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Repeal of Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform

Comment On: ONRR-2017-0001-0001

Repeal of Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform

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Comment from Anonymous Anonymous,

Submitter Information

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General Comment

The Office's contention that an environmental impact statement is not required under NEPA is incorrect. Because royalty rates significantly affect the supply of fossil fuels, and thus fuels used in electricity generation, they are not merely technical or financial, but have substantive policy effects that will likely have a substantial environmental effect. The categorical exclusion thus does not apply, and an environmental impact statement is required under NEPA.

Additionally, because restoring the prior royalty rates results in a loss of revenue, it is inconsistent with the purposes of the Office's statutory grant of authority. The Office should not act without Congressional clarification of the purposes for which it can exercise its authority.