

# News Release



Date: November 18, 2009  
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## IPAMS Highlights Irregularities in DOI Leasing Program

*Warns that arbitrary decisions, failure to follow established law puts at risk 15% of America's natural gas supply*

(DENVER)- Today the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) released a position paper highlighting irregularities in the Department of Interior's (DOI) natural gas and oil leasing program that are making it difficult for independent western producers to continue developing the clean natural gas our nation needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, backup wind and solar energy, and increase our energy security. In spite of statements by the Obama administration touting the benefits of natural gas, conflicting decisions by DOI, which are not supported by law, are hindering producers' efforts to develop the vast amounts of clean, domestic natural gas that lie beneath western public lands.

Interior Secretary Salazar has repeatedly stated that the Obama Administration is not "anti-oil and gas," yet when it comes to Interior's onshore natural gas and oil program, the record suggests otherwise. A series of Interior decisions has created uncertainty in the management of the onshore program, threatening the supply of domestic energy.

"Efforts to restrict the federal natural gas and oil program put at risk 15% of the nation's natural gas supply," said Kathleen Sgamma, IPAMS Director of Government Affairs. "For example, DOI has severely reduced lease sales this year. Compared to the first year of the Clinton Administration, the Obama Administration has issued 1,934 fewer leases and 1,146,949 fewer acres in the Intermountain West, 32% and 46% reductions respectively."

IPAMS has released a position paper that outlines some of the actions DOI has taken that are creating uncertainty in the federal onshore natural gas and oil program. These irregularities include:

- \$100 million worth of unissued leases in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming
- Reduced lease sales, deferred leases and withdrawn leases
- Permitting backlogs
- Failure to issue permits using categorical exclusions, in violation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Indefinite holds on project-level environmental analysis

[Click here to read IPAMS Position Paper](#)

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### About IPAMS

*The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at [www.ipams.org](http://www.ipams.org).*