

procedure which has not yet been resolved. Nevertheless, we have commenced certain actions in order to identify potential technical solutions for the treatment of the historical contamination, while reserving that the remediation must be made by the parties responsible for the environmental damage. Under current law, the Argentine government has the obligation to indemnify us against any liability and hold us harmless for events and claims arising prior to January 1, 1991, according to the Privatization Law.

During 2005, the Argentine Secretariat of Energy, by means of Resolution No. 785/05, created the National Program of Hydrocarbons Warehousing Aerial Tank Loss Control, a measure aimed at reducing and correcting environmental pollution caused by hydrocarbons warehousing-aerial tanks. We have commenced the development and implementation of a technical and environmental audit plan as required by this Resolution.

The description of the material Argentine environmental regulations is only a summary and does not purport to be a comprehensive description of the Argentine environmental regulatory framework. The summary is based upon Argentine regulations related to environmental issues as in effect on the date of this annual report, and such regulations are subject to change.

U.S. Environmental Regulations

Federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to health, safety and environmental quality in the United States, where YPF Holdings operates, affect the operations of this subsidiary. YPF Holdings' U.S. operations, conducted primarily through Maxus Energy Corporation are subject to the requirements of the following U.S. environmental laws:

- Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Clean Water Act;
- Oil Pollution Act;
- Clean Air Act;
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act;
- National Environmental Policy Act;
- Occupational Safety and Health Act;
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act; and
- various other federal, state and local laws.

These laws and regulations set various standards for many aspects of health, safety and environmental quality (including limits on discharges associated with oil and gas operations), provide for fines and criminal penalties and other consequences (including limits on operations and loss of applicable permits) for the violation of such standards, establish procedures affecting location of facilities and other operations, and in certain circumstances impose obligations concerning reporting, investigation and remediation, as well as liability for natural resource damages and toxic tort claims.

Taxation

Holders of exploration permits and production concessions are subject to federal, provincial and municipal taxes and regular customs duties on imports. The Hydrocarbons Law grants such holders a legal guarantee against new taxes and certain tax increases at the provincial and municipal levels, except in the case of a general increase in taxes.

Pursuant to Sections 57 and 58 of the Hydrocarbons Law, holders of exploration permits and production concessions must pay an annual surface fee that is based on acreage of each block and which varies depending on the phase of the operation, i.e., exploration or production, and in the case of the former, depending on the relevant period of the exploration permit. On October 17, 2007, the Official Gazette published Executive Decree No. 1,454/07, which significantly increased the amount of exploration and production surface fees expressed in Argentine pesos that are payable to the different jurisdictions where the hydrocarbon fields are located. Law No. 27,007 published in the Official Gazette on October 31, 2014 updated amounts that must be paid pursuant to Sections 57 and 58 of the Hydrocarbons Law. See “–Exploration and Production.”

In addition, “net profit” (as defined in the Hydrocarbons Law) of holders of permits or concessions accruing from activity as such holders might be subject to the application of a special 55% income tax. This tax has never been applied. Each permit or concession granted to an entity other than us has provided that the holder thereof is subject instead to the general Argentine tax regime, and a decree of the National Executive Office provides that we are also subject to the general Argentine tax regime.

Following the introduction of market prices for downstream petroleum products in connection with the deregulation of the petroleum industry, Law No. 23,966 established a volume-based tax on transfers of certain types of fuel, replacing the prior regime, which was based on the regulated price. Law No. 25,745, modified, effective as of August 2003, the mechanism for calculating the tax, replacing the old fixed value per liter according to the type of fuel for a percentage to apply to the sales price, maintaining the old fixed value as the minimum tax.

Reduction in tax rates for fuels

On December 30, 2014, Decree No. 2579/2014 set forth a reduction in fuel transport taxes per Law No. 23,966 with respect to diesel and unleaded gasoline products higher than 92 octane. The decree also set forth a reduction in the water infrastructure fund taxes created by Law No. 26,181, which applies to the transfer of unleaded gasoline over 92 octane. The reductions took effect on January 1, 2015.

Export taxes

In 2002, the Argentine government began to implement customs duties on the export of hydrocarbons. Export tax rates were increased on crude oil to 20%, on butane, methane and LPG to 20% and gasoline and diesel oil to 5%. In May 2004, Resolution No. 337/04 of the Ministry of Economy increased export duties on crude oil to 25%. These export tax rates were increased again in 2004, when the Ministry of Economy issued Resolution No. 532/04, establishing a progressive scheme of export duties for crude oil, with rates ranging from 25% to 45%, depending on the quotation of the WTI reference price at the time of the exportation. In addition, in May 2004, pursuant to Resolution No. 645/04 of the Ministry of Economy, an export duty on natural gas and NGLs was established at a rate of 20%. The export duty on natural gas was increased again in July 2006, when the Ministry of Economy increased the rate to 45% and instructed the Customs General Administration to apply the price fixed by the Framework Agreement between Argentina and Bolivia as the base price to which to apply the new tax rate, irrespective of the actual sales price. In addition, on October 10, 2006, the Ministry of Economy imposed prevalent export duties on exports from the Tierra del Fuego province, which were previously exempted from taxes. Moreover, in May 2007 the Ministry of Economy increased to 25% the export duty on butane, propane and LPG.

Resolution No. 394/07 of the Ministry of Economy, effective as of November 16, 2007, increased export duties on Argentine oil exports (as defined by the regulator) on crude oil and other crude derivatives products. The new regime provides that when the WTI international price exceeds the reference price, which was fixed at U.S.\$60.9/barrel, the producer should be allowed to collect at U.S.\$42/barrel, with the remainder being withheld by the Argentine government as an export tax. If the WTI international price is under the reference price but over U.S.\$45/barrel, a 45% withholding rate would apply. If such price was under U.S.\$45/barrel, the applicable export tax was to be determined by the Argentine government within a term of 90 business days. By Resolution No. 1/2013 of the Ministry of Economy and Public Finances, Resolution No. 394/07 was amended, increasing cutoff values from 42 U.S.\$/barrel to U.S.\$70/barrel, and reference price from U.S.\$60.9 to U.S.\$80 for crude oil. This means that when the international price of crude oil is over U.S.\$80/barrel, the local producer shall be allowed to collect at U.S.\$70/barrel, with the remainder being withheld by the Argentine government.

However, on December 31, 2014 Resolution 1077/2014 was published in the Official Gazette and repealed Resolution 394/07, as amended, setting forth a new withholding program based on the international price of crude oil (the “International Price”). The International Price is calculated based on the Brent value for the applicable month less U.S.\$8 per barrel. The new program establishes a 1% general nominal withholding applicable to all products covered by the resolution, including crude oil, diesel, gasoline and lubricants as well as other petroleum products, to the extent that the International Price is below U.S.\$71 per barrel. The resolution further provides an increasing variable withholding rate on crude oil exports to the extent the International Price exceeds U.S.\$71 per barrel. As a result, the maximum price a producer may charge is approximately U.S.\$70 per barrel exported, depending on the quality of crude sold. The resolution also sets forth increasing withholding rates for exports of diesel, gasoline, lubricants and other petroleum derivatives when the International Price exceeds U.S.\$71 per barrel at rates that allow the producer to receive a portion of the price increase.

Resolution No. 127/08 of the Ministry of Economy increased export duties applicable to natural gas exports from 45% to 100%, mandating a valuation basis for the calculation of the duty as the highest price established in any contract of any Argentine importer for the import of gas (abandoning the previously applicable reference price set by the Framework Agreement between Argentina and