



ANNUAL SURVEY OF DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS RESERVES
FORM EIA-23L
Field Level Survey Instructions
SURVEY YEAR 2012
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For Information, Assistance, or Additional Forms
Contact the EIA-23 Coordinator 800-879-1470
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p. m. Central Time

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. PURPOSE

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) seeks to gather and summarize credible and timely data regarding proved reserves and production of crude oil, natural gas, lease condensate, and other related matters with Form EIA-23L. The Government will use the resulting information to develop national and regional estimates of proved reserves of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids and to facilitate national energy policy decisions.

B. WHO MUST SUBMIT FORM EIA-23L

It is not feasible to perform a complete census of all domestic oil and gas well **operators** (see Section L Definitions, page 8) every year. Instead, the U.S. Energy Information Administration selects a sample of operators from each **producing area** of the United States; (e.g., state, state subdivision, state waters, and Federal Offshore waters) for a survey year (Survey Year sample).

Each **operator** selected as part of the Survey Year sample must file Form EIA-23L regardless of their total survey year production levels.

Selection to the Survey Year sample is determined by the total or gross (8/8ths) annual operated production rate within the producing area. Production refers to the total survey year production from all domestic oil and/or gas wells you operated on December 31, of the survey year, including wells abandoned during the survey year.

Each operating affiliate of a parent company must file its own Form EIA-23L. The parent company must file only if it is an operator itself.

Note that as defined, day-to-day physical operation of a well or wells does not alone qualify a person as the operator. Physical operation may occasionally be divorced from operatorship, such as in the instance of manipulation of swing wells by a gas pipeline company representative or the manipulation and maintenance of wells located on an offshore platform by the platform manager. While the operator's own personnel usually perform such duties, the key factor is that the operator is the person who makes management decisions regarding the well(s) in question on behalf of the owner(s).

If you are not certain whether you are the operator, contact the EIA-23 Coordinator 800-879-1470 for assistance in making this determination. If you are not the operator of oil and/or gas wells on December 31, 2012 (perhaps a former operator or solely a working or royalty interest owner), you should complete and sign the Cover Page and return it to EIA along with a letter stating when operations ceased and what became of the wells you previously operated.

C. WHAT MUST BE SUBMITTED

Production data and estimates of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and lease condensate are required of each operator selected.

Operators must file:

- Cover Page
- Schedule A - Operated proved reserves, production, and related data by fields
- Schedule B - Footnotes

D. WHEN AND WHERE TO SUBMIT

The completed 2012 survey forms must be submitted **on or before Julyxx, 2013**. Filing electronically, using Secure File Transfer or Fax, is encouraged.

Secure File Transfer: See page 5 for information

Fax completed forms to: 202 586-1076

Mail completed paper forms to:

Oil and Gas Surveys
U. S. Department of Energy, EIA
Ben Franklin Station
PO Box 279
Washington DC 20044-0279

When entering responses on hard copies, type or print in black ink using all capital letters. [EIA-23L forms and instructions are available on the EIA website.](#)

E. RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

All records necessary to reconstruct the data on this form must be retained and available for a period of three (3) years from the filing due date.

EIA may perform quality assurance on the data, assessing the accuracy of the resulting information. Two principal quality assurance activities are: 1) government personnel will make or supervise independent reserve estimates on a selected basis or, 2) a sample of operators will be visited to review the data submitted.

F. SANCTIONS

The timely submission of Form EIA-23L by those required to report is mandatory under Section 13 (b) of the Energy Information Administration Act of 1974 (FEAA) (Public Law 93-275), as amended. Failure to respond may result in a civil penalty of not more than \$2,750 a day for each violation, or a fine of not more than \$5,000 a day for each willful violation. The government may bring a civil action to prohibit reporting violations that may result in a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction without bond. In such civil action, the court may also issue mandatory injunctions commanding any person to comply with these reporting requirements.

G. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The annual production of crude oil, lease condensate, and natural gas reported on Form EIA-23 are considered public information. These data elements may be released in company-identifiable form and will not be protected from

disclosure in identifiable form when releasing statistical aggregate information. All other information, including reserves, reported on Form EIA-23 will be protected and not disclosed to the public to the extent that it satisfies the criteria for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, the DOE regulations, 10 C.F.R. §1004.11, implementing the FOIA, and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §1905.

The Federal Energy Administration Act requires the EIA to provide company-specific data to other Federal agencies when requested for official use. The information reported on this form may also be made available, upon request, to another component of the Department of Energy (DOE); to any Committee of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, or other Federal agencies authorized by law to receive such information. A court of competent jurisdiction may obtain this information in response to an order. The information may be used for any nonstatistical purposes such as administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, or adjudicatory purposes.

Disclosure limitation procedures are applied to the protected statistical data published from EIA-23 survey information to ensure that the risk of disclosure of identifiable information is very small.

Confidential information collected on Form EIA-23 will be provided to United States Department of Interior offices (the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the United States Geological Survey) for statistical purposes only, in conducting their resource estimation activities.

H. REPORTING STANDARDS

1. Proved Reserves

EIA recognizes that the judgment of geologists and petroleum engineers is required in the reserve estimation process, and that as a result, proved reserves are estimates rather than precise quantitative measurements.

Proved reserves of oil and gas as of December 31, 2012 are the estimated quantities of oil and/or gas, which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. (**See Proved Reserves, Crude Oil; Proved Reserves, Natural Gas; and Proved Reserves, Lease Condensate**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

2. Survey Year Production

Production data are required from all operators. If the actual production data are not available at the time Form EIA-23L is prepared, estimate production. Note that amended schedules are not required to correct preliminary production data. Production data reported in the prior year survey may have been subsequently revised or corrected, thereby altering the end of the prior year reserves. Any change in the end of the prior year reserves due to this factor should be accounted for as part of the *Revision Increases* or *Revision Decreases* reported in the current survey.

If any properties were acquired during the survey year, production data from the acquired properties should be reported from the date of purchase. If any properties were sold during the survey year, production data should be reported until the date of sale.

3. Total Operated Basis

All data on Schedule A (reserves and related data by field) are to be reported on an 8/8ths or Total Operated Basis. When reporting on this basis, production and reserves data for any properties on which operations were acquired during the survey year should be reported from the date of transfer or purchase. If any properties were sold or transferred to a new operator during the survey year, report production until the date of sale or transfer, and enter the proved reserves sold or transferred as **Sales** (Schedule A, Rows 12-15, Column D).

EXAMPLES:

Of the total 8/8ths interest, respondent's share is 50 percent and the associated royalty share is 6.25 percent. Respondent operates property. Respondent reports 100 percent of proved reserves and production.

Of the total 8/8ths interest, respondent's share is zero but it operates the property (i.e., a contract operator). Respondent reports 100 percent of proved reserves and production.

4. States and Geographic Subdivisions

The state or geographic subdivision in which to report proved reserves and production data is determined by the location of the field(s) containing the oil and/or gas. If a field overlaps two or more states, subdivisions, or counties, the proved reserves data must be subdivided into the appropriate geographic components. Refer to the Section: Maps of Selected State Subdivisions for the subdivision boundaries in the States of Alaska, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas.

Offshore proved reserves data are required separately for the state and federal domains. If an offshore field lies on or between disputed boundaries, include all data in the state offshore area.

5. Field Names and Codes

The EIA 2012 *Annual Oil and Gas Field Code Master List (2012 FCML)* contains the appropriate state, county, field codes, and spelling conventions for field names. It is found on the EIA website (www.eia.gov). Designated unconventional reservoirs have a 2-letter Type Code (see Specific Instructions, J. Section 2.0, Subitem 5.)

6. Reporting Units

Volumes must be reported in whole numbers and not contain decimals. All volumes are to be reported in the appropriate reporting units as shown below:

a. Crude Oil: All crude oil volumes are to be reported in **thousands of barrels (MBbls)** (42 U.S. gallons per barrel at atmospheric **pressure** corrected to 60° Fahrenheit) and excluding basic sediment and water.

b. Natural Gas: All natural gas volumes are to be reported in **millions of cubic feet (MMCF)** at **14.73 psia** and **60° Fahrenheit**, wet after lease separation.

It is recognized that the operator in many instances has no knowledge of the ultimate reduction of the gas stream produced from his properties, which may result from further downstream processing. The operator is requested to report volumes of natural gas, which remain after processing through lease and field separation facilities. **Lease use and flared and vented gas are also considered production and should be included in the volumes reported.**

The EIA obtains data from gas processing plants separately. Gas volumes reported on Form EIA-23L should **not be** corrected for liquids removed by these plants. If you do not know if a field facility through which your gas is processed is currently reporting data to the EIA or not, contact the **EIA-23L Coordinator at 800-879-1470** to obtain information on those plants which report.

