

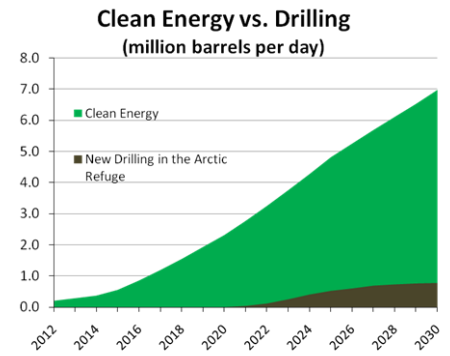
# Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Not a Solution to High Gas Prices

Drilling in America's special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will do nothing to lower today's gas prices. Instead, drilling will only serve to boost Big Oil's billions of dollars in profits, which, according to the latest quarterly reports have already increased by up to 50 percent over last year. The American public has made it clear that they are looking for real solutions to high gas prices, yet leadership in Congress keeps focusing on the same failed solutions - such as giving Big Oil another \$50 billion in taxpayer subsidies and sacrificing precious parts of our nation's public lands legacy.

The Arctic Refuge is our nation's last great wilderness icon. It provides crucial birthing grounds for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen and millions of birds from across the country. It's time for our elected officials to stand up for real Americans who are paying at the pump and in many other ways. We must do more to protect places like the Arctic Refuge, and move our nation toward a sustainable energy future.

## Oil Development in the Arctic Refuge Would Not Impact Prices at the Pump

- \* We simply don't have enough oil in this country to bring down gas prices through more drilling: we use about 22% of world production, but sit on less than 1.5% of proven oil reserves.
- \* Even if approved today, drilling in the Refuge wouldn't begin until at least 2020, and for the few years they operate at peak production in about 2030, it would be less than 1% of world oil production, and less than 4% of US consumption.
- \* The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimated in 2008 that drilling the Arctic Refuge would only reduce our imports of foreign oil by 3% at peak production in 2030.
- \* The potential oil in the Arctic Refuge would only supply what the US consumes in about 18 months.
- \* EIA reported that Arctic Refuge oil production "is not expected to have a large impact on world oil prices," noting that OPEC "could neutralize any potential price impact of ANWR coastal plain production by reducing its exports by an equal amount." Even if OPEC did not reduce exports, EIA estimates that drilling the Arctic Refuge would bring down gas prices by only pennies per gallon in the long-term.
- \* **Instead of drilling our national treasures, we need real energy solutions**: readily available technologies such as improved fuel efficiency in vehicles and energy efficiency upgrades in buildings are already projected to save more than 10 times the oil that might be found in the Arctic Refuge between now and 2030 – without sacrificing one of our premier public lands to the oil industry.



[http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ltonachel/cleaner\\_cheaper\\_and\\_faster\\_why.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ltonachel/cleaner_cheaper_and_faster_why.html)

## Oil and gas companies already have extensive access to our public lands

- \* More oil and gas drilling occurs in the US than any other country in the world. By the end of 2009, the US had 824,847 producing oil and gas wells.

*"We do not project additional volumes of oil that could flow from greater access to oil on federal lands to have a large impact on prices." Richard Newell, Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2011*

- \* According to the Bureau of Land Management, in 2010 the oil and gas industry used less than 30% of the permits they were already given to develop federal lands.
- \* Further, oil and gas companies already own leases on over 41 million acres of federal lands, but are only drilling on about 12 million acres – that's over 29 million acres of lands (an area the size of Pennsylvania) these companies already have leased but haven't yet developed.
- \* In fact, during the 8 years of the Bush administration, the oil and gas industry received new leases on tens of millions of acres of public lands, and thousands of drilling permits, yet at the peak of the industry's access to our public lands, gas prices hit record highs in 2008.
- \* **Bottom line**: The oil and gas industry is already drilling hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells across the country, while sitting on thousands of approved drilling permits, and retaining access to tens of millions of acres of public lands. High gasoline and diesel prices will simply not be solved by giving oil companies even more access to our public lands, especially precious places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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