

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5695

To require operators of offshore oil and gas facilities to report failures of critical systems to the Secretary of Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2020

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. BUCHANAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require operators of offshore oil and gas facilities to report failures of critical systems to the Secretary of Interior, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Offshore Ac-
5 countability Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 30 days after the
8 discovery of an equipment failure of a critical system oper-
9 ated at an offshore oil or gas facility, the operator of such

1 facility shall provide a written notice of such failure to
2 the Secretary and the manufacturer of such equipment.

3 (b) INVESTIGATION.—

4 (1) ANALYSIS REPORT.—Subject to subsection
5 (d), an operator required to provide notice to the
6 Secretary under subsection (a) shall ensure that an
7 investigation and an equipment failure analysis are
8 completed within 120 days of the failure to deter-
9 mine the cause of such failure. The operator shall
10 provide an analysis report to the Secretary and to
11 the manufacturer of such equipment documenting
12 such investigation and any corrective action taken.

13 (2) PUBLICATION.—Not more than 30 days
14 after receiving an analysis report submitted under
15 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make such anal-
16 ysis report available to the public on the Department
17 of Interior website.

18 (c) EXTENSION.—An operator required to provide an
19 analysis report under subsection (b) may request an exten-
20 sion of up to 60 days from the Secretary for such require-
21 ment by submitting a written request detailing how such
22 operator will complete the investigation and report re-
23 quired by subsection (b). The Secretary shall review and
24 respond to such request not later than 30 days after the
25 date on which such request is submitted, and may not

1 grant more than one such extension with respect to a sin-
2 gle investigation and report.

3 (d) NOTICE OF CHANGE IN EQUIPMENT OR PROCE-
4 DURES.—An operator required to provide a notice under
5 subsection (a) shall—

6 (1) not more than 30 days after receiving notice
7 from a manufacturer of any critical system that
8 made changes in the design of a critical system as
9 the result of the reported failure, report in writing
10 such notice to the Secretary; and

11 (2) not more than 30 days after a change in
12 such operator’s operating or repair procedures as a
13 result of the reported failure, report in writing such
14 change to the Secretary.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) BLOWOUT PREVENTER SYSTEM.—The term
17 “blowout preventer system” means a wellhead device
18 or combination of devices that is specifically de-
19 signed to prevent the uncontrolled release of gas, oil,
20 or other fluids or hydrocarbons.

21 (2) CRITICAL SYSTEM.—The term “critical sys-
22 tem” means safety and pollution prevention equip-
23 ment or a blowout preventer system.

24 (3) EQUIPMENT FAILURE.—The term “equip-
25 ment failure” means any conditions that prevents

1 equipment from meeting its functional specifications
2 or purpose.

3 (4) OPERATOR.—The term “operator” means
4 the operator of an offshore oil or gas facility.

5 (5) SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION
6 EQUIPMENT.—The term “safety and pollution pre-
7 vention system” means any equipment that is spe-
8 cifically designed to prevent a malfunction or failure
9 of an offshore well, resulting in injury or loss of life,
10 damage to the environment, or serious damage to
11 the equipment, including—

12 (A) surface safety valves and actuators;

13 (B) boarding shutdown valves and the ac-
14 tuators of such valves;

15 (C) underwater safety valves and actu-
16 ators;

17 (D) subsurface safety valves and associated
18 safety valve locks and landing nipples; and

19 (E) gas lift shutdown valves and actuators
20 associated with such valves.

21 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of the Interior.

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