



U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

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News Release

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ONRR Announces Final Civil Penalty Regulations

Updated regulations modernize ONRR's civil penalty authority

WASHINGTON, DC – As part of the overall effort to modernize the Nation's energy regulations, on Monday, August 1, the Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will release final regulations to amend its civil penalty regulations, which have not been updated since May 1999. Since that time, legislation, legal decisions, and recommendations from oversight entities have driven the need to modernize and improve the effectiveness of ONRR's civil penalty authority.

“The final regulations ensure that ONRR's civil penalty authority continues to be an effective compliance and enforcement tool in the modern and highly-competitive minerals marketplace, and ensure that ONRR collects every dollar due on behalf of the American taxpayer” said ONRR Director Greg Gould. “The appropriate use of civil penalties, as clarified by the final regulations, provides clear notice to industry and serves as a meaningful deterrent to engaging in conduct that violates Federal mineral laws and regulations.”

The final regulations amend the ONRR civil penalty regulations to:

- Apply the regulations to all mineral leases, including solid mineral and geothermal leases;
- Adjust civil penalty amounts for inflation;
- Clarify and simplify the existing regulations for issuing notices of noncompliance and civil penalties; and
- Provide notice that ONRR will post matrices for civil penalty assessments on our website.

The final Civil Penalties Rule will publish in the *Federal Register* on August 1, 2016, and become effective on August 31, 2016. The final rule can be viewed at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>. Beginning Monday, August 1, 2016, the final rule can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov/> and at www.onrr.gov.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, part of the Department's Office of Policy, Management and Budget, is responsible for the collection, disbursement and verification of revenues from energy production that occurs onshore on Federal and American Indian lands, and offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf. During Fiscal Year 2015, the agency disbursed more than \$9.8 billion to states, American Indian Tribes, individual Indian mineral owners, and to

various Federal accounts, including the U.S. Treasury, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Reclamation Fund.

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