

## STATUS AND OUTLOOK OF OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

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This presentation explains the activities of the United States Government in the development of its vast oil shale resources.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to create a Task Force on strategic unconventional fuels comprised of the Secretaries of Energy, Interior (DOI), and Defense (DOD), the governors of affected states, and representatives of local communities to develop a program to accelerate the formation of a robust oil shale industry.

The Task Force concluded that benefits stemming from such an industry would be enormous. The Task Force also concluded that in order to put an oil shale industry in place, first it is necessary to develop and demonstrate economic extraction technologies, and overcome potential water resource, socio-economic, infrastructure, and environmental constraints. If these challenges can be met, the benefits to the U.S. would be immense. Significant shale oil production could begin within 5-10 years, and could reach 2.5 million barrels per day by 2035; oil imports from unfriendly or unstable countries could be reduced significantly or eliminated; hundreds of thousands of quality jobs could be created; and the United States' Gross Domestic Product, public revenues, and trade balance could all benefit substantially.

Significant efforts are underway at DOI, DOD, and DOE in oil shale analysis, policy development, research, development, and demonstration, environmental assessment, and leasing federal lands. DOE's Office of Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves is working with an ad hoc group of industry, government, and national laboratory representatives to plan and conduct the environmental and socio-economic analyses recommended by the Task Force, for oil shale resources in the western energy corridor that extends from New Mexico to Montana. This presentation addresses those efforts.