

# explore Offshore

**Tapping into our offshore resources is vital to meeting our future energy needs.** With 94% of federal offshore acreage currently off limits to development, increasing access to America's offshore natural gas and oil reserves is a strategic path to securing America's energy future. The Department of Interior's proposed **National Offshore Leasing Plan** provides an opportunity for America to access our homegrown resources.

## The Safe Way to Produce our Energy

The U.S. natural gas and oil industry is committed to meeting the nation's energy needs while maintaining the **highest level of safe and environmentally sound operations.**



## New Standards and Advanced Technology

Offshore energy production is safer than ever thanks to comprehensive efforts focused on safety systems and capabilities. Since 2010, more than 100 exploration and production standards were created or strengthened for safety and environmental management, well design, blowout prevention and spill response.

Exploration and production facilities leverage advanced technologies, materials, and practices such as advanced well containment systems and response equipment to minimize incidents. The United States has established one of the world's most sophisticated and well-coordinated spill response networks that can respond quickly to incidents and equipment failures.

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## Supporting the Military

**Offshore energy production can also safely exist alongside the military.** In fact, the military and energy industries have cooperated for decades in the Gulf of Mexico. The Department of Defense has stated that nearly 97 percent of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's eight planning areas included in the 2017–2022 leasing program draft would be fine for oil and natural gas development, either unrestricted or under site-specific stipulations.

This cooperation will continue as offshore energy exploration expands. The Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior have long-standing protocol for gathering military input to help determine where offshore drilling may occur relative to existing bases and areas of operational needs. With new technology and continual improvements in the drilling process, any conflicts between military and energy uses will be minimized even further in the future.



## Safety Record

The natural gas and oil industry has demonstrated for decades that offshore energy operations are safe and compatible with other ocean activities. In the post-World War II era, there have been around 65,000 natural gas and oil wells drilled in the Gulf of Mexico. During this time, the area has developed a vibrant coastal industry. From tourism to recreation to fishing, Gulf businesses co-exist in harmony with energy development.

## Seismic Surveys

Energy companies need to use seismic surveys to pinpoint where natural gas and oil exist offshore. The process for these surveys is **tightly regulated by the federal government.**

The use of acoustic sources that are part of seismic surveying is controlled to minimize any impact on wildlife

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's chief environmental officer said there is "no documented scientific evidence of noise from air guns used in geological and geophysical seismic activities adversely affecting marine animal populations or coastal communities."



# Lets explore

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