



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is to promote safety, protect the environment, and maximize resource recovery offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement. BSEE ensures the safe and responsible exploration, development, production, and decommissioning of America's offshore energy resources through oversight and management of operations and its programs, including permitting, inspections, regulatory oversight, resource recovery, and enforcement programs. BSEE will continue to meet the needs for safe and environmentally responsible operations for our offshore resources while maintaining the highest safety standards to deliver affordable energy for American families and businesses.

Budget Overview

The 2026 Budget request for BSEE is \$143.4 million, including \$68.1 million in current appropriations and \$75.3 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees.

Safe and Responsible Production

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is a critical national asset. As outlined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, this resource should be available for all developmental activities conducted in a safe, reliable, and responsible manner. As the Administration works to expand domestic energy production



BSEE personnel inspect an offshore platform.

BSEE Photo.

and advance Energy Dominance, BSEE effectively oversees the energy lifecycle on the OCS through its mission and operations, which reflects a careful balance between resource development, production goals, decommissioning priorities, safety, and environmental protection.

BSEE focuses on fostering safe, secure, and reliable energy production for America's present and future. BSEE achieves this through well-developed and measured application of its programs and operations through efficient permitting, appropriate standards and regulations, effective compliance monitoring and enforcement, technical assessments, environmental reviews, inspections, incident investigations, resource conservation, and preparedness planning. This advances American Energy Dominance to ensure that offshore energy is a viable asset as it serves the interests of the Nation and its citizens. As a steward of the Nation's OCS oil, gas, and mineral resources, BSEE protects Federal royalty interests by ensuring oil and gas production methods maximize recovery from underground reservoirs. BSEE ensures operators and



- BSEE's Best Available Safest Technology Program ensures the safety and effectiveness of commercially available, and economically feasible equipment whose failure would have a significant effect on safety, health or the environment.
- Using BSEE's 667-foot-long oil spill testing tank in New Jersey, researchers explore a variety of subjects and technologies, including remote sensing of surface slicks and suspended oil plumes; mechanical recovery and containment including sorbents, skimmers, and booms; and chemical treating agents such as dispersants and herders.
- Each year, BSEE conducts approximately 11,000 inspections for more than 1,400 energy-related facilities and more than 20,000 miles of pipelines in Gulf of America, Pacific coast, and Alaskan waters.

industry are prepared to mitigate substantial threats and respond to actual oil spills and other incidents from offshore facilities by emphasizing quality assurance in all operations, including training, equipment testing, periodic unannounced drills, research and development endeavors, and stakeholder engagement.

BSEE's ability to recognize, assess, manage, and ensure appropriate mitigation of operating risks throughout all offshore activities is critical to maintaining a predictable environment for the long-term investments required to support OCS energy throughout its lifecycle from exploration, development, production, to decommissioning. BSEE will continue to meet the needs for safe and environmentally responsible operations for our



BSEE personnel traverse a stairwell to inspect safety equipment and systems aboard Shell's Vito platform.

BSEE Photo.



BSEE personnel ride up to an offshore platform to begin an inspection.

BSEE Photo.

offshore resources while maintaining the highest safety standards to deliver affordable energy for American families and businesses.

Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

The 2026 Budget request includes \$128.3 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement programs, consisting of \$53.0 million in appropriated funds, \$38.1 million in offsetting rental receipt and cost recovery collections, and \$37.1 million in inspection fee collections. This account supports activities that ensure safe offshore energy operations that are necessary to achieving America's Energy Dominance goals. The request eliminates support for Green New Scam technologies that facilitate unreliable, intermittent energy to the detriment of American consumers, businesses, and communities, including offshore wind energy projects that harm coastal communities, wildlife, and military readiness.

BSEE utilizes expertise to regulate the OCS and ensure safety, energy security, environmental compliance, data-informed decision making, and partnership with our offshore stakeholders. BSEE is committed to ensuring its inspection program operates at the highest level of effectiveness while continuously exploring ways to increase the overall efficiency of the program. BSEE must stay agile and adapt to emerging new technologies in offshore oil, gas, and mineral resource development throughout their lifecycle, from development to production to decommissioning on the OCS.

Oil Spill Research

The 2026 Budget request includes \$15.1 million for Oil Spill Research to support research on the prevention of and response to oil pollution as authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Oil Spill Research program plays a pivotal role in initiating applied research to support decision making on the methods and equipment needed to

prevent or mitigate oil spills, a critical component of the offshore permitting process. Funds are used to sponsor testing of new equipment and methods and to support the Ohmsett testing and training activities. Located in Leonardo, New Jersey, the Ohmsett testing facility is the only one of its kind in the world, providing full-scale equipment and methodology testing for offshore spills in a safe, controlled environment.

Workforce Restructure

The 2026 Budget supports the Administration’s priority to streamline government and will continue efforts to unify and optimize administrative services across the Department to increase effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of American taxpayers.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2026 Request with 2025 CR

	2025 CR ^{1/}	2026 Request
Current		
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement	137,394	53,020
Oil Spill Research	15,099	15,099
Subtotal, Current	152,493	68,119
Offsetting Collections	67,936	75,286
Total, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (w/ oc)	220,429	143,405

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity

APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Environmental Enforcement			
Appropriation	4,825	2,043	1,433
Offsetting Collections	799	1,081	2,081
Subtotal, Environmental Enforcement	5,624	3,124	3,514
Operations, Safety and Regulation			
Appropriation	111,928	104,124	37,955
Offsetting Collections	48,337	57,641	63,991
Subtotal, Operations, Safety and Regulation	160,265	161,765	101,946
Administrative Operations			
Appropriation	11,197	12,197	4,250
Offsetting Collections	7,323	7,323	7,323
Subtotal, Administrative Operations	18,520	19,520	11,573
Executive Direction			
Appropriation	16,718	16,150	9,382
Offsetting Collections	1,323	1,891	1,891
Subtotal, Executive Direction	18,041	18,041	11,273
Offshore Decommissioning	2,880	2,880	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o oc)	147,548	137,394	53,020
Total Offsetting Collections	57,782	67,936	75,286
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc)	205,330	205,330	128,306

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Oil Spill Research

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	15,099	15,099	15,099

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

