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# Interior Launches Process for Potential Offshore Mineral Lease Sale Near American Samoa

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**WASHINGTON** — Advancing President Donald J. Trump's strategic focus on domestic critical mineral development, the Department of the Interior today announced it is initiating the process to evaluate a potential mineral lease sale in the waters offshore American Samoa. This marks the first such action by Interior in over 30 years and could pave the way for future extraction of critical minerals from the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

“Critical minerals are fundamental to strengthening our nation's resilience and safeguarding our national interests,” said **Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum**. “By providing opportunities to responsibly access deep-sea mineral resources, we are supporting both American economic growth and national security.”

Interior manages approximately 3.2 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf — an area larger than the entire U.S. landmass. President Trump’s Executive Order “[Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources](#)” identifies seabed mineral development as vital to U.S. national security, particularly in light of growing activity by China and Russia in the Pacific region and America’s ongoing reliance on foreign critical minerals.

On April 8, 2025, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management received a formal request for a lease sale from U.S.-based company Impossible Metals. In response, BOEM will begin a multi-

step evaluation process grounded in science, public engagement and environmental stewardship.

The first formal step will be the publication of a request for information and Interest in the *Federal Register*. This notice will seek input from the Indigenous Island community, ocean users, industry stakeholders, government agencies and the public. Feedback will help inform BOEM's assessment of geologic conditions, potential environmental and cultural impacts and the multiple uses of the area, such as navigation and fishing.

BOEM will also ensure full compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

For more information on BOEM's marine mineral program, visit <https://www.boem.gov/marine-minerals>.

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#### PRESS RELEASE



05/02/2025

#### **Interior Department to Update Offshore Financial Assurance Rule to Support Future Energy...**

The U.S. Department of the Interior today announced its intent to revise the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's

#### PRESS RELEASE



04/18/2025

#### **Interior Announces Eleventh National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program**

2024 Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Rule and proceed with development of a new rule that is consistent with the Trump administration's 2020 proposed regulatory framework.

[Read more](#)

Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum today directed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to initiate the first step in a robust public engagement process to develop a new schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

[Read more](#)

#### PRESS RELEASE



04/10/2025

### **Interior Announces Major Increase in Gulf of America Oil and Gas Reserves**

The Department of the Interior today announced a significant increase in estimated oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of America Outer Continental Shelf, underscoring the region's critical role in advancing our country's national security and American Energy Dominance.

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