



U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

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News Release

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News Media Contact:

Treci Johnson, 202-513-0611

Interior Department Disburses \$6.23 Billion in FY 2016 Energy Revenues *Federal Revenues Support State, Tribal, National Needs*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) announced today that disbursements from energy production on federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$6.23 billion in Fiscal Year 2016.

The revenues were distributed to State, local, Federal and Tribal accounts to support critical reclamation, conservation and recreation projects. Local governments apply the revenues to meet a variety of needs, ranging from infrastructure improvements to school funding.

“Derived from conventional domestic energy production as well as renewable energy sources, these revenues remain a critical source of non-tax funding to states, American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, and to various federal accounts, including the U.S. Treasury,” said Greg Gould, director of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. “These revenues support much-needed initiatives across the Nation that create American jobs and fund power and water development in the West, critical infrastructure improvements, education and land and water conservation projects.”

More than \$1.32 billion of the FY 2016 energy revenues was disbursed to 37 states, as their cumulative share of revenues collected from oil, gas and solid mineral production on Federal lands within their borders and from offshore oil and gas tracts in Federal waters adjacent to their shores. Among the top states receiving FY 2016 revenues are Wyoming (\$664 million), New Mexico (\$369 million), Colorado (\$84 million), Utah (\$68 million), California (\$39 million), North Dakota (\$33 million), Montana (\$23 million) and Alaska (\$13 million).

Included in the State disbursements is \$3 million sent directly to 35 counties in eight states from geothermal energy production. State disbursements also include more than \$314,000 to four coastal states and 42 eligible political subdivisions (counties and parishes) under provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. A complete list of states receiving revenues through FY 2016 is available on ONRR’s website at: <https://www.onrr.gov/>.

In addition to State disbursements, \$560 million was disbursed to American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners; \$1.01 billion to the Reclamation Fund; \$884 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and the remaining \$2.45 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

The \$560 million disbursed to 34 federally-recognized American Indian tribes and more than 35,000 individual Indian mineral owners represents 100 percent of the revenues received for energy and mineral production activities on Indian lands. The revenues are disbursed through the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. Tribes use these revenues to develop infrastructure, provide healthcare and education, and support other critical community development programs, such as senior centers, public safety projects, and youth initiatives.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, established by Congress in 1964, uses revenue from energy development to provide grants to State, Federal and local governments to acquire land, water and easements for recreation use and to protect natural treasures. Receipts deposited in the Reclamation Fund are made available by Congress through annual appropriation acts for authorized water management and efficiency programs that directly benefit 17 Western States.

The \$6.23 billion disbursed in FY 2016 compares to the \$9.88 billion the Department disbursed in FY 2015. The decline in disbursements was primarily attributed to substantially lower oil and gas prices experienced during the year. The average price of oil declined 27 percent from \$56.54 per barrel during FY 2015 to \$41.54 per barrel in FY 2016. The average natural gas prices declined 26 percent from \$3.10 in FY 2015 to \$2.28 in FY 2016.

All Federal energy revenues are collected and disbursed by Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, which is under the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. The Office makes most disbursements on a monthly basis from the royalties, rents and bonuses it collects from energy and solid mineral companies operating on Federal lands and waters.

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