



United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

Eastern States
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
3100 (ES-930)P

November 14, 2005

EMS TRANSMISSION 11/22/2005
Instruction Memorandum No. ES-2006-03
Expires: 09/30/07

To: Eastern States Expanded Leadership Team

From: State Director, Eastern States

Subject: Great Lakes Oil and Gas Leasing and Drilling Closure DD: 11/30/05

Program Area: Energy and Minerals

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) implements Section 386 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58).

Policy/Action: As of August 8, 2005, no Federal or State permit or lease shall be issued for new oil and gas slant, directional, or offshore drilling in or under one or more of the Great Lakes. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for oil and gas leasing in or under any of the Great Lakes shall be returned unaccepted to the nominator with a verbal or written explanation of the leasing closure. Similarly, Applications for Permits to Drill (APD) in or under any of the Great Lakes shall not be accepted. Prompt communication and coordination with nominators and applicants is encouraged to avoid any misunderstanding about this policy. Employees whose work involves accepting or processing EOIs or APDs must carefully screen each submission to ensure that no lease is issued, or APD is approved in or under any of the Great Lakes. This IM shall be posted in the public rooms of each Eastern States' office and on the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) external website.

Time Frame: This IM is effective upon receipt.

Budget Impact: None.

Background: With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), Congress closed the five Great Lakes to further oil and gas leasing and development. This IM implements Congressional intent with regard to oil and gas leasing and development.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: This IM was coordinated with the Energy Policy Act Implementation Team Lead (WO-300), the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office and the BLM-ES Divisions of Natural Resources and Land Resources.

Contact: Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Dave Stout, Assistant Deputy State Director, Division of Natural Resources (ES-930), at extension 1728, or Ed Ruda, Realty Specialist, Division of Land Resources (ES-960), at extension 1663.

Signed by:
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