

**Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act**

**Agencies:** U.S. Department of Energy, in coordination with other federal agencies

**Citation:** [30 U.S.C. §§ 2000 et seq.](#)

**Enacted as:** the “Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000”, on May 2, 2000

**Summary:**

The [Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000](#) ([Public Law 106-193](#)) mandates that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) lead the national methane hydrate research and development program and utilize the talents of federal, private, and academic organizations to carry out the program goals. The program was extended under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 ([Public Law 109-58](#)). DOE continues to coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Naval Research Laboratory, National Science Foundation, and U.S. Geological Survey, to maximize collaboration on hydrate research and development activities and ensure a comprehensive program of research.

The DOE program mission is to advance the scientific understanding of naturally-occurring methane hydrate, such that its resource potential can be fully understood and realized. Specific goals are to confirm the scale, nature, and producibility of the resource, mainly through drilling and coring programs complemented by numerical simulation and laboratory experimentation. The program also aims to develop tools and knowledge needed to understand and control the impact of methane hydrate on seafloor stability and to develop a more robust understanding of the role methane hydrate plays in geohazards and in global environmental processes.

**Source:** *Energy Resource Potential of Methane Hydrate: An introduction to the science and energy potential of a unique resource*, U.S. Dept. of Energy, page 16, available at

[http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/oil-gas/publications/Hydrates/2011Reports/MH\\_Primer2011.pdf](http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/oil-gas/publications/Hydrates/2011Reports/MH_Primer2011.pdf)

**Information last updated:** September 20, 2012