

Archaeology Solutions

Biofuels Solutions

Coal Solutions

Environmental Solutions

Geothermal Solutions

Leasing Solutions

Mineral Management Solutions

Oil Shale Solutions

Permitting Solutions

Pipeline Solutions

Project Solutions

Right-of-Way Solutions

SPCC Solutions

Seismic Solutions

Solar Energy Solutions

Title Solutions

Unit Solutions

Water Solutions

Wildlife Solutions

Wind Energy Solutions

## Due Diligence is a Must on BLM and BIA Properties

Due to the massive amount of mergers and acquisitions which take place in the oil and gas industry, units which contain Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) tracts often have title problems. The BLM and BIA do not recognize assignments or other documents filed at the county courthouse. These agencies only recognize transactions filed on the correct form and approved by the appropriate office. Many operators and working interest owners overlook this fact



when conducting transactions which affect BLM/BIA managed tracts.

Researching BLM and BIA regulated interest can be difficult and time consuming. It is easy to forget to check the BLM and BIA records after verifying the courthouse records. Often times, the title records and the records of the courthouse do not match. Title records are maintained at various regional offices and are often difficult to access. Due to increased penalties and timing issues, it is very important to determine early in your project if you have BLM or BIA regulated tracts in your unit.

Prior to purchasing BLM/BIA regulated lands, purchasers need to perform due diligence with the proper agencies records. Purchasers should ensure that the seller is shown on the BLM/BIA records with the correct amount of interest. Purchasers should also verify that operations are in the correct parties name with all agencies involved.

Each lease will need to be assigned on an individual BIA/BLM form and filed with the appropriate BIA/BLM office. If the unit is producing, the communitization agreement will also need to be assigned and a transfer of operator form will need to be filed. Failure to file the appropriate documents can cause problems for years to come and jeopardize future transactions.

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc. has developed an extensive database of all BLM and BIA managed lands throughout the country. We also work closely with all the regional offices that maintain the title records. We can prepare and file all documents to clear title discrepancies and reduce liability in current and future transactions. Contact Jennifer Krieg at [jkrieg@rsenergysolutions.com](mailto:jkrieg@rsenergysolutions.com) for more information.

February 2009

Field Notes

## Upcoming Dates

### BIA Sales

Anadarko Agency  
Accepting Nominations

Concho Agency  
Accepting Nominations

Muskogee Agency  
Accepting Nominations

Osage  
Accepting Nominations

Pawnee Agency  
Negotiated Leases

Five Civilized Tribes  
Court Approved Leases  
See our website for  
Docket Days

Please contact us for sale  
lists and nominations.  
jkrieg@rsenergysolutions.com

### Secretary Salazar Details Strategy for Comprehensive Energy Plan on U.S. Continental Shelf

In a news conference at Interior Headquarters, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar unveils his strategy for a proposed 5-year plan for oil and gas development on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Saying he needed to restore order to a broken process, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced his strategy for developing an offshore energy plan that includes both conventional and renewable resources. His strategy calls for extending the public comment period on a proposed 5-year plan for oil and gas development on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf by 180 days, assembling a detailed report from Interior agencies on conventional and renewable offshore energy resources, holding four regional conferences to review these findings, and expediting renewable energy rulemaking for the Outer Continental Shelf. On Friday, January 16, its last business day in office, the Bush Administration proposed a new five year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing. The proposal was actually published in the *Federal Register* on January 21, the day after the new Administration took office. The deadline for public comment that the Bush Administration established - March 23, 2009 – does not provide enough time for public review or for wise decisions on behalf of taxpayers, the Secretary said.



Salazar directed the United States Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, and other departmental scientists to assemble all the information available about the offshore resources – conventional and renewable – along with information about potential impacts. The report is due in 45 days.

Based on that report, the Department will then determine what areas need more information and create a plan for gathering that information. The Department of the Interior oversees more than 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf – an area roughly three fourths of the size of the entire United States. The Secretary also will build a framework for offshore renewable energy development, so that the Department can incorporate the significant potential for wind, wave, and ocean current energy into its offshore energy strategy. As a senator, Salazar helped to craft and pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which required Interior to move quickly and issue, within 9 months, rules and regulations to guide the development of offshore energy resources, such as wind, wave, and tidal power. “We need a new, comprehensive energy plan that takes us to the new energy frontier and secures our energy independence,” Salazar said. “We must embrace President Obama’s vision of energy independence for the sake of our national security, our economic security, and our environmental security.”

By adding the 180 day extension to the original 60-day period, interested parties will have had a total of 240 days (8 months) to comment on the proposed plan. The current comment period opened on January 21, 2009.

*(Retrieved from [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov))*

**February 2009****Field Notes**

## Upcoming Dates

### BLM Sales

#### Colorado BLM

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: May 14, 2009

Cutoff date: March 20,  
2009

Sale: August 13, 2009

#### New Mexico BLM

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: April 22, 2009

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: July 22, 2009

#### Nevada BLM

Cutoff date: closed

Sale: March 10, 2009

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: June 9, 2009

#### Utah BLM

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: March 24, 2009

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: May 19, 2009

#### Wyoming BLM

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: April 7, 2009

Cutoff date: Closed

Sale: August 4, 2009

Please contact us for sale  
lists and nominations.  
jkrieg@rsenergysolutions.com

## Salazar Begins Rapid, Responsible Implementation of Interior's \$3 Billion in Economic Recovery Plan

*Retrieved from [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)*

Washington D.C.— Pledging swift, responsible implementation of President Obama's economic recovery plan, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today estimated the \$3 billion in funding allocated for the Department could create as many as 100,000 jobs and stimulate business activity in communities across America.

