

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 118: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Chapter 1: Creation, Authorities, and Reporting Relationships

Originating Office: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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1.1 Creation. On May 19, 2010, by Secretarial Order No. 3299, on June 18, 2010, by Amendment No. 1 to Secretarial Order 3299, on September 30, 2010, by Secretarial Order No. 3306, and on August 29, 2011, by Amendment No. 2 to Secretarial Order 3299, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) was reorganized into two Bureaus and one Office: (1) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), (2) Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and (3) Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). These organizations were established under the authority provided by Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262). The Orders separated and reassigned the MMS responsibilities into new management structures designed to improve the management, oversight, and accountability of activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS); to ensure a fair return to the taxpayer from royalty and revenue collection and disbursement activities; and to provide independent safety and environmental oversight and enforcement of offshore activities. MMS royalty and mineral revenue management functions, including those related to the collection and distribution, auditing and compliance, investigation and enforcement of mineral revenue management and asset management activities, both onshore and offshore, were transferred to ONRR within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget.

1.2 Authorities. Numerous laws provide authority or direction for BOEM's programs and policies. The most significant statutes affecting BOEM include the OCS Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.); the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.); the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and various sections of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (119 Stat. 594).

1.3 Objectives. BOEM is responsible for managing offshore energy and mineral resources on the OCS in an environmentally sound and economically responsible way. BOEM assesses the nature, extent, recoverability and value of leasable minerals, renewable energy and other authorized energy and marine-related activities on the OCS. It promotes the orderly and timely exploration, inventory and development of energy and mineral resources and other authorized energy or marine-related activities, the use of existing facilities for other energy and marine-related purposes; and injection and sequestration of carbon. It provides a structure to ensure that thorough environmental analyses are conducted and that the potential environmental effects of proposed operations are given appropriate consideration during decision-making related to resource management and to ensure that leasing and plan approval activities reflect the thorough

consideration of all relevant factors. The Bureau develops and implements regulations governing leasing, resource evaluation, resource management, plan administration, and the economic evaluation of offshore activities. It oversees the financial accountability of lessees, operators and operating rights holders, in order to ensure that these responsible parties can meet their financial and contractual commitments. It promotes cooperative relationships between the Federal Government, the states, and tribes and native communities with respect to national, regional, and local issues related to the full scope of its responsibility. The operations of BOEM support a number of national goals and objectives, including energy security, environmental protection, and social and economic development.

1.4 Reporting Relationships. BOEM Director reports to the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management.