

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1964

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

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL**
2 **POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RE-**
3 **SERVE IN ALASKA.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
6 remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal
7 status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas
8 resources to the United States; and

9 (2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively
10 advance oil and gas development within the Reserve
11 by facilitating the expeditious exploration, produc-
12 tion, and transportation of oil and natural gas from
13 and through the Reserve.

14 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA:**
15 **LEASE SALES.**

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

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an
20 expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas
21 in the reserve in accordance with this Act. Such program
22 shall include at least one lease sale annually in those areas
23 of the reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities
24 of oil and natural gas each year in the period 2013
25 through 2023.”.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLAN-**
2 **NING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD**
3 **CONSTRUCTION.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation
6 with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate
7 and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally re-
8 sponsible manner, for all surface development activities,
9 including for the construction of pipelines and roads, nec-
10 essary to—

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

14 (2) transport oil and gas from and through the
15 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most
16 direct manner possible to existing transportation or
17 processing infrastructure on the North Slope of
18 Alaska.

19 (b) **TIMELINE.**—The Secretary shall ensure that any
20 Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accord-
21 ance with the following timeline:

22 (1) Permits for such construction for transpor-
23 tation of oil and natural gas produced under existing
24 Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the
25 Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be ap-

1 proved within 60 days after the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (2) Permits for such construction for transport-
4 tation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal
5 oil and gas leases shall be approved within 6 months
6 after the submission to the Secretary of a request
7 for a permit to drill.

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

17 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN**
18 **AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

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

22 (1) a new proposed integrated activity plan
23 from among the non-adopted alternatives in the Na-
24 tional Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity

1 Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of
2 the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

3 (2) an environmental impact statement under
4 section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental
5 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for
6 issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petro-
7 leum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and max-
8 imum development of oil and natural gas resources
9 of such reserve.

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

18 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOP-**
19 **MENT.**

20 The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations
21 not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
22 this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that
23 the Department of the Interior is supporting development
24 of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-
25 Alaska.

1 **SEC. 7. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED**
2 **ACTIVITY PLAN.**

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

5 (1) require the Department of the Interior to
6 respond within 5 business days to a person who sub-
7 mits an application for a permit for development of
8 oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum
9 Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of such appli-
10 cation; and

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

13 (A) specifies deadlines for decisions and
14 actions on permit applications; and

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

19 **SEC. 8. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**

20 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall
21 complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically re-
22 coverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petro-
23 leum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and un-
24 conventional oil and natural gas.

25 (b) **COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.**—The re-
26 source assessment required by subsection (a) shall be car-

1 ried out by the United States Geological Survey in co-
2 operation and consultation with the State of Alaska and
3 the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

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

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

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