The Recovery Act includes \$500 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to replace and upgrade Indian schools that will benefit the 47,000 Indian children who are educated in these schools. These projects will provide disabled access, replace inefficient heating and cooling systems, and create a better learning environment. BIA will provide \$130-\$170 million in loans to spur Indian economies in which unemployment far exceeds the national average. BIA will initiate two to three on-the-job training efforts in the construction trades in partnership with the Council on Tribal Employment Rights and the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust and expand a pilot project in partnership with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters to train tribal members to become certified plumbers and pipefitters.

The \$280 million in the Recovery Act for the Fish and Wildlife Service will improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use on refuges and other facilities throughout the nation; restore wetlands, riparian habitat, endangered species habitat, and other important landscapes; and restore and rehabilitate facilities that are crucial to the management and restoration of wildlife and fisheries.

The Recovery Act includes \$320 million for the Bureau of Land Management to expand its capacity to authorize renewable energy development on public lands while ensuring environmental protection of these areas, remediate abandoned mines, restore native plants and animals including sage grouse habitat. Funding is also included for Interior agencies to eliminate underbrush and other vegetation in fire-prone areas in order to reduce the threat and potential severity of fire.

The U.S. Geological Survey will invest \$140 million under the Recovery Act to restore and rehabilitate laboratories and research facilities, improve energy efficiency of facilities, and modernize stream gauges that are critical for monitoring streamflow and providing information that is extensively utilized by water managers and the public. For example, important wildlife research facilities at Patuxent Wildlife and Research Refuge will be upgraded and two 50-year old vessels on the Great Lakes that are used for inventory and monitoring of Great Lakes lake trout and other important fisheries will be replaced.

*February 2009*

Field Notes

## Upcoming Dates

### State Sales

#### Louisiana

March 11, 2009

#### Oklahoma CLO

March 25, 2009

May 20, 2009

July 22, 2009

#### North Dakota

May 5, 2009

### Upcoming Events

#### OCAPL Meeting

March 2, 2009

#### OCAPL Luncheon

March 2, 2009

#### TAPL Luncheon

March 9, 2009

#### AWEA Conference

May 4-7, 2009

## U.S. WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY PRAISES CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT FOR ADOPTING STIMULUS BILL

*Retrieved from [www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)*

Renewable energy provisions will help industry sustain momentum, create jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. ~ The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) today praised the adoption by Congress and the signing by the President of the economic stimulus bill, which includes several provisions to spur development of wind and other renewable energy industries in the current adverse economic climate.

“The U.S. wind energy industry is grateful to Congress and the President for taking this important step to secure an economic recovery that includes a strong focus on renewable energy,” said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. “We are thankful to be called upon, and ready to deliver. Wind power will create jobs by the thousands today and help build the vibrant, clean energy economy of tomorrow.”

The U.S. wind energy industry in 2008 installed about 42% of all the new electric generating capacity added that year and created 35,000 jobs, primarily in construction and manufacturing. The renewable energy measures in the stimulus bill will help sustain that momentum and will encourage additional clean energy investment and job creation.



**Energy Prices and Rig  
Count as of  
February 27, 2009**

WTI Crude-ICE	44.5
Brent Crude-ICE	46.2
Ethanol-cbot	1.56
Gas Oil-ICE	405
Rig Count- Africa	58
Rig Count-Europe	93
Rig Count-Canada	377
Rig Count-Far East	238
Rig Count-LatAm	381
Rig Count- USA	1,553

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**Wind Energy in Oklahoma**

By Brittany Timmons

*Retrieved from Dr. Shannon Ferrell, OSU Department of Agricultural Economics  
OACD 2009 Annual Meeting*

The wind energy industry is extremely new to Oklahoma but is an industry that is growing rather quickly. Oklahoma ranks among the top five wind energy producing states and has had major wind projects since 2002. As prices for wind-produced electricity have become competitive, the industry has gained a foothold and is booming.

However the costs associated with wind turbines have proved to be an obstacle in many emerging projects. The most common wind turbine, a two megawatt turbine, can cost between two to three million dollars to install. Additionally, as with other energy sectors, investments in wind energy projects have become more difficult to obtain due to absence of any liquidity in the credit markets.

Oklahoma has over a century of experience with the oil and gas industry and therefore is sufficiently regulated. In comparison, the wind industry has very little regulation or common law to guide its participants. Accordingly, a wind lease can include up to forty pages which detail every element of the relationship between a land owner and a developer. These leases are usually accomplished via a series of easements coupled with an overlying lease. A wind lease can include easements such as access, construction, overhang, noise, transmission and non-obstruction. Each of these easements covers the various areas and issues which the developer and landowner may encounter. The term of a wind lease averages anywhere from thirty to ninety-nine years.

Additionally, such rapid development has brought other issues to light, such as wildlife impacts, lease renewals, lease obligations, landowner compensation and the business of concluding a wind project. Though Oklahoma has yet to establish many regulations regarding these issues and “wind rights”, it is an exciting time for our great state to face these new challenges and continue to use our abundant natural resource.

