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## **Removal of language and links on the Bureau of Land Management's hydraulic fracturing and methane rules.**

**The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) page on regulations for onshore energy production has been edited to remove language and links on hydraulic fracturing and methane rules.**

### **Description**

The BLM has removed language on the purpose of the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule and a link to that rule from its page on regulations for onshore energy production. It has also removed the a section on, and link to, the proposed methane waste prevention rule.

The specific changes include:

- 1. Removal of language about the purpose of the 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing on BLM lands:** "to ensure that when those operations are undertaken on lands where a BLM permit is required, steps are taken to ensure wellbore integrity, proper waste water [sic] management, and greater transparency about the process, including information about the composition of fracturing fluids."
- 2. Removal of link to the hydraulic fracturing "HF" rule.** The final rule is still accessible through a link from a [BLM press release](#), which takes you [here](#) to the same pdf of the Federal Register that the original link pointed to.
- 3. Removal of section on Methane Waste Prevention Rule.**
- 4. Removal of link to the proposed Methane rule.** The [page for the proposed rule](#) is still up on the BLM site.

**Page 1:**

- URL:  
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/operations-and-producti-on/onshore-orders>
- Side-by-side View: 1/6/17 - 2/3/17

**Screenshot 1.**

(1a) Removal of language about the purpose of the 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing on BLM lands.

(1b) Removal of link to a pdf of the hydraulic fracturing “HF” rule from the federal register.

(1c) Removal of section on Methane Waste Prevention Rule.

(1d) Removal of link to the “proposed Methane rule,” though the linked page has not been removed.

Version comparison of <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/operations-and-producti-on/onshore-orders> - History - enable javascript - view as gist

Jan 6 2017 9:44 PM View rendered: side-by-side Feb 3 2017 3:18 PM

produced water associated with oil and gas operations.

**National Notices to Lessees (NTLs)**

NNTL 3A: Reporting of Undesirable Events

NNTL 4A: Royalty or Compensation for Oil and Gas Lost. This notice is slated to be replaced by a regulation to prevent the waste of methane from natural gas and oil wells.

**Ongoing Regulatory Efforts**

Some of the BLM’s regulations date to the 1980s and have not kept up with the way companies operate and how the equipment they use. Good government agencies such as the Government Accountability Office and the Department of the Interior’s Inspector General, among others, have suggested updates to these rules, which are under way.

**Hydraulic Fracturing Rule**

**Modern** hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling techniques have opened vast sections of the United States to oil and gas development. They have also raised public concerns about the safety and potential environmental impacts of those activities. **To** address those concerns and to take into account modern industry practices, the BLM published a final rule in March 2015 to ensure that when those operations are undertaken on lands where a BLM permit is required, steps are taken to ensure wellbore integrity, proper waste water management, and greater transparency about the process, including information about the composition of fracturing fluids. **The** final rule marked the culmination of five years of tribal, public and stakeholder engagement. Implementation of the final rule is on hold pending the outcome of ongoing litigation in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeal in Denver.

[View the HF rule click here.](#)

**Methane Waste Prevention Rule**

In order to reduce the wasteful release of natural gas into the atmosphere from oil and gas operations on public and American Indian lands, the BLM has proposed a rule covering the venting and flaring of gas. The proposed rule on venting, flaring and leaking will help curb waste of our nation’s natural gas supplies, reduce harmful methane emissions and provide a fair return on public resources for federal taxpayers, Tribes, and States.

[Read the proposed rule.](#)

- [Download](#) fact sheet
- [FAQs](#) here
- [Submit questions](#)
- [Sample letter to operators - updated information and delay in assignment of FMP numbers](#)

43 CFR 3174, which replaces Order 4, establishes minimum standards for the accurate measurement of **oil**.

- [Download](#) fact sheet
- [Download](#) FAQs
- [Submit questions](#)

43 CFR 3175, which replaces Order 5, establishes minimum standards for the accurate measurement of **gas**.

- [Download](#) fact sheet
- [FAQs](#)
- [Submit questions](#)

Order No. 6 - Hydrogen Sulfide Operations: This Order provides the requirements and standards for conducting oil and gas operations in an environment known to or expected to contain hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) gas.

Order No. 7 - Disposal of Produced Waters: This Order provides the methods and approvals necessary to dispose of produced water associated with oil and gas operations.

**National Notices to Lessees (NTLs)**

NNTL 3A: Reporting of Undesirable Events

NNTL 4A: Royalty or Compensation for Oil and Gas Lost. This notice is slated to be replaced by a regulation to prevent the waste of methane from natural gas and oil wells.

Hydraulic Fracturing **on Federal and Indian Lands: Modern** hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling techniques have opened vast sections of the United States to oil and gas development. They have also raised public concerns about the safety and potential environmental impacts of those activities. **To** address those concerns and to take into account modern industry practices, the BLM published a final rule in March 2015. **The** final rule marked the culmination of five years of tribal, public and stakeholder engagement. Implementation of the final rule is on hold pending the outcome of ongoing litigation in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeal in Denver.

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1. Previous version from January 21, 2017:  
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2. Revised version from January 28, 2017:  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170128001447/http://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/operations-and-production/onshore-orders>

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