

## **Status and plans for the U. S. Department of Interior program for development of oil shale and oil sands**

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Mr Leverette of the U. S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will report on the status of BLM's program to develop unconventional petroleum reserves in the United States, with particular focus on oil shale. Two Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) leases have been awarded this year to ExxonMobil and to Natural Soda, as a result of the second phase of RD&D leasing. A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for commercial leasing of Oil Shale and Tar Sands resources on lands administered by the BLM was prepared and made available for public comment. A public comment period began in February and ended in May, and comments from both the public scoping process prior to the draft, and comments on the draft have been made available. The Final PEIS is scheduled for release in October, and the Record of Decision for December of 2012. The talk will report on the status of the PEIS with respect to these targets. It will also report on the status of regulations for commercial leasing of oil shale. This presentation will also summarize other relevant future plans with respect to oil shale development.