



PRESS RELEASE

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IECA Applauds BLM Revision of Proposed Hydraulic Fracturing Rules

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) applauds the decision by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to revise the proposed oil and gas hydraulic fracturing rule for federal lands. While we cautiously await the revisions, we are deeply appreciative of this review of the proposed rule.

“This is a hopeful sign that manufacturing concerns about scientifically unfounded and costly regulations, that may also slow down the permitting process, be addressed,” said Paul N. Cicio, president of IECA. “Energy intensive manufacturers that consume substantial quantities of natural gas have announced about \$95 billion in new facilities that are dependent upon abundant and affordable natural gas and oil,” Cicio said.

From 2000 to 2005, natural gas prices doubled and tripled because demand exceeded supply. We recall that the BLM’s permitting system for approval to drill, heavy with increased bureaucracy and inadequate staffing, resulted in thousands of drilling permit backlogs. As a result, wells were not drilled, natural gas and oil were not produced and the manufacturing sector and the economy as a whole suffered. We are hopeful that the past will not be repeated.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 1,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.4 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemical, plastics, steel, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, brewing, cement, agricultural equipment, and auto.