



# U.S. Department of the Interior PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Introduction

The Department of the Interior requires PIAs to be conducted and maintained on all IT systems whether already in existence, in development or undergoing modification in order to adequately evaluate privacy risks, ensure the protection of privacy information, and consider privacy implications throughout the information system development life cycle. This PIA form may not be modified and must be completed electronically; hand-written submissions will not be accepted. See the [DOI PIA Guide](#) for additional guidance on conducting a PIA or meeting the requirements of the E-Government Act of 2002. See Section 6.0 of the DOI PIA Guide for specific guidance on answering the questions in this form.

NOTE: See Section 7.0 of the DOI PIA Guide for guidance on using the DOI Adapted PIA template to assess third-party websites or applications.

**Name of Project:** BOEM Auction System (BAS) Decommissioning

**Bureau/Office:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

**Date:** 5/22/2025

**Point of Contact**

Name: Melissa Allen

Title: BOEM Associate Privacy Officer

Email: [boemprivacy@boem.gov](mailto:boemprivacy@boem.gov)

Phone: 571-474-7967

Address: 1849 C Street NW, MS-OBA, Washington, DC 20240

## Section 1. General System Information

**A. Is a full PIA required?**

Yes, information is collected from or maintained on

Members of the general public

Federal personnel and/or Federal contractors

Volunteers

All

No

**B. What is the purpose of the system?**

BOEM has the authority to issue leases, easements, and rights-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) using either a competitive or a non-competitive process. The bureau used the BOEM Auction System (BAS), a cloud-based lease auction application service, to conduct and support the monetary stage of offshore energy lease sales.



For each lease sale conducted using BAS, BOEM published a Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) in the Federal Register, followed by a 60-day comment period. The PSN included a statement of the proposed auction format, as well as related parameters and procedures. During the PSN comment period, BOEM and the auction services provider hosted a public auction seminar to discuss the auction process and format. BOEM required offshore auction bidders to submit their auction qualifications to the bureau by the end of the PSN comment period.

After a period of comment review determined by BOEM, the bureau published a Final Sale Notice (FSN) in the Federal Register, followed by a 30-day waiting period before an auction could take place. The FSN provided the list of eligible bidders and detailed auction rules, parameters, and procedures. It also reflected any changes from the PSN in response to public comments received or further internal review by BOEM. The bureau required each qualified bidder to submit a bid deposit using Pay.gov (operated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury) no later than the date listed in the FSN. BOEM transmitted a list of qualified bidders to the auction services provider approximately five days after the publication of the FSN in the Federal Register.

The auction services provider configured the auction system based on the information provided by BOEM and conducted each lease sale auction. BOEM used Login.gov, operated by the General Services Administration (GSA), to authenticate users' access to BAS. Following the conclusion of an auction, the auction services provider closed the auction and provided the final data and reporting services to BOEM. BOEM shared a summary of all bids received in an auction with the Department of Justice (DOJ) immediately following the lease sale. This information is used as part of an antitrust review conducted by DOJ pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1337(c), prior to the execution of the lease. The DOJ review was acknowledged in the PSNs and FSNs published by BOEM for each planned auction.

BAS is being decommissioned in 2025. BOEM has developed a decommissioning plan to ensure privacy, security, and records requirements are met.

- **Software Archive:** BAS is a contractor-owned/contractor-operated platform, with the software rights remaining with Power Auctions LLC. BOEM will not create a backup of the software associated with the system.
- **Documentation Archive:** All documentation for the decommissioned system (i.e., user manuals, technical documents, and operational procedures) is archived securely on BOEM's shared network drive and retained in accordance with the applicable records disposition schedule. Access to the documentation is limited to personnel with an official need-to-know and strictly monitored in accordance with DOI security policy. System authorization and privacy/security documentation have been uploaded to the Bison Governance, Risk, and Compliance platform and will remain stored within that repository to ensure their accessibility for any potential re-initiation of the system.
- **Hardware Disposition:** There is no hardware directly associated with the BAS. Therefore, no physical disposal of hardware is needed.



- **Data Archive:** BAS was online only during mock and live auction periods. At the conclusion of each auction, BOEM downloaded and securely archived auction data to the auction's Microsoft SharePoint site and shared network drive. BOEM also transmitted files to DOJ during the antitrust review process conducted pursuant to [43 U.S.C. 1337\(c\)](#). Electronic files documenting the auction planning and process are also securely saved to each auction's Microsoft SharePoint site. Hardcopies of documents that would be added to an administrative record, such as when ink signatures are utilized, were scanned and saved on the appropriate auction SharePoint sites and shared drives. The original hardcopies are also currently retained in secured filing cabinets at the BOEM offices. All documents regardless of format are retained in accordance with the applicable records disposition schedule and access is limited to personnel who have an official need-to-know.