Operators must segregate natural gas data into **associated-dissolved and nonassociated gas** entries (see **natural gas, associated-dissolved and natural gas, nonassociated**, Section L Definitions, page 8.). For a given reservoir, the gas type should represent the state classification as of December 31, of the survey year. This

gas type may differ from the classification reflected in the prior year's Form EIA-23L filing.

An unusual situation may occur when, for pressure maintenance, a field is injected with natural gas produced from another field. The resultant increase in proved gas reserves is considered a **Revision Increase** for those volumes that are reasonably expected to be recovered at some future date. A Schedule B footnote must indicate the total injected volume and the expected future recoveries.

c. Lease Condensate: All lease condensate volumes are to be reported in **thousands of barrels (MBbls)** (42 U.S. gallons per barrel, at atmospheric pressure corrected to 60° Fahrenheit).

d. Rounding: Round liquid volumes 500 barrels and above up to '1' MBbls, and less than 500 barrels down to '0' MBbls. Round gas volumes 500 MCF and above up to '1' MMCF, and less than 500 MCF down to '0' MMCF.

e. Negative and Positive Volumes: All data are to be entered as whole number integers without plus (+) or minus (-) symbols. By definition, **Revision Decreases, Sales, and Production** all constitute reserve decreases and are entered without the minus symbol.

7. Prior Year's Filing

Entries for **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2011**, Schedule A, Column (A) in this year's Form EIA-23L filing should not differ from those quantities reported as end-of-year reserves in the prior year's filing.

a. Properties Were Purchased or Acquired

If operations were transferred **from** another company to the respondent during the survey year, then these reserves should be shown in **Acquisitions**, Schedule A, Column (E). Reserves and production for the acquired properties should be reported from the date of purchase. **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2011**, Schedule A, Column (A) would be zero. Additionally, a Schedule B footnote must be provided indicating the name of the previous operator and the month in which operations were acquired.

b. Properties Were Sold or Transferred

If operations were transferred **to** another company during the survey year, then these reserves should be shown in **Sales**, Schedule A, Column (D). Reserves and production for these properties should be reported until the date of sale. Additionally, a Schedule B footnote must be provided indicating the name of the new operator and the month in which operations were transferred. In the event the respondent no longer operates any properties in this field, then the **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2012**, Schedule A, Column (J) would be zero.

c. Gas Type Reclassified

In the case where the type of gas was improperly reported or reclassified from associated-dissolved (AD) to non-associated (NA), or vice-versa, report the **Total Proved**

Reserves, December 31, 2011, Schedule A, Column (A) from prior year's Schedule A for the previous classification. Eliminate the reserves of the previous classification by a **Revision Decreases**, Schedule A, Column (C) and create the reserves of the new classification by an equal **Revision Increases**, Schedule A, Column (B). Enter zero for **Total Proved Reserves, December 31, 2011**, Schedule A, Column (A) for the new classification. Note the reclassification of natural gas on Schedule B.

d. First Time Reporting Reserves

If a respondent reports reserves estimates in the current survey but not in the prior year's survey because such estimates were not available in the company records at that time, add **Survey Year Production**, Schedule A, Column (I), and **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2012**, Schedule A, Column (J). Enter the sum in **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2011**, Schedule A, Column (A).

8. Schedule Preparation Standards

Prior to submission, completed forms must be assembled and paginated consecutively within each schedule in the following order:

1. Cover Page
2. Schedule A: Sort alphabetically by state, then by subdivision within that state, then by field name within each subdivision, then by county, and then by type code. The last Schedule A page is to contain the **Company Totals** for all reported fields.
3. Schedule B: In the same sequence as Schedule A.

9. EIA Secure File Transfer (SFT) Information

EIA is ensuring the security of your transactions by using the latest Internet security technology. The technology being used to protect your data is encryption which is the scrambling of data into a code that is unreadable to anyone who does not have the key that deciphers it. The secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS) is a communications protocol designed to transfer this encrypted information between computers over the World Wide Web. All information is protected by 128-bit encryption to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your data. The only thing you need to take advantage of strong encryption technology is a secure browser, one that supports 128-bit encryption.

To use the EIA HTTPS secure file transfer system:

1. Click [to open the SFT webpage](#) or type in this URL in your browser:
<https://signon.eia.gov/upload/noticeoog.jsp>

The EIA SFT Notice to Users page appears.

2. Read and then click the Accept button. The Secure File Transfer System page appears. At the bottom of this page, in blue text, click on [Instructions for Secure File Transfer](#).

If you have any trouble transferring your files, please call the EIA User Services Center 202-586-8959 or email them at User-Services-Center@eia.gov.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

I. COVER PAGE - Operator Identification

Report the information in this section on each Schedule A submitted.

Part I. Identification

EIA Operator ID Code: If this item is missing, contact the EIA-23 coordinator.

Operator Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code. Enter the legal name and address of the operator. If a foreign address, enter city, local equivalent of State name (e.g., province), and country.

Item 1: Contact Information. Name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the person most knowledgeable about the reported data. This person should be familiar with the data provided, and will be the person to whom inquiries will be directed, if necessary.

Item 2: Was your company an oil and gas field operator? Check the appropriate box and follow the instructions for completing the rest of the form.

Item 3: Company Status, Name, and/or Address Change or Correction. If there was a change to the company name or address, or if the company was sold, merged with another company, or the company went out of business, check the appropriate box and complete Item 4.

Item 4: Note Change Company Name, Address, and/or Contact Information. If any box in Item 3 was checked, enter the new or correct company name, address, or contact person here.

Part II. Approval

Items 5 thru 8: Approval - Enter the name and title of the individual designated by the respondent company to review and approve the accuracy of this submission and the date of the signing. This report should be reviewed and approved by a responsible officer or the office responsible for regulatory filings. If filed electronically, there is no requirement to submit a signed cover page.

J. SCHEDULE A - Operated Proved Reserves, Production, and Related Data By Field

All proved reserves, production, and reserve changes data on Schedule A are to be reported on a **Total Operated Basis** for each field in which the respondent operated oil and/or gas wells on December 31, of the survey year, including abandonments during the survey year. (See **Total Operated Basis**, Section H, Item 3.) If a field overlaps two or more states, subdivisions, or counties, data pertaining to each must be separately reported.

SECTION 1.0: Operator Detailed Data Report

Item 1.1: EIA Operator ID Code – This is the same as the Cover Page EIA Operator ID Code.

Item 1.2: Operator Name - This is the same operator name on the Cover Page. Enter the first 35 characters of the operator name. If the name exceeds 35 characters, do not abbreviate, but simply truncate the extra characters from the right.

Item 1.3: Original - Enter an 'X' in the box if this is the first submission of this schedule for the survey year. Otherwise leave blank.

Item 1.4: Amended - Enter an 'X' if this schedule amends a previously submitted schedule. Otherwise, leave blank.

Item 1.5: Page – Enter the current page number in this schedule series.

SECTION 2.0: Field Data (Operated Basis)

Production data and/or estimates of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and lease condensate are required of each operator selected. Production refers to the total survey year production from all domestic oil and/or gas wells you operated on December 31 of that survey year, including wells abandoned or sold during the survey year.

Production data and proved reserve estimates are **required** by field from all operators filing Form EIA-23L that were selected as part of the Survey Year sample.

If it would make your forms preparation easier, a new state or state subdivision may be started in the first field data block of a new Schedule A page. In all other cases, utilize all three-field data blocks on each Schedule A. When completing more than one page of Schedule A, do not renumber items 2.1 through 2.3 on successive pages. However, be certain to enter the correct, consecutive page numbers on each page in item 1.5.

Subitem 1: State Code - Enter the two-character alphabetic abbreviation of the State that data reported for this field pertains. For offshore fields, use the abbreviation of the adjacent state. (See **Geographic Codes**, page 13.)

Subitem 2: Subdivision Code - Enter the two-digit code of the appropriate geographic subdivision to which data reported for this field pertain. Leave blank if not applicable. (See **Geographic Codes**, page 13.)

Subitem 3: County Code - Enter the three-digit numeric code for the county or parish in which the field is located according to the [2012 FCML](#). If the field is located in more than one county and there is a question about where the reserves are located, enter the county code that contains the largest lease acreage of proved reserves

Subitem 4: Field Code - Enter the six-digit field code as it appears in the 2012 FCML. If field name is Wildcat, enter 999001 for the field code. If you cannot locate the field name on the list or there is doubt that a field identified on the list is the same field that you are reporting, insert 999002 for the field code. If there are multiple unknown fields in a county, report them as one field with a field code of 999002. Please use Schedule B - Footnotes for clarifying data.

Subitem 5: Type Code - Enter the alpha code to recognize the volumes of field production and proved reserves from designated unconventional reservoirs. These alpha codes are; CB for coal bed reservoirs, SH for shale reservoirs, CH for chalk reservoirs and LP for other low permeability reservoirs. Low permeability reservoirs are those with values of 0.1 millidarcy or less. Leave blank for conventional reservoirs.

Subitem 6: Field Name - Enter the name of the field (See **Field Naming Conventions**, Section M, page 11.)

Subitem 7: Proved Nonproducing Reserves. - Enter the estimated volumes of **proved** reserves in the field which were in nonproducing status at the end of the survey year. This includes proved developed nonproducing and proved undeveloped reserves. (See **Nonproducing Reserves** Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Subitem 8: Footnote - For Schedule B, Footnotes, enter an 'X'. Leave blank if there is no footnote information.

Subitem 9: Water Depth - For an offshore field, enter the average depth of water (from mean sea level to seabed) over the field, in feet. Leave blank if an onshore field.

Subitem 10: Field Discovery Year - The calendar year in which a field was first recognized as containing economically recoverable accumulations of oil and/or gas. Field discovery year may be found in the [2012 FCML](#). If a new discovery, footnote on Schedule B and check Subitem 8, Footnote.

Subitem 11: Prospect Name (Optional) - Respondent may enter the prospect name used by the respondent company to define the wells, properties, and/or leases to which data entered in this block pertains. Prospect name is generally utilized prior to the assignment of an official field name by the state or other jurisdictional agency.

Type of Hydrocarbons:

Subitem 12: Crude Oil (MBbls)

Subitem 13: Associated-Dissolved Gas (MMCF)

Subitem 14: Non-associated Gas (MMCF)

Subitem 15: Lease Condensate (MBbls)

Column (A): Total Proved Reserves, December 31, 2011
Enter the volumes of total proved reserves as of December 31, 2011. This number should equal the ending reserves previously reported to EIA for December 31, 2011. (See **Proved Reserves of Crude Oil; Proved Reserves of Lease**

Condensate; and Proved Reserves of Natural Gas, Wet after Lease Separation; Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (B): Revision Increases - Enter the total of upward revisions made in the field during the survey year. Explain any revision increase in excess of 2,500 MBbls of liquid or 15,000 MMCF of gas in a Schedule B footnote and check Subitem 8. To the extent that reserves are revised upward due to implementation of secondary or tertiary recovery techniques, such revisions should be indicated by volume and by recovery method in a Schedule B footnote. Also, indicate in a Schedule B footnote the volume of any upward revisions due to the transfer of unproved reserves to proved status. (See **Revisions**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (C): Revision Decreases - Enter the total of downward revisions made in the field during the survey year. Do not enter a minus sign as entries in this column are assumed to be negative. Explain any revision decrease in excess of 2,500 MBbls of liquid or 15,000 MMCF of gas in a footnote on Schedule B and check subitem 8. (See **Revisions**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (D): Sales - If operations were transferred to another company during the survey year, then these reserves should be reported as *Sales*. Enter the reserves for these properties until the date of sale. Additionally, a Schedule B footnote must be provided indicating the name of the new operator and the month in which operations were transferred. In the event the respondent no longer operates any properties in this field, then **Total Proved Reserves December 31, 2012** Schedule A, Column (J) will be zero. (See **Sales**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (E) Acquisitions - If operations were transferred from another company to the respondent during the survey year, then these reserves should be reported as Acquisitions. Enter the reserves for the acquired properties from the date of purchase or transfer. Additionally, a Schedule B footnote must be provided indicating the name of the previous operator and the month in which operations were acquired. (See **Acquisitions**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (F) Extensions - If this is an old field, enter the increases to the field's reserves attributable to extensions, including increased density and recompleted wells, during the survey year. (See **Extensions**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (G) New Field Discoveries - If the field was discovered during the survey year, enter the estimated initial volumes of proved reserves attributable thereto (before reducing it by production during the survey year, if any). (See **New Field Discoveries**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (H) New Reservoir Discoveries in Old Fields - If this is an old field and any new reservoir discoveries were made in it during the survey year, enter the estimated initial volumes attributable thereto, (before reducing by production during the survey year, if any). (See **New Field and Old Field**, Section L Definitions, page 8.)

Column (I) Survey Year Production - Enter the volumes produced from the field during the survey year. If the field was sold or transferred during the Survey Year, report the production up until the date of sale or transfer. Similarly, report the production from acquired fields between the date of acquisition and December 31, 2012. (See **Production, Crude Oil; Production, Lease Condensate; and Production, Natural Gas, Wet After Lease Separation**, Section I Definitions, page 8.)

Column (J) Total Proved Reserves, December 31, 2012
Enter the volumes of total proved reserves as of December 31, 2012. This item should be the algebraic sum of Columns (a) + (b) + (e) + (f) + (g) + (h), less Columns (c), (d), and (i). This value includes producing and non-producing reserves and therefore should always be equal to or greater than the values shown in Subitem 7.

Company Totals

Company totals for each of the volumetric data elements reported are required. Enter these company totals in the next available Field Data (Operated Basis) block. Enter 'ZZ' in State Code and Company Totals in the Field Name to identify these data as company totals.

K. SCHEDULE B - Footnotes

Submit footnotes in clarification of reported data items. This includes revisions, sales, or acquisitions of properties during the survey year. Additionally, you may footnote any other reported item if this will enhance its clarity.

Item 1.1 EIA Operator ID Code - This is the same as the Cover Page EIA Operator ID Code.

Item 1.2 Operator Name - This is the same operator name on the Cover Page. Enter the first 35 characters of the operator name. If the name exceeds 35 characters, do not abbreviate, but simply truncate the extra characters from the right.

Item 1.3 Original - Enter an 'X' in the box if this is the first submission of this schedule for the survey year. Otherwise leave blank.

Item 1.4 Amended - Enter an 'X' if this schedule amends a previously submitted schedule. Otherwise, leave blank.

Item 1.5 Page - Enter the current page number in this schedule series.

Footnote Data: Use all lines on each Schedule B page before using additional pages. Columns (a) thru (e) must be filled in only for the first line of each footnote.

Column (A) State Code - Enter the state abbreviation from Schedule A referenced by this footnote.

Column (B) Subdivision Code - Enter the Subdivision Code from Schedule A referenced by this footnote.

Column (C) County Code - Enter the county code from Schedule A referenced by this footnote.

Column (D) Field Code - Enter the field code from Schedule A referenced by this footnote.

Column (E) Type Code - Enter the type code from Schedule A referenced by this footnote.

Column (F) Hydrocarbon Type - Enter the number for the type of hydrocarbon shown in Schedule A referenced by this footnote. For example, use 12 for crude oil, 13 for associated dissolved gas, 14 for non-associated gas, and 15 for lease condensate. Use 7 for footnote references to proved non-producing reserves regardless of the type of hydrocarbon.

Column (G) Column - Enter the alphabetic column designation (A through J) from Schedule A referenced by the footnote.

Column (H) Footnotes - Enter the text of the footnote, using as many lines as necessary.

L. DEFINITIONS

These definitions have been formulated with reference to the particular purposes of Form EIA-23L. They are not necessarily synonymous with the same or similar terms used in DOE regulations, and are not to be construed as definitions applicable for any purposes other than the collection and reporting of data on Form EIA-23L.

Acquisitions: The volumes of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and/or lease condensate associated with properties that were purchased and/or transferred from another company to the respondent's operatorship during the survey year.

Affiliated (Associated) Company: An entity that is directly or indirectly owned, operated, or controlled by another entity. (See **Person** and **Control**)

Control: The term control (including the terms controlling, controlled by, and under common control with) means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract or otherwise. (See **Person**)

Crude Oil (excluding Lease Condensate): A mixture of hydrocarbons that exists primarily in the liquid phase in natural underground reservoirs and remains liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities. Such hydrocarbons as lease condensate and natural gasoline recovered as liquids from natural gas wells in lease or field separation facilities and later mixed into the crude stream are excluded. Depending upon the characteristics of the crude stream, it may also include:

- small amounts of hydrocarbons that exist in gaseous phase in natural underground reservoirs but are liquid at atmospheric pressure after being recovered from oil well (casinghead) gas in lease separators and are subsequently commingled with the crude stream without being separately measured
- small amounts of non-hydrocarbons produced with the oil, such as sulfur and various metals.

When a state regulatory agency specifies a definition of crude oil which differs from that above, the state definition is to be followed and its use footnoted on Schedule B.

Extensions: The reserves credited to a reservoir because of enlargement of its proved area. Normally, the ultimate size of newly discovered fields or newly discovered reservoirs in old fields is determined by wells drilled in years subsequent to discovery. When such wells add to the proved area of a previously discovered reservoir, the increase in proved reserves is classified as an extension. This would also include increased density wells and recompletions that extend the drainage area of the field beyond the existing wells.

Field: An area consisting of a single reservoir or multiple reservoirs all grouped on, or related to, the same individual geological structural feature and/or stratigraphic condition. There may be two or more reservoirs in a field that are separated vertically by intervening impervious strata or laterally by local geologic barriers or by both.

Field Area: A geographic area encompassing two or more pools that have a common gathering and metering system, the reserves of which are reported as a single unit. This concept applies primarily to the Appalachian region. (See **Pool**)

Field Discovery Year: The year in which a field was first recognized as containing economically recoverable accumulations of oil and/or gas. The official dates may be found in the [2012 FCML](#).

Field Separation Facility: Surface equipment designed to separate some combination of oil, water, and gas produced from one or more leases, and managed by the operator of one or more of these leases. (See **Lease Condensate**)

Lease Condensate: A mixture consisting primarily of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons which is recovered as a liquid from natural gas in lease or field separation facilities. This excludes natural gas plant liquids, such as butane, propane, and ethane which are recovered at downstream natural gas processing plants or facilities. The output of natural gas processing plants is reported on Form EIA-64A, *Annual Report of the Origin of Natural Gas Liquids Production* and Form EIA-816, *Monthly Natural Gas Liquids Report*.

Lease Separator: A facility installed at the surface for the purpose of separating gases from:

- produced crude oil and water at the temperature and pressure conditions of the separator, and/or
- that portion of the produced natural gas stream, which liquefies at the temperature and pressure conditions of the separator
- or water from either oil or gas or both.

Natural Gas: A gaseous mixture of hydrocarbon compounds, the primary one being methane. The parameters for measurement are cubic feet at 60 degrees Fahrenheit and 14.73 pounds per square inch absolute (psia). The Energy Information Administration measures **wet natural gas** and its sources of production, **associated/dissolved natural gas** and **non-associated natural gas**, and **dry natural gas**,

which are produced from **wet natural gas**. This EIA survey does not include landfill gas (biomass gas), synthetic natural gas, coke oven gas, or manufactured gas.

Wet natural gas: A mixture of hydrocarbon compounds and small quantities of various non-hydrocarbons existing in the gaseous phase or in solution with crude oil in porous rock formations at reservoir conditions. The principal hydrocarbons normally contained in the mixture are methane, ethane, propane, butane, and pentane. Typical non-hydrocarbon gases that may be present in reservoir natural gas are water vapor, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen, and trace amounts of helium. Under reservoir conditions, natural gas and its associated liquefiable portions occur either in a single gaseous phase in the reservoir or in solution with crude oil and are not distinguishable at the time as separate substances. Note: The Securities and Exchange Commission and The Financial Accounting Standards Board refer to this product as **natural gas**.

Associated-dissolved natural gas: Natural gas that occurs in crude oil reservoirs either as free gas (associated) or as gas in solution with crude oil (dissolved gas).

Non-associated natural gas: Natural gas that is not in contact with significant quantities of crude oil in the reservoir.

Dry natural gas: Natural gas that remains after:

- the liquefiable hydrocarbon portion has been removed from the gas stream (i.e., gas after lease, field and/or plant separation); and
- any volumes of non-hydrocarbon gases have been removed where they occur in sufficient quantity to reduce the gas quality below minimum pipeline specifications (rendering it unmarketable).

Natural Gas Processing Plant: Facilities designed to recover natural gas liquids from a stream of natural gas that may or may not have passed through lease separators and/or field separation facilities. These facilities also control the quality of the natural gas stream to be marketed, e.g. removal of nonhydrocarbon gases. Cycling plants are classified as natural gas processing plants.

New Field: A field discovered during the survey year.

New Field Discoveries: The volumes of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and/or lease condensate discovered in new fields during the survey year.

New Reservoir: A reservoir discovered during the survey year.

New Reservoir Discoveries in Old Fields: The volumes of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and/or natural gas liquids discovered during the survey year in new reservoir(s) located in old fields.

Non-producing Reserves: Quantities of proved liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon reserves that have been identified, but

which did not produce during the last survey year regardless of the availability and/or operation of production, gathering or transportation facilities. This includes both proved undeveloped and proved developed non-producing reserves.

Old Reservoir: A reservoir discovered prior to the survey year.

Operator: The person responsible for the management and day-to-day operation of one or more crude oil and/or natural gas wells as of December 31, 2012. The operator is generally a working interest owner or a company under contract to the working interest owner(s). Wells included are those, which have proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and/or lease condensate in the reservoirs associated with them, whether or not they are producing. Wells abandoned during 2012 are also to be considered operated as of December 31, 2012. (See **Person, Proved Reserves of Crude Oil, Proved Reserves of Natural Gas, Proved Reserves of Lease Condensate, Survey Year, and Reservoir**)

Ownership: (See **Working Interest Ownership Basis**)

Parent Company: A firm that directly or indirectly controls another entity. (See **Affiliated {Associated} Company and Control**)

Pool: In general, a reservoir. In certain situations a pool may consist of more than one reservoir. (See **Field Area**)

Production, Crude Oil: The volume of crude oil that was extracted from oil reservoirs during the survey year. These volumes are determined through measurement of the volumes delivered from lease storage tanks or at the point of custody transfer, with adjustment for:

- net differences between opening and closing lease inventories
- basic sediment and water
- Crude oil used on the lease is considered production.

Production, Lease Condensate: The volume of lease condensate produced during the survey year. Lease condensate volumes include only those volumes recovered from lease or field separation facilities. (See **Lease Condensate**)

Production, Natural Gas: The volume of natural gas withdrawn from reservoirs during the survey year less:

- the volume returned to such reservoirs in cycling, repressuring of oil reservoirs and conservation operations
- the shrinkage resulting from the removal of lease condensate
- non-hydrocarbon gases where they occur in sufficient quantity to render the gas unmarketable.

Lease use and flared and vented gas are considered production and should be included in the volumes reported. Volumes of gas withdrawn from gas storage reservoirs and native gas, which has been transferred to the storage category, are not considered production.

Prospect: An area of exploration or development in which hydrocarbons have been predicted to exist in economic quantity. A prospect is commonly an anomaly, such as a geologic structure or a seismic amplitude anomaly, which is recommended by exploration personnel for drilling a well. A single drilling location may also be called a prospect but the term is more properly used in the context of exploration.

Proved Reserves, Crude Oil: Proved reserves of crude oil as of December 31 of the survey year are the estimated volumes of all liquids defined as crude oil, which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions.

Reservoirs are considered proved if economic producibility is supported by actual production or conclusive formation test (drill stem or wire line), or if economic producibility is supported by core analyses and/or electric or other log interpretations. The area of an oil reservoir considered proved includes:

- that portion delineated by drilling and defined by gas-oil and/or oil-water contacts, if any
- the immediately adjoining portions not yet drilled, but which can be reasonably judged as economically productive on the basis of available geological and engineering data.

In the absence of information on fluid contacts, the lowest known structural occurrence of hydrocarbons is considered to be the lower proved limit of the reservoir.

Volumes of crude oil placed in underground storage are not considered proved reserves.

Reserves of crude oil which can be produced economically through application of improved recovery techniques (such as fluid injection) are included in the proved classification when successful testing by a pilot project, or the operation of an installed program in the reservoir, provides support for the engineering analysis on which the project or program was based.

Estimates of proved crude oil reserves do not include the following:

- oil that may become available from known reservoirs in the future
- natural gas liquids (including lease condensate)
- oil, the recovery of which is subject to reasonable doubt because of uncertainty as to geology, reservoir characteristics, or economic factors
- oil that may occur in undrilled prospects
- oil that may be recovered from oil shales, coal, Gilsonite and other such sources.

It is not necessary that production, gathering or transportation facilities are installed or operative for a reservoir to be considered proved.

Proved Reserves, Lease Condensate: Proved reserves of lease condensate as of December 31 of the survey year are the estimated volumes expected to be recovered in future years in conjunction with the production of proved reserves of natural gas based on the recovery efficiency of lease and/or field separation facilities currently installed. (See **Lease Condensate** and **Proved Reserves of Natural Gas**)

Proved Reserves, Natural Gas: Proved reserves of natural gas as of December 31 of the survey year are the estimated volumes which analysis of geologic and engineering data demonstrates with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. Reservoirs are considered proved if economic producibility is supported by actual production or conclusive formation test (drill stem or wire line), or if economic producibility is supported by core analyses and/or electric or other log interpretations.

The area of a gas reservoir considered proved includes:

- that portion delineated by drilling and defined by gas-oil and/or gas-water contacts, if any
- the immediately adjoining portions not yet drilled, but which can be reasonably judged as economically productive on the basis of available geological and engineering data.

In the absence of information on fluid contacts, the lowest known structural occurrence of hydrocarbons is considered to be the lower proved limit of the reservoir.

Volumes of natural gas placed in underground storage are not considered proved reserves.

For natural gas reserves, wet after lease separation, an appropriate reduction in the reservoir gas volume must be made to cover the removal of the liquefiable portions of the gas in lease and/or field separation facilities and the exclusion of nonhydrocarbon gases where they occur in sufficient quantity to render the gas unmarketable.

It is not necessary that production, gathering or transportation facilities are installed or operative for a reservoir to be considered proved. It is to be assumed that compression will be initiated if and when economically justified.

Reserves: (See **Proved Reserves**)

Reservoir: A porous and permeable underground formation containing an individual and separate natural accumulation of producible hydrocarbons (oil and/or gas) which is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is characterized by a single natural pressure system.

Revisions: Changes to prior year-end proved reserves estimates, either positive or negative, resulting from new information other than an increase in proved acreage (extension). Revisions include increases of proved reserves associated with the installation of improved recovery techniques or equipment. They also include correction of prior survey year arithmetical or clerical errors **or corrections** to prior year-end production volumes to the extent that these alter previous reserves estimates.

Sales: The volumes of proved reserves of crude oil, natural gas, and/or lease condensate associated with properties that were sold and/or transferred during the survey year from the respondent's operatorship to that of another company.

Subdivision: A prescribed portion of a given state or other geographical region defined in this publication for statistical reporting purposes.

Subsidiary Company: A company which is controlled through the ownership of voting stock or a corporate joint venture in which a corporation is owned by a small group of businesses as a separate and specific business or project for the mutual benefit of the members of the group. (See **Control**)

Survey Year: The year to which data reported on this form pertains.

Total Operated Basis: The total reserves or production associated with the wells operated by an individual operator. This is also commonly known as the gross operated or 8/8ths basis.

Working Interest: Rights that permits the owner(s) to explore, develop, and operate a property. The working interest owner(s) bear(s) the costs of exploration, development, and operation of the property. In return for these investments, the owner(s) is (are) entitled to a share of the mineral production from the property or to a share of the proceeds from the property.

Working Interest Ownership: Working interest ownership is the respondent's working interest in a given property used to proportion the operating expenses. (See **Working Interest**).

M. FIELD NAMING AND CODING CONVENTIONS

The 2012 FCML is on the [EIA Website](#). Please consult it for the appropriate state, county, field codes, and spelling conventions for field names.

1. Field Naming Conventions

Field naming conventions are used to provide a standard nomenclature for each geologic field that is recognizable to both the personnel working with Form EIA-23L and the computer system and fits into 26 characters. In most instances, field names should reflect the conventions imposed by state oil and gas regulatory agencies. (See [2012 FCML](#), Table 1.) List of Authorities for Naming Oil and Gas Fields) Field names that have come into general acceptance in an area may be used, unless they have been specifically altered or replaced by the appropriate naming authority. Also, field names used strictly by one company must give precedence to the state recognized name.

Exceptions occur for names of fields located in Texas and New Mexico, states in which the regulatory agencies consider geologic reservoirs to be fields. For example, in Texas, Parker (Pennsylvanian) and Parker (Wolfcamp) are

considered separate fields by the state. In actuality, Parker is the name of the geologic field and Pennsylvanian and Wolfcamp are reservoir names of the geologic reservoirs in the field (by Texas Railroad Commission convention, the geologic reservoir name appears in parentheses after the geologic field name). For the purpose of reporting names on Schedule A of form EIA-23L, only the geologic field name should be used. In the example above, PARKER would be entered as the field name, subitem 6, in the field data block of Schedule A. Some specific conventions include the following:

- Offshore field names usually (but not always) consist of a basic offshore area name and block number specified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Example: East Cameron South addition Block 265. If offshore area names must be abbreviated to fit within 26 characters allowed, the following standard abbreviations should be used:

Name	Code	Name	Code
NORTH	N	NORTH ADDITION	NA
SOUTH	S	SOUTH ADDITION	SA
EAST	E	EAST ADDITION	EA
WEST	W	WEST ADDITION	WA
BLOCK	BLK	SOUTH EXTENSION	SX
ISLAND	IS	EAST EXTENSION	EX

For example, High Island East Addition South Extension Block A-375 would be HIGH IS EA SX BLK A-375.

Such abbreviations should not be applied to names of onshore fields (except for non-cardinal compass points such as NW for northwest or SE for southeast). If an onshore field name is too long to fit in the allotted space, truncate it on the right and provide the full name on Schedule B.

- Compass point words used in field names are to be placed at the end of the field name (i.e. Three Mile Creek North). Exceptions are made for geographic places, such as East Texas field of East Texas or East Branch, a field named for East Branch, Pennsylvania.

- Special attention should be given to reporting field names in Michigan. Most fields have the section, township, and range after the field name. For example: Kalkaska 12-27N-7W. Operators should report field name as indicated.
- If a field that has been reported in the previous survey year is changed or aliased to another field according to the field code publication, report the data under the new field name. For example, Mud Spring is an alias of Four Mile Creek. All data that was previously reported under Mud Spring should now be reported under and combined with any previous Four Mile Creek data.
- Lease names are not acceptable in lieu of geologic field names. To determine the field name for a particular lease, contact the EIA-23 Field Coordinator 1-800-879-1470, the state geologic survey, or conservation commission. If a field name cannot be determined, report the field name as **unknown**, with associated field code **999002**.

2. Field Coding Conventions

Field codes are to be entered on Schedule A for all fields reported. The field names and corresponding six-digit code are contained in the [2012 FCML](#). If the field you are reporting does not appear in the 2012 FCML, enter 999002 for the field code, but if the field is a Wildcat, enter 999001 for the field code. Enter the field name and location information.

N. LOCATION CODES

The following codes are those specified in the [2012 FCML](#).

1. State and Geographic Codes

State and geographic codes are to be entered on Schedule A for all fields reported by respondents and Schedule B if there is a footnote. The state and geographic subdivision names and corresponding codes are contained in the [2012 FCML](#).

2. County Codes

County codes are to be entered for all fields reported by respondents. The county names and corresponding three-digit code are contained in [2012 FCML](#). There are no counties in Alaska. Census Divisions have been used to locate oil and gas fields.

State and Geographic Subdivision Codes

State Name and Geographic Subdivisions ¹	State Code	Subdivision Code	State Name and Geographic Subdivisions ¹	State Code	Subdivision Code
Alaska - South State Offshore ²	AK	05	Michigan	MI	Blank
Alaska - South Onshore	AK	10	Minnesota	MN	Blank
Alaska - North Onshore and Offshore ³	AK	50	Missouri	MO	Blank
Alabama - Onshore	AL	Blank	Mississippi - Onshore	MS	Blank
Alabama - State Offshore ²	AL	05	Mississippi - State Offshore ²	MS	05
Arkansas	AR	Blank	Montana	MT	Blank
Arizona	AZ	Blank	North Carolina	NC	Blank
California - State Offshore ²	CA	05	North Dakota	ND	Blank
California - San Joaquin Basin Onshore	CA	10	Nebraska	NE	Blank
California - Coastal Region Onshore	CA	50	New Hampshire	NH	Blank
California - Los Angeles Basin Onshore	CA	90	New Jersey	NJ	Blank
Colorado	CO	Blank	New Mexico - East	NM	10
Connecticut	CT	Blank	New Mexico - West	NM	50
District of Columbia	DC	Blank	Nevada	NV	Blank
Delaware	DE	Blank	New York	NY	Blank
Federal Offshore - Atlantic	AC	00	Ohio	OH	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Alabama)	AL	00	Oklahoma	OK	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Florida)	FL	00	Oregon	OR	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Louisiana)	LA	00	Pennsylvania	PA	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Mississippi)	MS	00	Rhode Island	RI	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Other Gulf)	OG	00	South Carolina	SC	Blank
Federal Offshore - Gulf of Mexico (Texas)	TX	00	South Dakota	SD	Blank
Federal Offshore - Pacific (Alaska)	AK	00	Tennessee	TN	Blank
Federal Offshore - Pacific (California)	CA	00	Texas - State Offshore ²	TX	05
Federal Offshore - Pacific (Oregon)	OR	00	Texas - Railroad Commission District 1	TX	10
Federal Offshore - Pacific (Washington)	WA	00	Texas - Railroad Commission District 2 Onshore	TX	20
Florida - Onshore	FL	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 3 Onshore	TX	30
Florida - State Offshore ²	FL	05	Texas - Railroad Commission District 4 Onshore	TX	40
Georgia	GA	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 5	TX	50
Hawaii	HI	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 6	TX	60
Iowa	IA	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 7B	TX	70
Idaho	ID	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 7C	TX	75
Illinois	IL	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 8	TX	80
Indiana	IN	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 8A	TX	85
Kansas	KS	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 9	TX	90
Kentucky	KY	Blank	Texas - Railroad Commission District 10	TX	95
Louisiana - South State Offshore ²	LA	05	Utah	UT	Blank
Louisiana - South Onshore	LA	10	Virginia	VA	Blank
Louisiana - North	LA	50	Vermont	VT	Blank
Massachusetts	MA	Blank	Washington	WA	Blank
Maryland	MD	Blank	Wisconsin	WI	Blank
Maine	ME	Blank	West Virginia	WV	Blank
			Wyoming	WY	Blank
			Company Totals	ZZ	ZZ

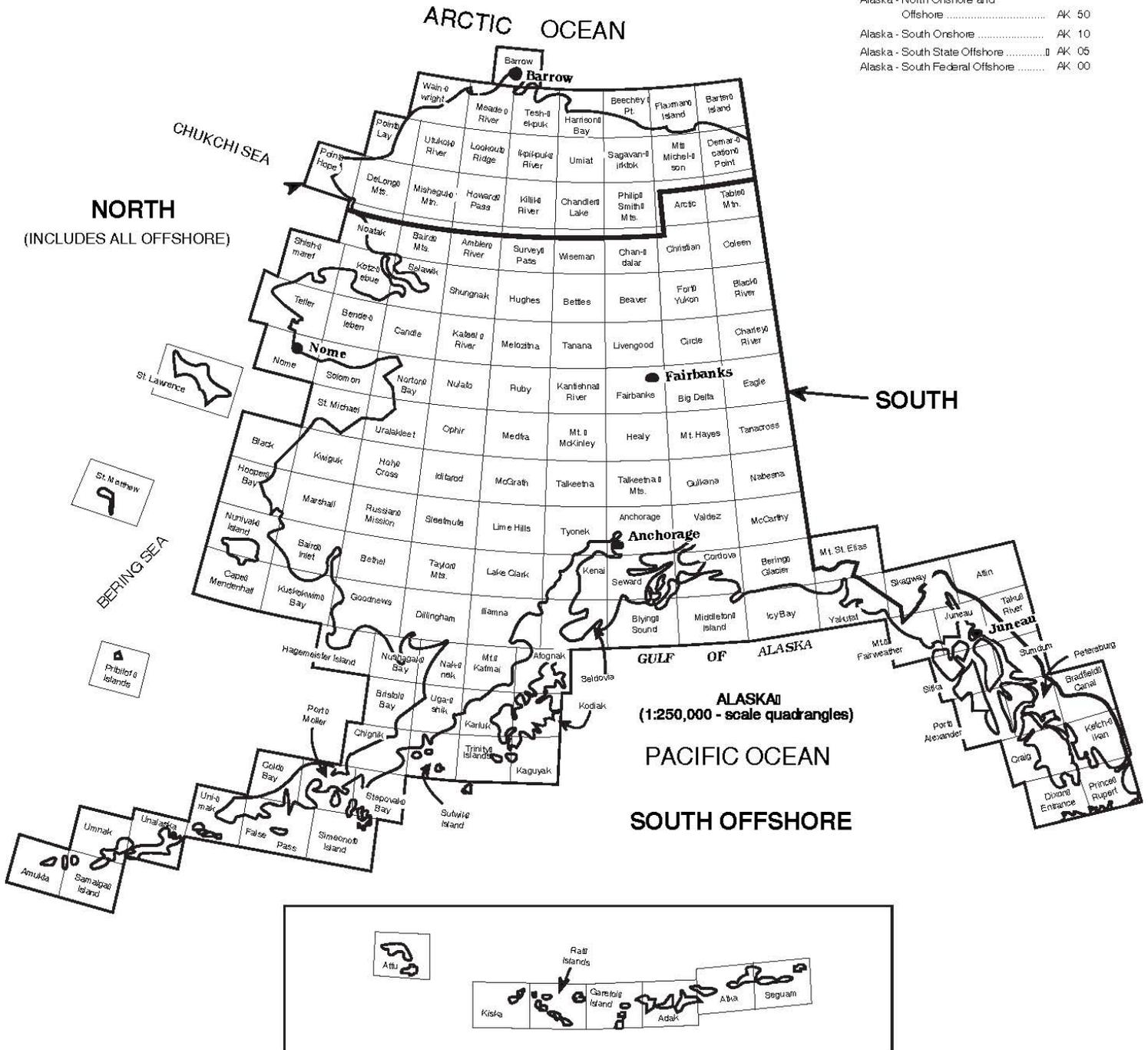
¹Refer to maps for subdivision boundaries in these states: Alaska, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas.

²If you are not certain whether an offshore field lies in the Federal or the sdomain, assume that it lies in the state domain and indicate this in a footnote in Schedule B.

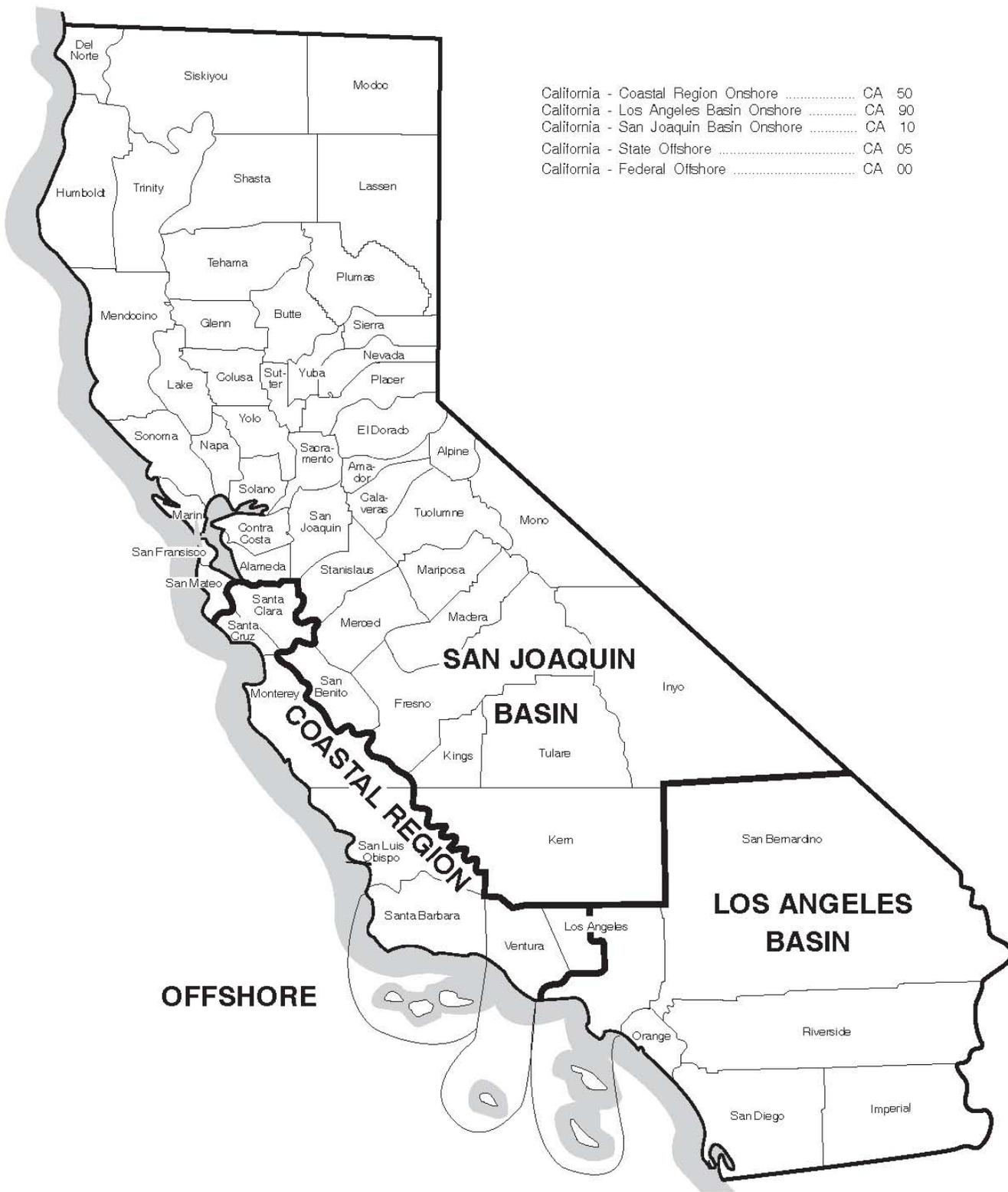
³Alaska North Onshore and Offshore includes both state and Federal domain.

MAPS OF SELECTED STATE SUBDIVISIONS

Alaska - North Onshore and Offshore AK 50
 Alaska - South Onshore AK 10
 Alaska - South State Offshore AK 05
 Alaska - South Federal Offshore AK 00



Alaska Subdivisions and U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangles



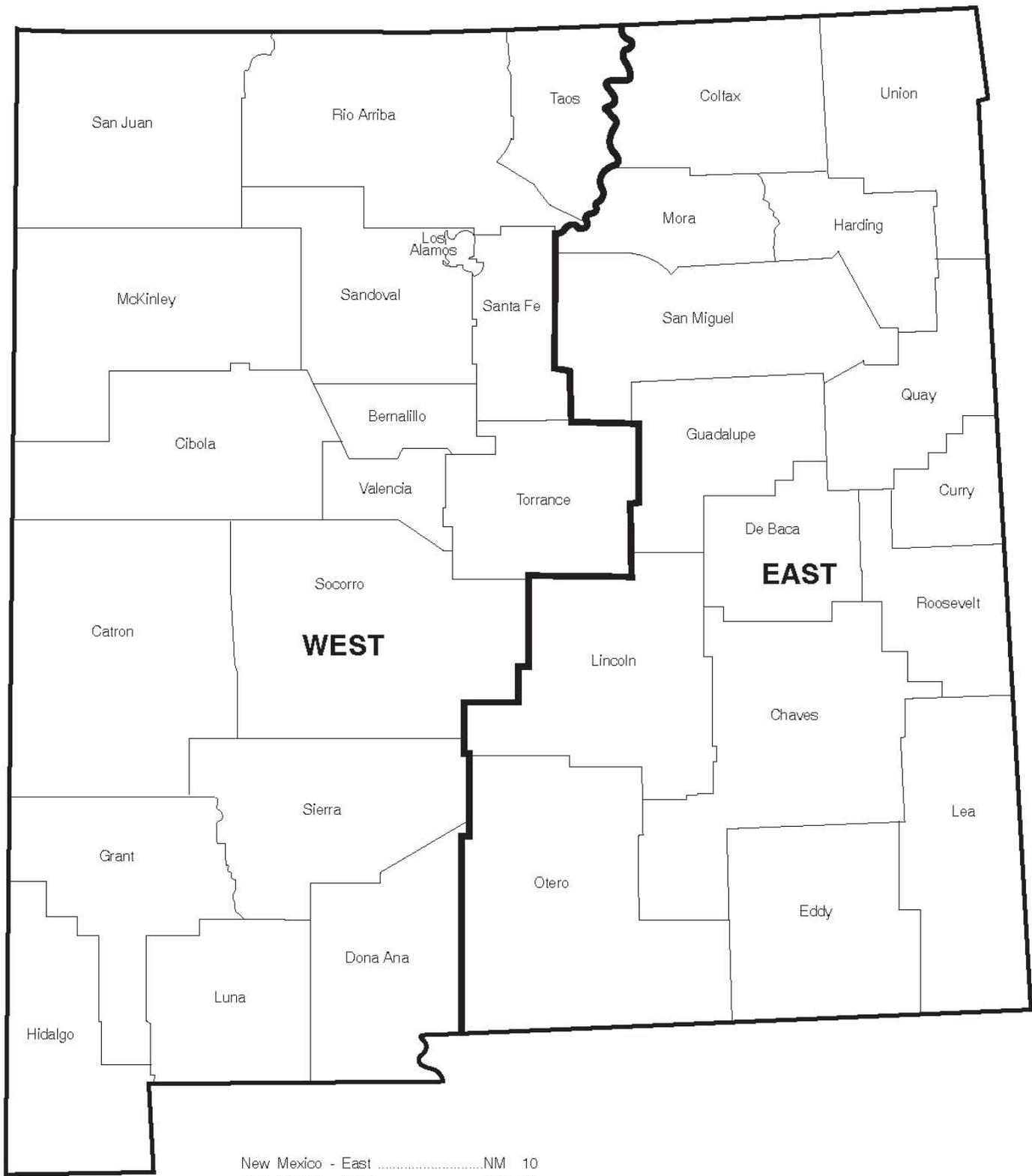
Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil, Gas, and Coal Supply Statistics.

Subdivisions of California



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil, Gas, and Coal Supply Statistics

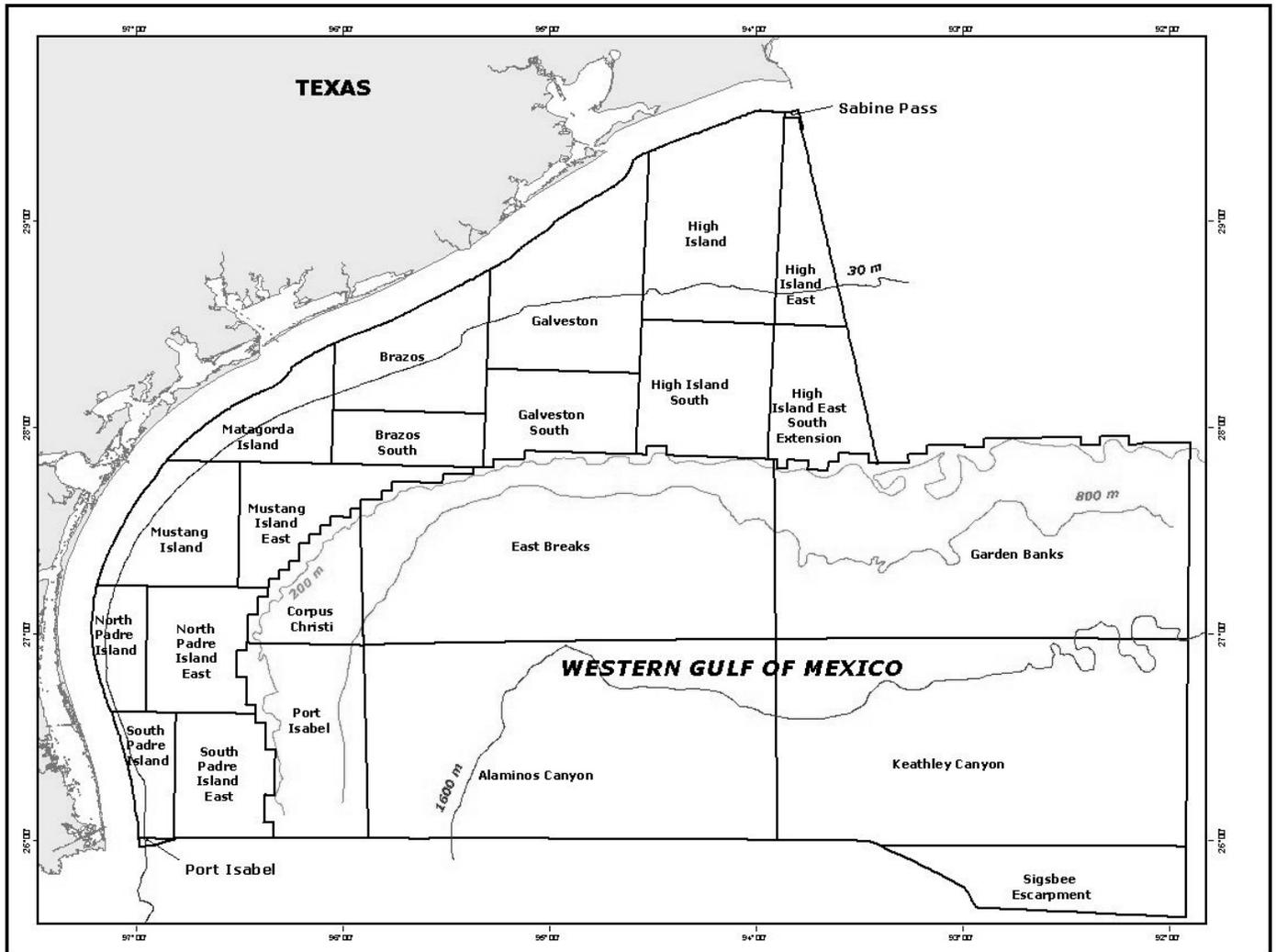
Subdivisions of Louisiana



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil, Gas, and Coal Supply Statistics

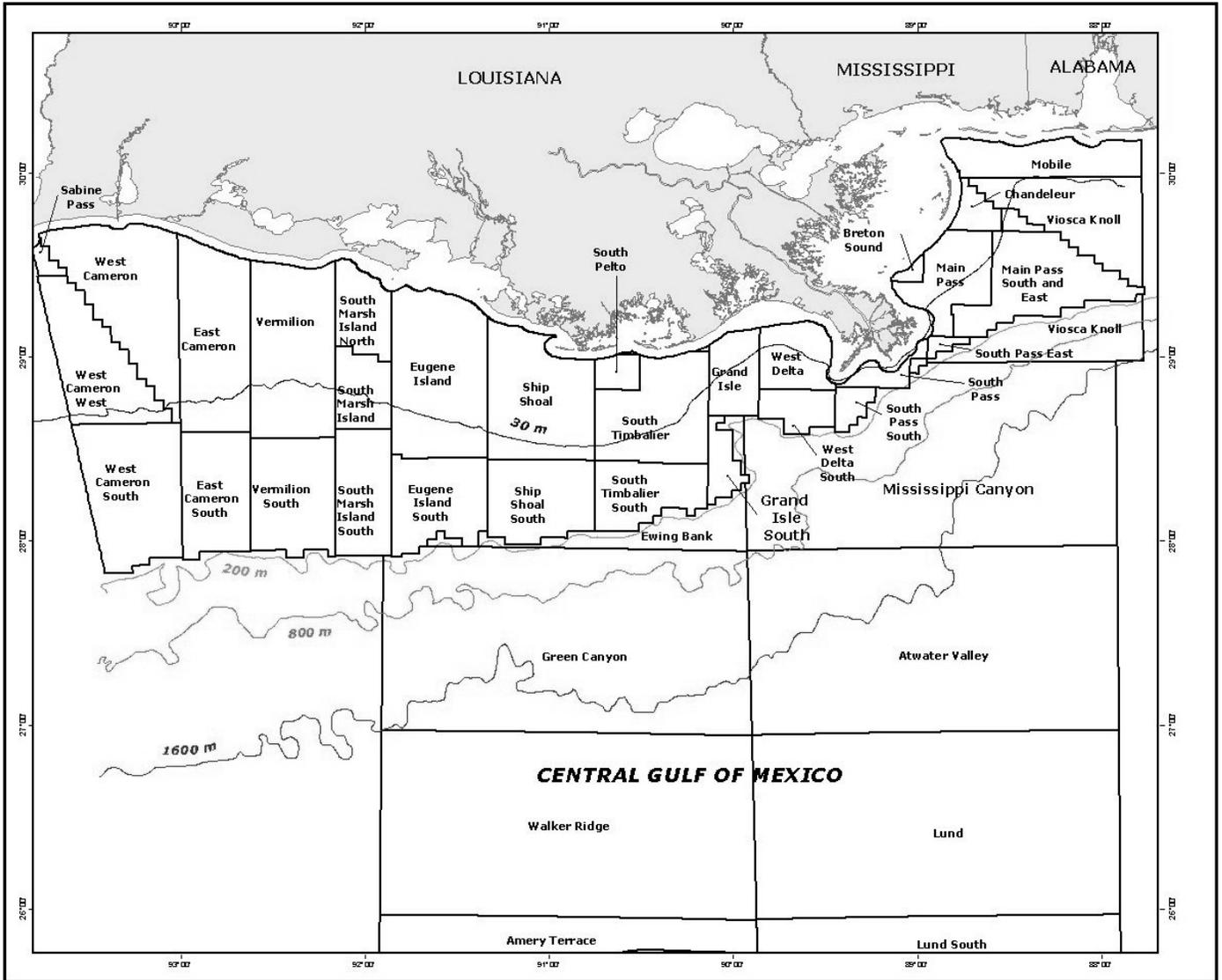
Subdivisions of New Mexico

Western Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region



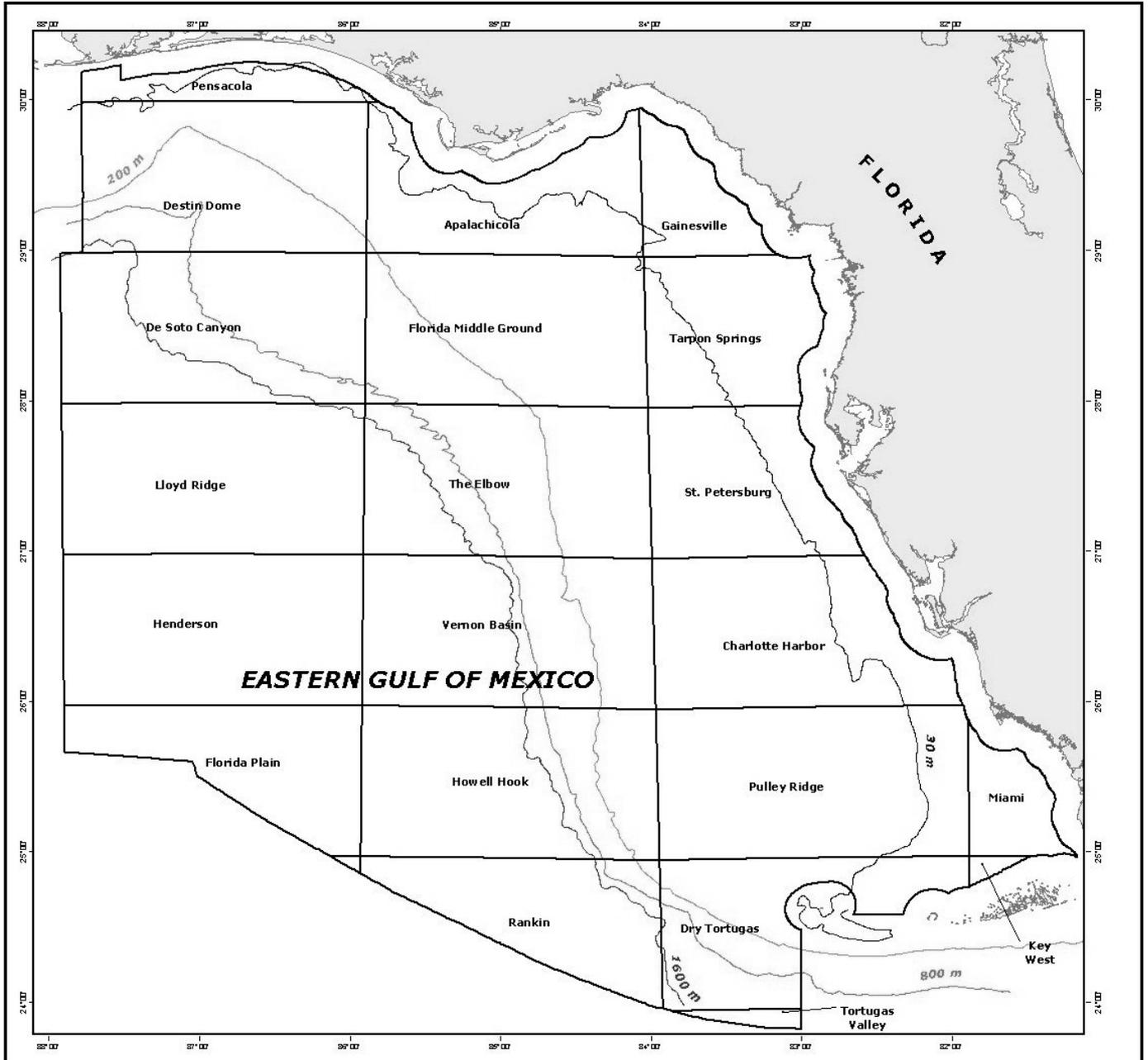
Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

Central Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region



Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

Eastern Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region



Source: U.S. Department of the Interior.

Energy Information Administration

Secure File Transfer System

Welcome to EIA's Secure File Transfer System. Following are the instructions for sending your Excel and .Dat files to EIA by HTTPS.

1. Open your browser and type in the URL:

<https://signon.eia.gov/upload/noticeoog.jsp>

The Secure File Transfer Notice to Users page will come up.

2. If you wish to continue, press the Accept button with your mouse. The Secure File Transfer page will come up.
3. You may navigate through the boxes on the page either with the tab key or with your mouse.
4. Type your name, company name, phone number and email address into the boxes provided. Note that the email address is required so that we can send you a confirmation of the receipt of your data.
5. In the yellow box, select the Browse button after File 1.
6. A dialog box will come up which will allow you to find the file on your hard drive or other mapped drives. Select the file with a double mouse click (or single mouse click on the file and mouse click on the Open button). The name will appear in the white box on the Secure File Transfer page. (Note that you can type in the full path of the file if you wish, but there is a greater chance of making a mistake.)
7. If you have other files that you want to transfer, repeat steps 6 and 7 up to four more times.
8. If you want to start over with the file selection, select the Reset button.
9. If you are ready to submit your files, select the Submit button. Please be patient; it may take a minute or two to upload your files. Do not close your browser during the upload. Wait to see the confirmation page.
10. A confirmation page will be displayed that will tell you the names of the files you have transferred, the confirmation number for each file, and the date and time of the transfer.
11. If you have more files to transfer, select the Back to Secure Upload button to return to the Secure File Transfer page. Your contact information will remain, but the file section will be empty.
12. Repeat steps 6-10.
13. When you are finished, close your browser by clicking on the X in the upper right corner.
14. If you have any trouble transferring your files, please call the EIA-23 Coordinator at 800-879-1470.

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EIA is ensuring the security of your transactions by using the latest Internet security technology. The technology being used to protect your data is encryption which is the scrambling of data into a code that is unreadable to anyone who does not have the key that deciphers it. The secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS) is a communications protocol designed to transfer this encrypted information between computers over the World Wide Web. All information is protected by 128-bit encryption to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your data. The only thing you need to take advantage of strong encryption technology is a secure browser, one that supports 128-bit encryption.