



Fact Sheet

The BLM issues updated oil and gas leasing guidance

The Bureau of Land Management is committed to the responsible development of our natural resources while adhering to the highest environmental standards. The BLM has issued updated guidance to its field professionals, through a series of Instruction Memoranda, that will enable consistent implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act's changes to the agency's oil and gas programs.

Below is a summary of each Instruction Memorandum:

1. [Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 \(Pub. L. No. 117-169\) to the Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program IM](#): Summarizes the changes to BLM fiscal terms and the termination of noncompetitive leasing, including the impact on pending leases.
2. [Implementation of Section 50265 in the Inflation Reduction Act for Expressions of Interest for Oil and Gas Lease Sales IM](#): Sets out the manner in which the BLM will calculate expressions of interest submitted to ensure compliance with the Inflation Reduction Act's provisions relating to issuance of rights-of-way for wind and solar development.
3. [Oil and Gas Leasing – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Review IM](#): Replaces IM 2021-027 to update the leasing process, including consistency with the Inflation Reduction Act. This includes identifying potential lease parcels, setting out opportunities for public participation and requirements for environmental analysis, providing a specific option for the BLM to use a formal nomination process and confirming the Inflation Reduction Act's prohibition on noncompetitive leasing.
4. [Evaluating Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Parcels for Future Lease Sales IM](#): Provides direction for assessing lease sale parcels to be included in competitive lease sales, including preference for proximity to existing development and avoiding parcels in habitat connectivity areas.
5. [Discretion to Grant Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatements IM](#): Provides additional clarification and direction for addressing reinstatement of terminated leases, including the need for justifications for granting reinstatements.
6. [Approved Application for Permit to Drill Extensions IM](#): Provides clarification that while the BLM may grant extensions for up to two years, it is important that there be justification for both the request and the duration of the extensions.
7. [Suspensions of Operations and/or Production IM](#): Provides additional clarification to the BLM's existing guidance requiring justification for responding to applications for lease suspensions, including generally not granting suspensions requested in the waning days of lease terms.