

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1115

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish a deadline and other requirements for issuance of drilling permits under that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2011

Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. CANSECO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish a deadline and other requirements for issuance of drilling permits under that Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expedited Offshore
5 Permitting Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEADLINE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR**
2 **ISSUANCE OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**
3 **DRILLING PERMITS.**

4 Section 11(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
5 Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by inserting “(1)” after
6 “(d)”, and by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall approve or disapprove
8 any application for a permit for drilling a well under an
9 approved exploration or development plan for an oil and
10 gas lease, or any application to amend a previously ap-
11 proved permit under such a lease, within 30 days after
12 its submission, except that the Secretary may disapprove
13 such application only upon a determination that—

14 “(i) any proposed activity under the permit
15 would result in any condition described in section
16 5(a)(2)(A)(i); and

17 “(ii) such proposed activity cannot be modified
18 to avoid such condition.

19 “(B) The Secretary may request additional informa-
20 tion from the applicant prior to approving or disapproving
21 such application, but the request for additional informa-
22 tion must be received by the applicant within 30 days after
23 submission of the application to the Secretary. Upon re-
24 ceipt of the additional information requested by the Sec-
25 retary, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the ap-

1 plication within 15 days in accordance with this sub-
2 section.

3 “(C) If the Secretary disapproves a permit applica-
4 tion or an amended permit application pursuant to this
5 subsection, and there is no other well on areas subject to
6 the applicable leases capable of production in paying quan-
7 tities, within 90 days after receipt of a final disapproval
8 decision all record title holders of any of the applicable
9 leases may request cancellation of the lease, and within
10 60 days after receipt of such cancellation request the Sec-
11 retary shall pay to the record title holders the amount of
12 any bonus bid paid for such lease plus interest from the
13 date or dates that the bonus bids were paid by the record
14 title holders. The Secretary shall make such payment from
15 amounts that otherwise would be credited to miscellaneous
16 receipts pursuant to section 9.”.

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