

CQ Researcher

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Domestic Energy Development

Will more domestic drilling help meet U.S. energy needs?

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita damaged oil and gas facilities throughout the Gulf of Mexico region, exacerbating the nation's energy problems. Since 1999 world oil prices have doubled and the U.S. cost of natural gas has tripled. In response, the Bush administration is pressing for increased domestic oil and gas production, and Congress is considering expanding energy development in areas currently off-limits, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and offshore oil fields. The administration already has relaxed limits on energy exploration on public lands and supports building new refineries and gas-delivery systems. Opponents say such actions could cause serious environmental damage and that states should have more control over energy development decisions. Environmentalists say relying more on conservation and renewable fuels would foster greater energy security.



An oil rig washed ashore after Hurricane Katrina ripped it from its moorings off the Alabama coast in August 2005.

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