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### **Progress report on oil shale Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) leases**

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In 2007 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued six oil shale research, development and demonstration (RD&D) leases to three firms in Colorado and one in Utah. The current lessees are Shell, AMSO (American Shale Oil), and Chevron in Colorado and OSEC (Oil Shale Exploration Company) in Utah. Following award of the leases each of these firms began activities on and off the leases to validate new and innovative means of recovering shale oil in an economic, environmentally satisfactory, and sustainable fashion. Each of the firms has a unique approach. In Colorado in situ technology will be tested, whereas in Utah underground mining and surface retorting is to be employed. Each lessee has 10 years (with the potential to extend to 15 years) to demonstrate the viability of each technology in order to qualify to expand the lease to 5,120 acres. This paper will describe the progress to date on each of the RD&D leases as provided by the lessees and from publicly available information.