- **Security:** BAS was hosted on the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud, US East/West platform, and online only during mock and live auction periods. In between auctions, the system could not collect or process data. BAS implemented various access controls to limit access to authorized users based on assigned roles. BOEM, working with its auction service provider, granted system access to qualified bidders on a per-auction basis. After each auction, all bidders' system access was disabled. Only privileged users had read/write access and/or could access auction data following the conclusion of an auction before data archival. All sensitive and government data were removed from the system following the last auction. The cloud-based environment will be decommissioned utilizing the AWS control panel functionality.

- **Decommission Risks:** There are no associated risks or challenges related to decommissioning BAS. All government and sensitive data were removed from BAS following the conclusion of the last auction. In addition, all server instances are currently stopped. All assets associated with BAS are accessible only within the AWS cloud account, which is restricted to Power Auctions System Administrators. Therefore, all data can be deleted using the AWS cloud control panel.

BOEM use of BAS posed a minimal risk to individual privacy. The bureau collected limited non-sensitive, business-related contact information from the representatives of qualified bidders (i.e., companies) to authorize their participation in a lease sale. BOEM and its auction service providers mitigated the risks of unauthorized system access and unauthorized use of BAS by enforcing adherence to auction rules and strictly controlling and monitoring access to the system and auction-related information. All BOEM employees and contractors annually completed the required privacy awareness and role-based (security and privacy) training to understand their federal information management responsibilities. All privileged non-bidding users such as Auction Managers were required to sign a Rules of Behavior form acknowledging their access responsibilities and the potential civil and/or criminal penalties that could result from a violation of the auction rules.



The U.S. Department of the Treasury is responsible for managing its Pay.gov records in accordance with the Federal Records Act and approved records disposition schedules. GSA is responsible for protecting the data collected and processed on Login.gov and managing its Login.gov records in accordance with the Federal Records Act and approved records disposition schedules. GSA and the U.S. Department of the Treasury have both published a PIA and SORN to provide notice to individuals using Login.gov and Pay.gov.

**C. What is the legal authority?**

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) at subsection 8(p) (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases, easements, or rights-of way on the OCS for activities that produce or support the production, transportation, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas, including renewable energy. The Secretary delegated this authority to BOEM. BOEM has issued regulations for OCS renewable energy activities at 30 CFR Part 585, including sections 211 and 216.

The Login.gov service is operated by GSA under the authorities and guidance found in the E-Government Act of 2002, 6 U.S.C 1523 (b)(1)(A)-(E), 40 U.S.C 501, and Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-19-17, Enabling Mission Delivery through Improved Identity, Credential, and Access Management. The PII collected and used by GSA for authentication through Login.gov is maintained by GSA.

Pay.gov is a program operated by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service in the U.S. Department of the Treasury under the following authorities: 5 U.S.C 301, 31 U.S.C 321, 31 U.S.C Chapter 33, and 31 U.S.C 3720. BOEM did not maintain information pertaining to financial transactions completed on Pay.gov in BAS.

**D. Why is this PIA being completed or modified?**

- New Information System
- New Electronic Collection
- Existing Information System under Periodic Review
- Merging of Systems
- Significantly Modified Information System
- Conversion from Paper to Electronic Records
- Retiring or Decommissioning a System
- Other

**E. Is this information system registered in the Bison Governance, Risk, and Compliance platform?**

- Yes: The UII Code is 010-000001875, System Security and Privacy Plan for BAS.
- No



**F. List all minor applications or subsystems that are hosted on this system and covered under this privacy impact assessment.**

<b>Subsystem Name</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Contains PII (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Describe If Yes, provide a description.</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**G. Does this information system or electronic collection require a published Privacy Act System of Records Notice (SORN)?**

Yes

No: The use of BAS did not create a system of records. However, GSA and the U.S. Department of the Treasury have published SORNs that cover Login.gov and Pay.gov records. GSA maintains records on individuals who use Login.gov and has published a SORN for the system, GSA/TTS-1 (Login.gov), 82 FR 6552 (January 19, 2017); modification published 82 FR 37451 (August 10, 2017), 87 FR 70819 (November 21, 2022), and 89 FR 41436 (May 13, 2024). The SORN is available for review on the [GSA SORNs web page](#). The U.S. Department of the Treasury maintains records on individuals who electronically authorize payments to the Federal Government through the use of communication networks, including but not limited to Pay.gov, and has published FS. 013 – Collections Records – 85 FR 11776 (February 27, 2020). The SORN is available for review on the [BFS SORNs web page](#).

**H. Does this information system or electronic collection require an OMB Control Number?**

Yes

No