

To ensure that oil and gas operators follow applicable operating regulations and requirements placed in approved permits, the Bureau of Land Management has an Inspection & Enforcement (I&E) program. I&E entails the inspection of oil and gas operations on or associated with Federal or Indian leases and the enforcement of operating regulations and requirements for those oil and gas activities. Our desire is to do more than simply inspect and enforce regulations and other requirements. One of our goals is to provide assistance to the operators and general public in understanding the oil and gas operating requirements.

The main emphases of the I&E program are production accountability, health & safety, and environmental issues. Production accountability inspections include witnessing production measurement activities associated with the oil and gas lease; such as tank gaugings, gas meter calibrations, or meter provings. In some cases, we review all production records for a specified period of time and independently determine the volume of oil and/or gas produced and removed from a lease.

A routine part of all inspections is to determine whether or not lease operations are conducted in such a manner that protects the health and safety of not only the operator's personnel, but also the public, and environmental impacts are minimized. All people who work upon and use the public lands are concerned about land and resource management. We have the responsibility to monitor the environmental aspects of oil and gas operations conducted upon Federal lands. This ranges from the approval and monitoring of access routes and well site pad construction, production accountability, and finally abandonment.