

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5506

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that treatment of the issuance of any exploration plans, development production plans, development operation coordination documents, and lease sales required under Federal law for offshore drilling activity on the outer Continental Shelf as a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia (for himself and Mr. POLIS of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Oil Pollution Environ-
3 mental Review Act” or “OPERA”.

4 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF NEPA TO OFFSHORE DRILLING**
5 **ACTIVITY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Outer Continental Shelf
7 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) is amended by adding
8 at the end the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 32. APPLICATION OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL**
10 **POLICY ACT OF 1969.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency
12 shall treat the issuance of any exploration plans, develop-
13 ment production plans, development operation coordina-
14 tion documents, and lease sales required under Federal
15 law for offshore drilling activity on the outer Continental
16 Shelf as a major Federal action significantly affecting the
17 quality of the human environment for the purposes of sec-
18 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of
19 1969, and requiring detailed environmental analysis of
20 such proposed actions and reasonably foreseeable subse-
21 quent actions.

22 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term ‘off-
23 shore drilling activity’—

24 “(1) means drilling for oil or gas under a lease,
25 or conducting a major geophysical seismic survey,
26 under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

1 “(2) includes such drilling or surveying for ex-
2 ploration, development, or production.”.

3 (b) REPEAL OF 30-DAY DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL
4 OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 11(c)(1) of the
5 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
6 1340(c)(1)) is amended by striking “The Secretary shall
7 approve such plan, as submitted or modified, within thirty
8 days of its submission, except that the” and by inserting
9 “The”.

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