

Union Calendar No. 403

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 570

[Report No. 117-562]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

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

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. COHEN and Mr. LEVIN of California

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require operators of offshore oil and gas facilities to report failures of critical systems to the Secretary of the 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 2021”.

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

12 (b) INVESTIGATION.—

13 (1) ANALYSIS REPORT.—Subject to subsection
14 (d), an operator required to provide notice to the
15 Secretary under subsection (a) shall ensure that an
16 investigation and an equipment failure analysis are
17 completed within 120 days of the failure to deter-
18 mine the cause of such failure. The operator shall
19 provide an analysis report to the Secretary and to
20 the manufacturer of such equipment documenting
21 such investigation and any corrective action taken.

22 (2) PUBLICATION.—Not more than 30 days
23 after receiving an analysis report submitted under
24 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make such anal-

1 ysis report available to the public on the Department
2 of the Interior website.

3 (c) EXTENSION.—An operator required to provide an
4 analysis report under subsection (b) may request an exten-
5 sion of up to 60 days from the Secretary for such require-
6 ment by submitting a written request detailing how such
7 operator will complete the investigation and report re-
8 quired by subsection (b). The Secretary shall review and
9 respond to such request not later than 30 days after the
10 date on which such request is submitted, and may not
11 grant more than one such extension with respect to a sin-
12 gle investigation and report.

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

16 (1) not more than 30 days after receiving notice
17 from a manufacturer of any critical system that
18 made changes in the design of a critical system as
19 the result of the reported failure, report in writing
20 such notice to the Secretary; and

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

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

9 (3) EQUIPMENT FAILURE.—The term “equip-
10 ment failure” means any conditions that prevents
11 equipment from meeting its functional specifications
12 or purpose.

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

15 (5) SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION
16 EQUIPMENT.—The term “safety and pollution pre-
17 vention system” means any equipment that is spe-
18 cifically designed to prevent a malfunction or failure
19 of an offshore well, resulting in injury or loss of life,
20 damage to the environment, or serious damage to
21 the equipment, including—

22 (A) surface safety valves and actuators;

23 (B) boarding shutdown valves and the ac-
24 tuators of such valves;

1 (C) underwater safety valves and actu-
2 ators;

3 (D) subsurface safety valves and associated
4 safety valve locks and landing nipples; and

5 (E) gas lift shutdown valves and actuators
6 associated with such valves.

7 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

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