Virginia is projected to receive the third highest levels of spending, employment and gross domestic product due to Atlantic offshore oil and natural gas development. Annual spending from Atlantic OCS oil and natural gas exploration and development activity in Virginia could peak to nearly $1.8 billion within 20 years. Virginia could see high spending levels due to the potential for significant oil and gas development activity in the resource rich waters around the state.

**Employment Opportunity**

Virginia employment due to Atlantic OCS oil and gas exploration and development activities could reach nearly 25,000 jobs within 20 years, with a direct employment level of nearly 10,000 jobs and an indirect and induced employment level of nearly 15,000 jobs.

**Benefits for Virginia’s Economy**

Atlantic OCS oil and natural gas production could contribute significant sums to the Virginia state economy. Within 20 years, the contributions of this activity are projected to reach nearly $2.1 billion. Additionally, if the Gulf of Mexico state/federal revenue sharing arrangement is enacted for Atlantic coastal states, Virginia could see a 37.5% share of the bonuses, rents and royalties generated which are projected to reach $235 million per year.

**VA’s Marine Sector Attracts Spending**

The makeup of Virginia’s economy, as well as the large amount of development activity that could occur off its coast, could lead to high levels of engineering activity in the state, with spending projected to reach nearly $400 million dollars per year. Virginia possesses a strong marine background, hosting major offshore industry supplier in Oceaneering’s marine service division in Chesapeake, as well as one of the largest dry docks in the US at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Other existing industry suppliers in Virginia include Bauer Compressors in Norfolk, which supplies compression equipment for use on offshore platforms, PaR Marine Services which provides cargo handling equipment for offshore vessels and platforms, and Strongwell of Bristol which provides high-tech building materials used in the construction of floating production units.

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