federal lands are open for business. **It is impossible to generate confidence – and necessarily, investment – in American energy production today when future production is blocked by the Biden Administration.**

4.) There is a significant permitting backlog impeding development.

- There is a backlog of **over 4,600 permits to drill (commonly called "APDs")** pending under the Biden Administration.
- Despite federal law requiring approval of permits on federal lands within 30 days, **permits can languish at DOI for a year or more.**
- Operators are experiencing long wait times for rights-of-way needed to develop a lease.
- The Biden administration is holding up certain permits for leases issued during the Trump administration.
- **Radical environmental groups have filed lawsuits challenging thousands of leases** and rights-of-way in court. Even though the courts have declared several leases to be valid, the Biden administration has neglected to issue permits for those leases.

5.) Under President Biden, production in the U.S. has not reached pre-COVID levels.

- U.S. oil production reached 13 million barrels per day in 2019 and production has fallen to 11.6 million barrels per day under President Biden.
- **The Biden administration has been steadfast in their anti-energy agenda.** Much of the production occurring today is attributable to the work done by the Trump administration to issue permits, conduct lease sales and streamline regulatory processes.
- If not for the Biden administration's anti-oil and gas policies, the United States would be better equipped to immediately help our allies abroad in their resistance to Russia today.