

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Series: Organization

Part 119: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Chapter 1: Creation, Authorities, Objectives, and Reporting Relationships

Originating Office: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

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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 into and reassigned the MMS responsibilities to 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. The basic responsibilities of BSEE are derived from Departmental regulations and delegations of authority issued to implement various statutes, including the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181-287); the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359); Section 402, Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 (60 Stat. 1099); the OCS Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356); the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401, 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 the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 1700, as corrected 110 Stat. 2421).

1.3 Objectives. BSEE is responsible for the development, oversight, and enforcement of safety and environmental standards for offshore energy and mineral operations. Its activities include issuance and monitoring of permits related to drilling, well workover activities, production, development and measurement operations, pipelines, the inspection of offshore structures and facilities, ongoing monitoring of environmental hazards, and the mitigation of safety and

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environmental risks. The Bureau develops and implements regulations governing offshore operations; administers the inspection, investigation, civil penalty, and enforcement programs; and provides a comprehensive offshore safety training program for BSEE employees. The Bureau is also responsible for ensuring the conservation of offshore mineral and energy resources; the development of technical standards; and oil spill response planning, preparedness for discharges from offshore facilities, and offshore containment.

1.4 Reporting Relationships. The BSEE Director reports to the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management.