

News Release



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Date: July 11, 2011
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Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity: West Poised to Displace Imports from the Middle East, Venezuela and Russia ***Study identifies government policies blocking economic recovery and jobs***

(Denver) - *The Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity* finds that by 2020 the West will produce as much oil and natural gas on a daily basis as the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Venezuela, Colombia, Algeria, Nigeria, and Russia combined.

The *Blueprint*, conducted by EIS Solutions with data analysis by ICF International, provides evidence that just six major oil and natural gas producing states in the West have the ability to help rebuild the economy and create jobs while displacing foreign imports.

The study concludes that if western producers are allowed to develop the vast domestic energy resources found on public lands, investment in the region will double to \$58 billion annually by 2020, and direct, indirect and induced jobs will increase by 16%.

Federal government policies, however, are significantly undermining these projections of growth, investment and expansion. The *Blueprint* identifies government policies that are making western energy development increasingly more difficult, time consuming, and expensive, and recommends policies to overcome those obstacles.

"Western producers are gravely concerned that government policies are significantly undermining these projections of growth, investment and expansion," said Western Energy Alliance President Tom Sheffield of Pioneer Natural Resources. "The West is supplying an increasing amount of America's energy with a smaller environmental footprint, but while technological advancement has opened the door to a century's worth of new oil and natural gas, misguided government action is preventing achievement of the region's full energy potential."

The *Blueprint* outlines specific actions that must be taken if America is to reap the full benefit of western energy. Among the study's recommendations:

- A thorough review and comprehensive reform of the entire federal onshore process, including leasing, project environmental analysis, and permitting
- A moratorium on new and expanded layers of regulation
- Limits to litigation that unreasonably obstruct domestic energy production and economic growth
- Changes to renewable portfolio standards to allow natural gas to compete for electricity generation capacity on the basis of fuel-neutral performance criteria such as cost and emissions profile
- Market-based policies that remove barriers preventing natural gas from fully competing as a transportation fuel.

“If we are serious about realizing the full promise of western energy production, regulatory policies must be realigned to support, not hinder, responsible and timely access to oil and natural gas resources on federal lands,” said Sheffield. “The industry is committed to continued environmental improvements and balanced use of our federal lands, but in order to continue supplying domestic energy and helping to rebuild our economy, we need a more efficient and predictable regulatory environment. The current and ever expanding maze of haphazard federal regulation must be reformed if our industry is to help solve America’s pressing economic and energy challenges.”

[Click here to download the *Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity*](#)

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Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at www.westernenergyalliance.org.