



U.S. Department of the Interior

## Office of Natural Resources Revenue

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*News Release*

### Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release  
November 25, 2015

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## **Interior Department Disburses \$9.87 Billion in FY 2015 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 \$9.87 billion in Fiscal Year 2015.

“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, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Reclamation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund,” said Greg Gould, director of the Office of Natural Resource Revenues. “Derived from conventional domestic energy production as well as renewable energy sources—these revenues help meet a variety of local needs, ranging from school funding to infrastructure improvements and water conservation projects.”

More than \$1.8 billion of the FY 2015 energy revenues was disbursed to 37 states, as their cumulative share of revenues collected from oil, gas and mineral production on federal lands within their borders and from offshore oil and gas tracts in federal waters adjacent to their shores. The top states receiving FY 2015 revenues were Wyoming (\$886 million), New Mexico (\$496 million), Colorado (\$123 million), Utah (\$116 million), and California (\$64.3 million).

Included in the state disbursements is \$3.8 million sent directly to 36 counties in eight states from geothermal energy production. State disbursements also include \$2.4 million to four coastal states and 42 eligible political subdivisions (counties and parishes) under provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.

In addition to state disbursements, \$852.7 million was disbursed to American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners; \$1.4 billion to the Reclamation Fund; \$888.6 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund; \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Fund; and the remaining \$4.7 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

The \$852.7 million disbursed to 34 federally recognized American Indian tribes and nearly 36,000 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 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 \$888.6 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund represents the last disbursement of these dollars into the fund; the law expired September 30, severing the connection between royalties collected and the fund.

The \$9.87 billion disbursed in FY 2015 compares to the \$13.4 billion the Department disbursed in FY 2014. The decline in disbursements was primarily attributed to substantially lower oil and gas prices experienced during the year. The average price of oil declined 43 percent from \$99.07 per barrel during FY 2014 to \$56.54 per barrel in FY 2015. The average natural gas prices declined 28 percent in FY 2015.

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 mineral companies operating on federal lands and waters.

A complete list of states receiving revenues through FY 2015 is available on Office of Natural Resources Revenue's website at: <http://www.onrr.gov>.

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