

Subject: FW: Red states ask judge to compel Biden to hold offshore lease sale
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Red states ask judge to compel Biden to hold offshore lease sale

BY ALEX GUILLÉN | 08/09/2021 08:24 PM EDT

A coalition of red states led by Louisiana on Monday asked a federal judge to compel the Biden administration give up its freeze and hold on oil and gas lease sale in the near future.

Background: Judge Terry Doughty of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana [issued a preliminary injunction in June](#) that blocked a part of President Joe Biden's executive order delaying oil and gas lease sales on federal lands and waters.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on July 27 [testified](#) before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that, "technically, I suppose you could say the pause is still in place," but that Interior was working to comply with the judge's order.

Details: In the seven weeks since Doughty, a Trump appointee, issued his injunction, Interior "has taken no action... to implement Lease Sale 257 or any other oil and gas lease sale under the Five Year Plan," [the states wrote in their motion](#). Instead, they note, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has advanced several offshore wind projects "that are not mandated by the Five Year Plan, [the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act], or this Court's Order."

The states cited Haaland's testimony as evidence that Interior had not complied with Doughty's order, even though the steps needed would not be difficult or time-consuming.

"There is simply no excuse for Defendants' brazen noncompliance with this Court's Order," the states argued.

They asked Doughty to issue "direct instructions" to restart the oil and gas leasing program and to hold [Lease Sale 257](#), which would offer up more than 78 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico, within 55 days of issuing an order. "Every day that passes without

compliance irreparably harms Plaintiff States," they added.

Interior declined to comment on the filing.

What's next: It is unclear how quickly Doughty may act on the states' request. The states suggested having Interior respond within two weeks.

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