



U.S. Department of the Interior

# News Release

## Office of Natural Resources Revenue

www.onrr.gov

### Office of Public Affairs

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### News Media Contact:

Patrick Etchart, 303-231-3162

## **ONRR Streamlines Online Rental Payments**

*eCommerce website offers simplicity, efficiency for industry, government*

DENVER, CO – The Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) today announced a new reporting tab on its eCommerce Reporting website to facilitate timely rental payments on non-producing leases.

“The new tab provides a more streamlined method to make annual federal rental payments on non-producing leases,” said ONRR Director Greg Gould, “providing greater simplicity and efficiency for both industry and the government.”

The new “Rental Information” tab replaces the previous non-automated rental payment process that in the past could lead to incorrect lease terminations if the rental payment was not properly recorded. While those errors are corrected, the corrections are often time-consuming and costly for ONRR, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and industry reporters. The new eCommerce process eliminates those issues.

When a company or individual buys a federal lease, they initially pay a bonus bid for the lease and the first-year rental payment, generally a nominal fee per acre specified in the lease. Rental payments are due annually on the lease anniversary date, or the lease may be terminated. When production begins, the lease owner is required to pay a royalty on the value of the product (oil, gas or coal) to the government, and the annual rental payments cease.

Industry reporters can now see the rental payments they owe by lease and can electronically pay the required rents, which will automatically post to the selected lease. All rental payments made through the eCommerce site are processed timely and more accurately, with automatic notification of payment to the BLM.

ONRR notified industry reporters of the new “Rental Information” tab through a Dear Reporter letter issued Feb. 2, 2015.

Additional benefits of the new tab include search capabilities by lease or agency number to see when future rental payments are due; capability to search and download payment history records; and a Pay.gov tracking number to trace company payments.

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 on the Outer Continental Shelf. During Fiscal Year 2014, the agency disbursed more than \$13.4 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**