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ONRR Issues \$648,000 Civil Penalty to XTO Energy for ‘Knowing or Willful’ Failure to Permit an Audit

DENVER – The Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) announced today that it has assessed XTO Energy a \$648,000 civil penalty for knowing or willful failure to permit an audit.

“XTO’s non-responsiveness to an audit information request prevented ONRR auditors from performing substantive steps in an audit of one of XTO’s Federal oil and gas properties,” said ONRR Director Greg Gould. “XTO’s failure to fulfill these requests substantially delayed completion of the audit and diverted ONRR resources to pursuing – rather than examining – the requested information.”

The civil penalty was prompted when XTO did not comply with a data request originating in 2012 and did not respond to numerous follow-up telephone and e-mail messages referencing the request, which related to a Federal lease in Kansas.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, part of the Department’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 in 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, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Reclamation Fund.

ONRR