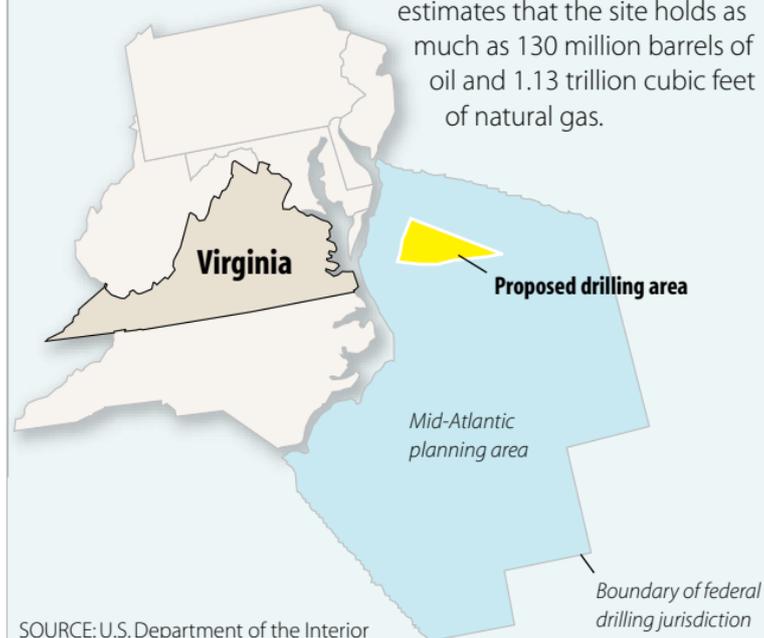


Drilling Off Virginia

With the moratorium on most new offshore oil and gas drilling lifted, the Interior Department this month began the process that could lead to leasing parcels in a 2.9-million-acre area 50 miles off the Virginia shore. The government

estimates that the site holds as much as 130 million barrels of oil and 1.13 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of the Interior