



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3350

Subject: America-First Offshore Energy Strategy

Sec. 1 Purpose. This Order further implements the President's Executive Order entitled: "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" (April 28, 2017); enhances opportunities for energy exploration, leasing, and development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS); establishes regulatory certainty for OCS activities; and enhances conservation stewardship, thereby providing jobs, energy security, and revenue for the American people.

Sec. 2 Authorities. This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, and other applicable authorities, including the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*

Sec. 3 Background. Safe and responsible development of our offshore natural resources is critical to the Nation's environment and economy. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for administering the leasing program for oil and gas resources on the OCS and developing a five-year schedule of lease sales designed to "best meet national energy needs" for the five-year period following the schedule's approval, as required in Section 18 of the OCSLA, 43 U.S.C. 1334. The BOEM also permits seismic surveys on the OCS and, in conjunction with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), regulates leasing, exploration, and development activities on the OCS.

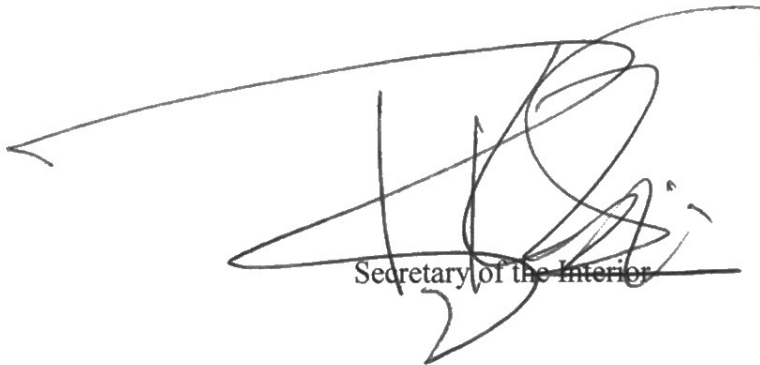
In January 2017 the 2017 - 2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program was approved excluding lease sales in the Atlantic Ocean and the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas offshore Alaska. By excluding these areas from the leasing program, the Department has forgone considering areas that potentially contain tens of billions of barrels of oil and over 100 trillion cubic feet of gas by BOEM's own estimates of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and gas resources. In addition, through a series of Presidential Memoranda issued by the previous Administration, huge swaths of the OCS were withdrawn from disposition by leasing along the Alaska and Atlantic coasts.

In addition to existing restrictions on OCS leasing, concerns have been raised by stakeholders that certain final or proposed rules, such as BSEE's final rule on "*Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control*" published at 81 Federal Register 25887 (April 29, 2016), unnecessarily include prescriptive measures that are not needed to ensure safe and responsible development of our OCS resources. Accordingly, a reevaluation of these rules is appropriate and necessary.

On April 28, 2017, the President issued an Executive Order entitled: "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy (Executive Order)," which reconfirmed that it is "the policy of the United States to encourage energy exploration and production, including on the

officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are implemented and completed, or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: