Frequently Asked Questions
Form EIA-23L
Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves

Form EIA-23L for 2021 is due by April 29, 2022

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EIA-23L ESSENTIALS

What is Form EIA-23L?

Form EIA-23L is part of an annual study of crude oil and natural gas reserves and production in the United States. EIA sends the form to a representative sample of oil and gas operators each year, and their response is mandatory.

EIA uses the collected data to develop national and state estimates of reserves, which are published in the annual report *U.S. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Proved Reserves*. The report informs policymakers, industry, and the general public about U.S. reserves and facilitates national energy policy decisions.

Form EIA-23L is referred to as the “Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves.”

Is it mandatory?

Yes. If your company is selected to participate in the study it must submit a completed form by the due date posted above. This is mandated under Title 15 U.S.C. §772(b), as amended. Failure to comply may result in civil and financial penalties (see page 3 of the form instructions for more detail).

Why was my company selected?

Companies are selected based on a combination of factors, including production volume, type, and location. Therefore, companies with lower production volume sometimes are selected based on their location or the type of fuel they produce.

What if my company does not have a reserves study?

There is no need to commission a reserves study to complete the form. If no study exists, submit your best reserves estimates.

What if the reserves information is not available by the due date?

Contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470 if you anticipate difficulty meeting the due date shown above.

What if my company is a parent or subsidiary company?

If you are unsure whether another part of your company submits or should submit a form, contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470 for clarification.

NEW FOR 2021

Are there any changes this year?

Form EIA-23L has been renewed in 2021 with no changes to its 2020 Format, apart from the Report Year.

Reserves data is still requested by county, from selected operators of active oil and natural gas wells within that county.
FORM QUESTIONS

What are the most common mistakes made on Form EIA-23L and how can I avoid them?

- **Unit errors**—The correct volumetric units to use on the form are thousand barrels (MBbls) for oil and lease condensate data and million cubic feet (MMCF) for natural gas data.

  1,000 barrels oil = 1 MBbls
  1,000,000 cubic feet natural gas = 1 MMCF

- **Sales**—Sales (column D on the form) is for recording sales of reserves volumes—not annual production or profits received from selling oil or gas.

- **Mismatching ending and beginning reserves**—Beginning reserves (column A on the form) must match what was submitted as ending reserves on the previous year’s form. Use the revision increase/decrease columns to make necessary adjustments.

  For example, if your company’s reserve estimates change slightly from December 31 of one year to January 1 of the following year, account for these adjustments by using the revision increase/decrease columns as shown below.

  The only reason why the previous year’s ending reserves entry and current year’s beginning reserves entry may not match is if the previous year’s entry was incorrectly classified by fuel type or type code. In that case, create a new entry for the correct classification and use the previous year’s ending reserves as the beginning reserves.
For example, if your company’s reserves previously were submitted as conventional but should be corrected to LP, create a new LP entry and report the previous year’s conventional ending reserves as LP beginning reserves. The volumes should match exactly. Any adjustments to the reserves volumes should be made using the revision increase/decrease columns as shown below.

**Previous year’s entry incorrectly classified as conventional:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY NAME</th>
<th>TYPE OF HYDROCARBON</th>
<th>REV. DECREASES (J)</th>
<th>SALES (E)</th>
<th>ACQUISITIONS (D)</th>
<th>EXTENSIONS AND DISCOVERIES (F)</th>
<th>TOTAL PROVED RESERVES DECEMBER 31, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ANDERSON</td>
<td>CRUDE OIL (MBbls)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ASSOCIATED-DISSOLVED GAS (MMCF)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NORMATIVE GAS (MMCF)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SUBSURFACE CONDENSATE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current year’s new entry correctly classified as LP:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY NAME</th>
<th>TYPE OF HYDROCARBON</th>
<th>REV. DECREASES (J)</th>
<th>SALES (E)</th>
<th>ACQUISITIONS (D)</th>
<th>EXTENSIONS AND DISCOVERIES (F)</th>
<th>TOTAL PROVED RESERVES DECEMBER 31, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ANDERSON</td>
<td>CRUDE OIL (MBbls)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ASSOCIATED-DISSOLVED GAS (MMCF)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NORMATIVE GAS (MMCF)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SUBSURFACE CONDENSATE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is the correct number format?**

All numbers on the form are positive. If reserves decrease due to production, sales, or revisions, record the amounts as positive numbers in the appropriate columns. There should be no negative numbers on your form.

Do not include decimals on the form; round to the nearest whole number. If the nearest whole number is less than 500 barrels of liquids or 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas, record a zero or leave the item blank.

**Why include footnotes?**

Footnotes provide EIA with important information about your company’s data. By including footnotes you reduce the need for follow-up inquiries.

Please include footnotes when reporting:

- Revision increases/decreases greater than 2,500 MBbls of liquids or 15,000 MMCF of natural gas
- Sales and acquisitions—include the seller/buyer company and the date of the operator change
- Significant discoveries and extensions
- Reclassifications of fuel types or type codes
- Major changes to previously reported data
What is a type code?

Type code refers to the nature of the reservoir in which reserves lie or fuel is produced. A county may have more than one type code. If this is the case, record the county multiple times with the estimated reserves and production that correspond to each type code.

In the example below, the county is comprised of both conventional and shale reserves. Therefore the county is listed twice—once for each type code. Altogether 400 MBbls of crude oil was produced from the county and the total ending reserves are 600 MBbls.

The type code options for the form are:

- Conventional (C)
- Low permeability (LP)
- Shale (SH)
- Unknown (UN)

Use the low permeability type code for low permeability reserves that are not covered by another type code—for example, reserves from shale reservoirs should be labelled as shale rather than low permeability.

What are proved reserves?

Proved reserves are the volume of liquids and natural gas recoverable from known reservoirs under existing operating and economic conditions. Reserves volumes are estimates, not precise measurements.

What should be included in natural gas production?

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.

What counts as Production when filling out Form EIA-23L?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Natural Gas</th>
<th>Report in EIA-23L, Production?</th>
<th>Effect on EIA-23L, Proved Reserves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocarbons produced from wells, reported on B/Boa or Total Operating Basis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Included in Beginning Reserves; Deducted from Ending Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Ventled and Flared</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Included in Beginning Reserves; Deducted from Ending Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease Use</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Included in Beginning Reserves; Deducted from Ending Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injected gas (cycling, repressuring of oil reservoirs and conservation operations)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Included in Beginning and Ending Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas produced from Storage</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gas volumes in storage are not included in Proved Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas with high percentage of Non-hydrocarbons (Non-Marketable)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Include Gas. Exclude Non-hydrocarbons in Proved Reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-hydrocarbons (Carbon Dioxide, Helium, Hydrogen Sulfide, Nitrogen)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not included in Proved Reserves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the difference between associated-dissolved gas and nonassociated gas?

Associated-dissolved gas is natural gas that is within crude oil reservoirs. It can be either free (associated gas) or mixed with the oil (dissolved gas). In most cases when a field contains both oil and natural gas, the gas is associated-dissolved gas.

Nonassociated gas is natural gas from reservoirs without significant volumes of crude oil. If a field contains natural gas and no oil, it is nonassociated gas.

What is lease condensate?

Sometimes liquid hydrocarbons are produced along with natural gas. The liquid is separated from the gas either in the field or downstream at gas processing plants. Lease condensate is the liquid separated in the field. It should not be mistaken for natural gas plant liquids, which are recovered later at processing plants.

Do beginning reserves need to match the prior year’s ending reserves?

Yes! Use the revision increase/decrease columns to make necessary adjustments so that beginning reserves match the prior year’s reported ending reserves.
The only reason why the previous year’s ending reserves entry and current year’s beginning reserves entry may not match is if the previous year’s entry was incorrectly classified by fuel type or type code. In that case, create a new entry for the correct classification and use the previous year’s ending reserves as the beginning reserves.

For example, if your company’s reserves previously were submitted as conventional but should be corrected to LP, create a new LP entry and report the previous year’s conventional ending reserves as LP beginning reserves. The volumes should match exactly. Any adjustments to the reserves volumes should be made using the revision increase/decrease columns as shown below.

The volumes should match exactly. Any adjustments to the reserves volumes should be made using the revision increase/decrease columns as shown below.

**Previous year’s entry incorrectly classified as conventional:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>TYPE OF HYDROCARBON</th>
<th>PROJECT RESERVOIR DECEMBER 31, 2015</th>
<th>REVISION INCREASES</th>
<th>REVISION DECREASES</th>
<th>SALES</th>
<th>ACQUISITIONS</th>
<th>EXTENDING AND DISCOVERIES</th>
<th>SURPLUS PRODUCTION</th>
<th>TOTAL PROJECT RESERVES DECEMBER 31, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>CRUDE OIL (MBBL)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>ASSOCIATED GAS (MBMB)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>NONASSOCIATED GAS (MBMB)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>LEASE CONSIDERATION</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current year’s new entry correctly classified as LP:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>TYPE OF HYDROCARBON</th>
<th>PROJECT RESERVOIR DECEMBER 31, 2015</th>
<th>REVISION INCREASES</th>
<th>REVISION DECREASES</th>
<th>SALES</th>
<th>ACQUISITIONS</th>
<th>EXTENDING AND DISCOVERIES</th>
<th>SURPLUS PRODUCTION</th>
<th>TOTAL PROJECT RESERVES DECEMBER 31, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>CRUDE OIL (MBBL)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>ASSOCIATED GAS (MBMB)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>NONASSOCIATED GAS (MBMB)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>LEASE CONSIDERATION</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How should sales and acquisitions be handled?**

Sales: If your company sold reserves assets during the year, record the estimated volume of reserves sold in column D on the form. This volume is minus the amount produced from those assets until the point that operations changed hands; the production is recorded in column G. Include a footnote with the company that purchased the assets and the date that operations changed hands—when your company no longer operated the reserves.
Frequently Asked Questions
Form EIA-23L
Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves

Form EIA-23L for 2021 is due by April 29, 2022

Sales does not refer to production volumes or profits from selling fuels or assets.

### Acquisitions

If your company purchased reserves assets during the year, record the estimated volume of reserves bought in column E on the form. Also include the amount your company produced from those reserves for the remainder of the year in column G. Include a footnote with the company that sold the assets and the date that operations changed hands—when your company began operating the reserves.

Reserves purchases should not be recorded as a revision increase, but as an acquisition.

### Form EIA-23L

**FOOTNOTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE CODE</th>
<th>OPERATOR CODE</th>
<th>OPERATOR NAME</th>
<th>2016 ORIGINAL</th>
<th>2016 AMENDED</th>
<th>2016 PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX 6 001</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>ANDERSON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **2016**: Sold to ABC Oil & Gas effective 6/1/2016
- **2016**: Sold to ABC Oil & Gas effective 6/1/2016

If my company sold reserves assets during the year do they need to be included on the form?

Yes, see the question above for how to correctly report sales and acquisitions.
What are proved nonproducing reserves?

Proved nonproducing reserves are reserves that are not actively producing. On the form, nonproducing reserves should be included in all reported data, and the nonproducing portion of ending reserves should be recorded in box 7. Nonproducing reserves are a subset of ending reserves and therefore never exceed them.

SUBMIT THE FORM

How do I submit the completed Form EIA-23L?

Completed forms can be submitted electronically or by fax or mail. EIA recommends submitting the form electronically via RIGS.

Electronic:  RIGS; see below for more information

Secure File Transfer instead of email; see below for more information

Fax:  1-202-586-1076

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

If you need help submitting the form, please contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470.

What is RIGS?

RIGS is software you can download from the EIA website and use to fill out and submit the form. It allows you to upload the previous year’s RIGS data, which saves time filing out the form. The RIGS program has to be downloaded anew each year from the EIA website.

For more information on how to download and use RIGS, please see the RIGS instructions.

If you need help with RIGS, contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470.
What is Secure File Transfer?

As of October 2017, EIA no longer accepts forms submitted via email. Secure File Transfer—an encrypted method for transmitting data files—must be used instead. It is simple to use: accept the terms to access the upload page, provide your contact information, upload your file(s), and submit. You will receive an emailed confirmation that your data has been received.

If you need help with Secure File Transfer, contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470.

RESUBMISSIONS

What if my company’s data changes?

If your company’s data changes by more than five percent from already reported data, please resubmit the form as soon as possible. Guidelines for resubmissions are:

- Check the box on page 1 of the form indicating a resubmission
- Resubmit the entire form, not just the parts with changes
- Include footnotes explaining the changes

COMPANY CHANGES

What if my company is sold, merged with another company, or buys another company?

Please contact EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470 to report any changes to your company’s structure. Also note changes on the form’s cover page.

What if my company’s contact person changes?

Please inform EIA of any change to your company’s contact person or contact information. Register contact updates any time during the year with EIA-23L analysts at OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470.

Remember that the contact person should be knowledgeable about the reported data.

CONTACT EIA

What if I need more help?

- EIA-23L Survey Manager Steven Grape: Steven.Grape@eia.gov or 1-202-586-1868
- EIA-23L analysts: OOG.Surveys@eia.gov or 1-800-879-1470
- EIA-23L Instructions
FORM CHANGES FOR REPORT YEAR 2021

LIST OF REVISIONS TO FORM EIA-23L

Form EIA-23L has been renewed in 2021 with no changes to its 2020 Format, apart from the Report Year.

Reserves data is still requested by county, from selected operators of active oil and natural gas wells within that county.

New Boundaries from U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Boundaries of the Western, Central, and Eastern Planning Areas of the Gulf of Mexico were redrawn by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in 2020.

Maps indicating the general location of these boundary lines are included at the end of this FAQ. Additional information is available at https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/mapping-and-data
Frequently Asked Questions
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Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves

CALIFORNIA

State Subdivision Name                               Subdivision Code
Los Angeles Basin Onshore, District 1                CA1
Coastal Region Onshore, Districts 2 and 3           CA2
San Joaquin Basin Onshore, Districts 4, 5, and 6    CA3
California State Offshore                             CA99
Federal Offshore Pacific (Lower 48 West Coast)      FPWC

Frequently Asked Questions
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Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves

LOUISIANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Subdivision Name</th>
<th>Subdivision Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana North</td>
<td>LAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Monroe &amp; Shreveport Districts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana South Onshore</td>
<td>LAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lafayette District)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana South State Offshore</td>
<td>LA99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Federal Offshore</td>
<td>FGCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Federal Gulf Central Planning Area)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW MEXICO

Frequently Asked Questions
Form EIA-23L
Annual Report of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves

State Subdivision Name | Subdivision Code
----------------------|------------------
Railroad Commission District 1 | TX1
Railroad Commission District 2 Onshore | TX2
Railroad Commission District 3 Onshore | TX3
Railroad Commission District 4 Onshore | TX4
Railroad Commission District 5 | TX5
Railroad Commission District 6 | TX6
Railroad Commission District 7B | TX7B
Railroad Commission District 10C | TX7C
Railroad Commission District 8 | TX8
Railroad Commission District 8A | TX8A
Railroad Commission District 9 | TX9
Railroad Commission District 10 | TX10
Texas State Offshore | TX99
Texas Federal Offshore | FGWP

GULF OF MEXICO EASTERN PLANNING AREA