

Comparison of Process Changes Resulting from BLM Leasing Reform Policy

Leasing Stages	Current Policy	Proposed Leasing Reform Policy
<p>1) Land Use Planning, Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease Stipulation Consistency, • Adaptive Management, and • Monitoring 	<p><u>Adaptive Management & Monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance not fully integrated into a comprehensive oil and gas leasing policy. 	<p><u>Interdisciplinary Consistency Review Teams (IDCR Teams)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDCR Teams will ensure lease stipulations are written in an approved format, stipulation language is consistent within each state office for the protection of similar resources or resource settings, and stipulations edge-match across administrative boundaries. <p><u>Adaptive Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulations will incorporate Adaptive Management principles, incorporate the best available science, and address changing resource conditions. <p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field offices will ensure adequate monitoring of oil and gas development.
<p>2) Refined Plan for Leasing and Eventual Development in Unleased Areas Where There Are New Discoveries of Oil and Gas</p>	<p><u>Plan Amendments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional planning and analysis conducted on a limited basis at the discretion of the field. 	<p><u>Master Leasing Plan (MLP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An MLP is a stepped-down leasing analysis of mostly unleased and undeveloped areas that have been proposed for oil and gas leasing and that have the potential for substantial oil and gas development. • The new policy establishes criteria for when an MLP would be appropriate. • Field offices will analyze in greater detail the impacts of leasing and development in the proposed area. • Field offices will ensure greater public involvement. • Field offices will identify key issues such as protection of air quality, watersheds, wilderness, wildlife, and nearby land uses. • Field offices will identify appropriate leasing and development mitigation measures to protect the environment.

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3) Competitive Oil and Gas Sale Process	<p><u>State Office Sends Parcel List to Field Offices for Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal and external requests for leasing are submitted to the BLM state offices and then to the field offices for review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Change
	<p><u>Field Office Parcel Review Process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately four times per year, field offices conduct a summary internal data and plan review to confirm whether leasing the proposed parcel of land for oil and gas development would be in conformance with the land use plan. 	<p><u>Interdisciplinary Parcel Review Teams (IDPR Teams)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a rotational basis, generally less than four times per year, field offices will use IDPR Teams to carefully conduct a comprehensive review of proposed parcels. In most cases, IDPR Teams will conduct site-visits for each of the proposed parcels. <p><u>Review, Coordination, and Public Involvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field offices will coordinate and/or consult with Federal, state, local, and tribal government stakeholders that may be affected by the BLM's leasing decisions. Field offices will prepare an environmental review document to evaluate existing, revised, and/or new stipulations. The public will be invited to review and comment on the draft document.
	<p><u>Identification of Environmental Protection Measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field offices ensure conformance with land use plans and identify lease stipulations (mitigation measures) for the protection of the environment based on the land use plan. 	<p><u>Public Process for Identifying Environmental Mitigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to determining whether leasing would conform with the land use plan, the BLM will use the environmental and public review processes to address important resource values (such as air quality, watersheds, wilderness, wildlife, and nearby land uses) and to identify appropriate lease stipulations (mitigation measures) for protection of the environment.
	<p><u>State Office Lease Sales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State offices offer quarterly lease sales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Change