

first approximation of the potential undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in this region by taking the mean estimates of each resource category and multiplying by the percent geographic area of each assessment unit. Results are as follows:

Mean oil potential in the WRWA is 5 million barrels.

Mean natural gas potential is 1.5 trillion cubic feet.

Mean natural gas liquids potential is 60 million barrels.

Please note that these GIS-analyzed estimates can only be considered approximations, for the following reasons: (1) The map provided to us of the WRWA was a general outline and therefore subject to error when calculating the geographic extent of the assessment units relative to the WRWA; and (2) a homogeneous distribution of oil and gas resources was assumed across each entire assessment unit.

For an overview of USGS mean estimates for undiscovered, technically recoverable natural gas resources for geologic provinces within in the United States and their relative sizes, please see the map at http://certmapper.cr.usgs.gov/data/noga00/natl/graphic/2007/total_gas_mean_07.pdf

Please let us know if you have any further questions or we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

MARK D. MYERS,
Director.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Harry Reid, Jon Tester, Daniel K. Inouye, Robert Menendez, Ken Salazar, Jeff Bingaman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark L. Pryor, John F. Kerry, Richard Durbin, Ron Wyden, Dianne Feinstein, Ben Nelson, Evan Bayh, Thomas R. Carper, Carl Levin, Patrick J. Leahy.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 22 occur on Sunday, January 11, at 2 p.m., with the mandatory quorum waived, and that on Sunday, after the Senate convenes, the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided or controlled between the leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESIGNATION OF SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this point, the Chair lays a communication before the Senate.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Hon. RICHARD CHENEY,
President of the United States Senate, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. VICE PRESIDENT: I am resigning my seat in the United States Senate as the senior Senator from the State of Delaware to assume my duties as Vice President of the United States of America. My resignation is effective January 15, 2009, at 5 p.m.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
U.S. Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what a sad but happy day it is to have that letter read before the world. JOE BIDEN, from the day I came to the Senate, was the most gracious, helpful person one could imagine. Having chosen him speaks volumes about Barack Obama. We will miss Senator BIDEN, with his many years in the Senate, but we look forward to his working arm in arm with Barack Obama for the next 8 years.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUDAN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today marks the 4-year anniversary of the signing of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which brought an end to the tragic north-south civil war that raged for over two decades; a war, frankly, that for a long time seemed virtually endless. We should keep the CPA in mind as we lament the horrific suffering that endures in eastern Congo, Darfur, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. I am hopeful that 2009 will be a year in which we make significant progress toward peace in all of these countries, and that the United States plays an active role in that progress. The CPA is a remarkable testament to the fact that transformation is possible in even the most seemingly intractable conflicts when there is political will. I am proud of the critical role the United States played in bringing about this historic agreement 4 years ago, and it is a testament to the hard work of Special Envoy Jack Danforth and the leadership of President Bush.

Nevertheless, the CPA is not merely about a piece of paper or a moment in history but a commitment to secure lasting peace throughout Sudan. Unfortunately, this process remains unfinished and increasingly fragile, as evidenced by the clashes that broke out in the oil-rich Abyei region last May.

Several flashpoints in the states of South Kordofan, Jonglei, and Blue Nile remain highly volatile. There remain too many arms and armed actors in these areas that are capable of undermining the agreement. Both sides, anticipating future clashes, are spending increased resources to build up their militaries. It is not difficult to imagine a minor incident causing renewed fighting in these areas, which could quickly plunge the north and the south back into full-scale war. Such a scenario would not only be devastating for the Sudanese but could have dramatic repercussions for the wider region.

With elections under the CPA scheduled for this year, 2009 may well be a watershed year for Sudan. The United States must renew and intensify its support for the implementation of the CPA as part of a comprehensive strategy for Sudan. We must continue to demonstrate, both in terms of our diplomacy and resources, a commitment to rebuild southern Sudan's institutions, and support the approaching elections. Simultaneously, we must work with our international partners to ensure that the UN Mission in Sudan, UNMIS, is doing all it can to monitor and keep the peace in Sudan's flashpoints. I am confident that the Obama administration understands the importance of implementing the CPA and will bring bold leadership and a holistic vision to peace efforts in Sudan.

Finally, we cannot ignore how the continued violence and humanitarian crisis in Darfur is a deep stain on the vision of a peaceful Sudan. Efforts at peacebuilding in Sudan will prove futile without a workable political solution for Darfur. Too often in the past, we have made the mistake of focusing on one region of Sudan at the expense of others. This kind of piecemeal approach has proven limited, if not counterproductive at times. In this critical year ahead, we need a comprehensive approach that can pave the way for lasting peace and stability for all of Sudan. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Obama administration to make that a reality.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HELEN SUZMAN

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I honor the life of South Africa's Helen Suzman, a champion of equality and rights for the people of South Africa who suffered under apartheid. For generations to come, her story will be an inspiration to people around the world who have the courage to speak out against injustice.

Helen Suzman dedicated her life and 36 years in South Africa's Parliament to fighting institutionalized racism in South Africa. Often she stood alone in defiance of her own Government as it systematically obstructed the rights and freedoms of the majority of South Africans. Particularly during the 13