

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
Washington

ORDER NO. 3304

SIGNATURE DATE: June 29, 2010

Subject: Establishment of the Investigations and Review Unit within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement

Sec. 1 Purpose. A key component to reforming the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE or Bureau) is establishing the ability to promptly and credibly respond to allegations or evidence of misconduct, unethical conduct, and unlawful activities by Bureau employees as well as by members of regulated industry, consistent with BOEMRE's authority. This capacity is intended, and will be designed, as a complement to the work of the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Departmental Ethics Office.

Sec. 2 Background. The BOEMRE does not currently have an internal capacity to investigate allegations of misconduct, ethically impermissible conduct, and unlawful activities; to provide unified and coordinated monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations; and to respond swiftly to emerging issues and crises on a Bureau-wide level. In light of the response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the impending reorganization of BOEMRE, and the Bureau's mandate to implement broad reforms, it is critical that BOEMRE promptly establish an internal investigations and review unit.

Sec. 3 Authority. This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended; 5 U.S.C. § 301; the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, of 1953 (67 Stat. 462), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq. (1988)), including all applicable regulations; 5 CFR Part 2635, Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch; 5 CFR Part 3501, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of the Interior; and 43 CFR Part 20, DOI Employee Responsibilities and Conduct.

Sec. 4 Establishment of the BOEMRE Investigations and Review Unit (IRU).

a. There is established within the BOEMRE, reporting to the BOEMRE Director, an Investigations and Review Unit (IRU) whose mission shall be:

(1) to promptly and credibly respond to allegations or evidence of misconduct, unethical behavior, and unlawful activities, by Bureau employees as well as by members of industries they regulate;

(2) to oversee and coordinate the Bureau's internal auditing, regulatory oversight and enforcement systems and programs; and

(3) to assure the BOEMRE responds swiftly to emerging issues and crises on a Bureau-wide level and assesses significant incidents, including spills, accidents, and other crises. The unit will have a role in immediately coordinating and managing the Bureau's response to significant events.

b. Coordination with OIG. The IRU shall, where appropriate:

- (1) coordinate with the OIG with respect to the matters the IRU investigates;
- (2) pursue investigations with the OIG's consent and knowledge; and
- (3) advise the OIG of the status and results of its investigations, as requested.

c. Consultation with the Departmental Ethics Office. The IRU shall, where appropriate, consult with the Departmental Ethics Office with respect to the matters the IRU investigates that implicate the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees in the Executive Branch.

Sec. 5 Implementation. The BOEMRE Director shall take all appropriate steps to implement this Order in coordination with the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management and the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget.

Sec. 6 Effective Date. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.

/s/ Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior

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