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ONRR unveils new ‘Statistics’ web page in its ongoing efforts to maximize data accessibility and transparency

DENVER – The Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) has enhanced its “Statistics Web Page” to make its data more accessible and user-friendly, and to provide new capabilities, such as query and export capabilities and a feedback tool to inform future enhancements.

The improvements are incorporated in the new Fiscal Year 2012 “Disbursement” data now available on the Statistics web page at: <http://statistics.onrr.gov>

“These enhancements support one of Secretary Salazar’s top reform priorities – bringing greater transparency and accountability to the Department’s management of the nation’s energy resources,” said Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Rhea Suh, who praised the work of ONRR’s Data Services and Statistical Reporting team. “The new user-friendly tools for navigating the large volume of revenue data,” she added, “provide greater accessibility to the American public who entrusts ONRR with the critical mission of collecting every dollar due for the use of the nation’s natural resources.”

“This work is just the beginning,” said Paul A. Mussenden, DOI’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources Revenue Management. “An innovative team of dedicated ONRR employees is already exploring additional ways to make ONRR’s data more transparent and accessible, and we’re looking forward to feedback from visitors to the site as we consider future enhancements.”

In a related note, ONRR Director Greg Gould cautioned that visitors to the web page should not portray the sales volume data in the Accounting Year Reported Royalty data set as production data.

“In past years,” Gould said, “individuals and organizations who visited the ONRR web site mistakenly concluded that the sales volumes included in the Reported Royalty data sets represented actual production. They do not – sales volumes merely represent the volumes sold.” Gould added that production volumes, by comparison, are the volumes of products extracted, or produced, from the ground.

For a variety of reasons, some volumes are produced and never sold and some volumes are sold in a different year than the year in which they were produced. According to

Gould, “common reasons for differences between sales volumes and production volumes include the use of gas to power equipment on a lease, the re-injection of gas to maintain reservoir pressure, and oil that is produced into storage to be sold at a later date.”

The Accounting Year Reported Royalty data set released today represents all transactions that ONRR accepts into its Financial System during a given fiscal year. The FY 2012 data set contains transactions for sales that took place in FY 2012, as well as adjusted or corrected transactions for sales that took place in previous fiscal years. Because revenues are generally disbursed in the same year they were reported and accepted into ONRR’s Financial System, the Accounting Year data set is most useful when analyzing dollars ONRR collects and disburses in a given fiscal year.

The Sales Year Reported Royalty data set, which is expected to be posted in mid-February 2013, represents transactions for sales that took place in a particular fiscal year including adjusted or corrected transactions that were reported in subsequent fiscal years. This data set provides a “snap shot” of reported sales of mineral commodities, and is most useful when trending sales volumes or when making comparisons to production volumes. Since this data constantly changes as royalty payors correct and adjust their royalty reports, ONRR updates the Sales Year data sets annually and publishes them with an as-of date.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, part of the DOI’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, is responsible for collecting and disbursing revenues from energy production that occurs onshore on Federal and American Indian lands, and offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf. During Fiscal Year 2012, the agency disbursed more than \$12.15 billion to states, American Indian Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, and to various Federal accounts, including the U.S. Treasury General Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Reclamation Fund.

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