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## **American Exploration & Production Council Responds to Extension of Comment Period for the BLM's Proposed Rule Covering Operations on Federal and Tribal Lands**

Washington, DC - The American Exploration & Production Council ("AXPC") today expressed appreciation for the formal announcement by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") of a 60-day extension of the comment period on its proposed rule covering certain operations on Federal and Tribal lands. However, AXPC also expressed concern that the proposed rule, as currently drafted, would have substantial negative impact on the operations of oil and gas exploration and production companies that operate on these lands as well as on the federal treasury and the energy independence of our nation.

In response to the President's Executive Order, AXPC's President, Bruce Thompson, said, "**AXPC welcomes the 60-day extension of the comment period BLM granted in connection with its proposed rule covering certain operations on Federal and Tribal lands. This proposed rule is extraordinarily complex with the potential to negatively impact exploration and production operations on these lands through redundant regulation and extended permitting time, resulting in fewer jobs and reduced revenues to the federal treasury, all for no public benefit. In addition to operators, a number of states also requested an extension citing the complexity of the proposed rule in addition to its potential negative economic impact. The additional time will also allow all parties to this conversation the opportunity to continue the dialogue and to more fully evaluate the operational, technical and economic impacts of the proposed rule and to allow for a full economic analysis.**"

The American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC) represents 32 of the nation's leading independent natural gas and oil exploration and production companies. Our members safely provide the secure, domestic supplies of natural gas and oil America needs to heat its homes, to operate its farms and to fuel its economy. We are committed to doing what is right to ensure the abundant energy supplies in environmentally responsible ways. Learn more about AXPC at [www.axpc.us](http://www.axpc.us).

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