

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Chapter 4: Ocean Energy Management

Originating Office: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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4.1 Office of Strategic Resources Programs (OSRP). The OSRP is responsible for providing strategic guidance to the Director and Deputy Director about managing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil, gas, mineral, and geological (e.g., carbon sequestration) resources to advance the Department of the Interior's (Department) objectives. The OSRP also supports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM or the Bureau) renewable energy leasing activities. The OSRP interacts with policymakers and the Department staff about leasing and development goals and provides a framework for evaluating resource development options. The OSRP leads the development and implementation of the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program). The National OCS Program sets forth a 5-year schedule of proposed lease sales designed to best meet the Nation's energy needs and includes leasing, economic, and resource analyses to inform decision-making. Those analyses consider the economic, social, and environmental values of OCS resources and the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on other resource values of the OCS and on the marine, coastal, and human environments. The OSRP manages the Marine Minerals Program for coastal resiliency, the OCS sand and gravel inventory, and the development of an OCS critical minerals inventory. The OSRP works collaboratively across BOEM's regional, program, and headquarters offices to carry out BOEM's mission.

A. Economics Division. The Economics Division is responsible for analyzing economic issues associated with BOEM's oil and gas, renewable energy, marine minerals, and carbon sequestration programs. The Economics Division prepares economic analyses that support development of the National OCS Program, leasing decisions, and regulatory activities.

B. Leasing Policy and Management Division. The Leasing Policy and Management Division is responsible for oil, gas, mineral, and geological leasing policy and program development. The Leasing Policy and Management Division oversees, directs, and supervises development and preparation of the National OCS Program. The division works closely with the respective regional offices that are responsible for all preleasing activities necessary to implement the OCS oil and gas leasing program.

C. Resource Evaluation Division. The Resource Evaluation Division is responsible for providing oversight, policy guidance, and direction for OCS oil and gas, geological, and

geophysical evaluations. The Resource Evaluation Division also develops and employs models for geologic and engineering assessments of the mineral resource and carbon storage potential of the OCS.

D. Marine Minerals Division. The Marine Minerals Division provides leadership, policy development, regional coordination, and resource data management for BOEM's Marine Minerals Program across all regions. The Marine Minerals Division authorizes geological and geophysical activities and conducts the leasing process, environmental reviews, and environmental research for OCS marine minerals projects in the Atlantic. Further, the Marine Minerals Division is responsible for OCS marine mineral resource evaluations and assessments for both sand and gravel resources and other minerals.

E. Geospatial Services Division. The Geospatial Services Division administers, develops, populates, maintains, and distributes the official OCS cadastral data, which include lease block grids and various OCS boundaries. The Geospatial Services Division produces and maintains the MarineCadastre.gov website and provides a variety of geospatial services for BOEM.

F. The Risk Management Policy Division. The Risk Management Policy Division is responsible for development of the Bureau's comprehensive financial assurance and risk management program with respect to oil, gas, carbon sequestration, and renewable energy resources. The Risk Management Policy Division develops risk management policy, conducts interagency coordination, and provides analyses, reports, and recommendations related to the financial risks associated with OCS operations. The Risk Management Policy Division works closely with the Risk Management Operations Section in the New Orleans, Louisiana Office, ensuring that BOEM manages risk in accordance with approved policy.

4.2 Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP). The OREP formulates national policy for the offshore renewable energy programs in all OCS areas. The OREP also implements and manages renewable energy leasing, evaluations, environmental programs, task force formations, Tribal and State consultation, and post-lease plan and permit approvals on the Atlantic OCS offshore the following Unified Regions: Region 1 - North Atlantic-Appalachian and Region 2 - South Atlantic-Gulf. The OREP oversees program activities, the renewable energy budget within BOEM, and the development of program guidance and studies at the national and regional levels.

4.3 Office of Environmental Programs (OEP). The OEP assists in the formation of BOEM national policies and provides strategic guidance to the Director and Deputy Director regarding environmental considerations related to OCS resources, including steps to protect the marine, coastal, and human environments. Human environment considerations include, but are not limited to, Tribal and environmental justice concerns. The OEP directs studies addressing environmental impacts of OCS energy, mineral, and geological exploration and development, promotes environmental research throughout the Bureau, and engages in activities to raise awareness of BOEM's environmental science capabilities and expertise. The OEP oversees the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process and compliance with other environmental laws, such as environmental provisions of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act

(OCSLA), Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and the various laws and orders related to Tribes, including Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.” The OEP also houses BOEM’s Center for Marine Acoustics, a scientific and policy entity driving best practices, research, scientific rigor, policy improvements, and education on marine acoustic issues.

A. Environmental Assessment Division (EAD). The EAD provides oversight, policy guidance, and direction for all OCS environmental concerns and issues associated with energy, mineral, and geological development. The EAD also conducts environmental analyses of OCS energy, mineral, and geological activities to ensure BOEM compliance with the environmental laws noted above. The EAD prepares program-level environmental documents and environmental analyses for BOEM national-level decisions. The EAD coordinates with agencies and organizations at the national level to develop guidance and procedures for implementing Council on Environmental Quality, Department, and Bureau policies for NEPA and other environmental laws.

B. Environmental Sciences Division (ESD). The ESD provides policy, guidance, and oversight to assure that quality and relevant science is conducted through the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) to fully inform decision-making pertaining to BOEM’s energy, mineral, and geological programs. The ESD coordinates with BOEM regional and program offices, the Department, other agencies, and non-Federal research organizations and associated committees to implement ESP projects. The ESD provides oil spill risk analyses in support of BOEM and other agencies’ activities. Responsibilities also include providing technical information and analyses in support of the Department’s and BOEM’s mission and program activities, including the National OCS Program, environmental impact statements and assessments under NEPA, and international conventions and treaties.

4.4 BOEM Regional Offices. BOEM has three regional offices headed by regional directors who work collaboratively across BOEM’s regional offices and headquarters to carry out BOEM’s mission. Except as outlined above, the regional directors are responsible for implementing and managing OCS energy, mineral, and geological programs within their regions; resource and environmental evaluations; and leasing activities. They also review, approve, and supervise geological and geophysical survey permits, exploration plans, and development and production plans for OCS energy, mineral, and geological resources. The regional directors coordinate with the appropriate departmental regional field special assistants on all program matters affecting more than one departmental component and provide support for shared services managed by the special assistants. BOEM regional offices are:

A. Anchorage, Alaska Office. The Alaska office manages all BOEM programs on the OCS offshore Unified Region 11 - Alaska.

B. New Orleans, Louisiana Office. The New Orleans office manages all BOEM oil and gas programs on the OCS offshore the following Unified Regions: Region 1 - North Atlantic-Appalachian, Region 2 - South Atlantic-Gulf, Region 4 - Mississippi Basin, and Region 6 - Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf. The New Orleans office also manages BOEM’s Marine

Minerals Program and Renewable Energy Program on the OCS offshore the following Unified Regions: the Gulf of Mexico coast of Region 2 - South Atlantic-Gulf, Region 4 - Mississippi Basin, and Region 6 - Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf.

C. Camarillo, California Office. The Camarillo office manages all BOEM programs on the OCS offshore the following Unified Regions: Region 8 - Lower Colorado Basin, Region 9 - Columbia-Pacific Northwest, Region 10 - California-Great Basin, and Region 12 - Pacific Islands.