



# 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:** Auction of Offshore Wind Lease System (AOWLS) Decommissioning

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

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**Point of Contact**

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## 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 carries out its responsibilities for offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters through the Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP). The program began in 2009 when the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced the final regulations for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These regulations provide a framework for all the activities needed to



support the production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas, such as offshore wind.

Through BOEM, DOI manages multiple active commercial offshore energy leases. OREP has conducted the monetary stage of commercial wind energy lease auctions through AOWLS. BOEM is decommissioning AOWLS and will use the BOEM Auction System (BAS) to conduct the monetary stage of commercial offshore energy lease sales. The bureau has developed a decommissioning plan to ensure privacy, security, and records requirements are met during the decommissioning process:

- **Software Archive:** AOWLS was hosted within the Amazon Web Services Cloud. Therefore, there is no on-premises software in BOEM that requires archival.
- **Documentation Archive:** System authorization and security documentation will be archived in Xacta.
- **Hardware Disposition:** AOWLS was hosted within the Amazon Web Services Cloud. Therefore, BOEM has no hardware or equipment that require sanitization or disposal.
- **Data Archive:** AOWLS was online only during mock and live auction periods. Auction data was downloaded and archived at the conclusion of each auction. BOEM securely maintains auction-related records in accordance with the applicable records schedule.
- **Security:** AOWLS was online only during mock and live auction periods. BOEM granted system access to qualified bidders on a per-auction basis. Only privileged users could access auction data following the conclusion of an auction before data archival.
- **Decommission Risks:** There are no associated risks or challenges to decommissioning AOWLS.

The PII that BOEM collected and used to conduct auctions of lease areas for commercial wind power development was limited to the non-sensitive, business-related contact information of individuals designated to represent companies seeking to conduct business with BOEM. The bureau used the contact information to issue AOWLS login credentials and communicate with the authorized company representatives of qualified bidders before and during mock auctions and live auctions.

BOEM and its service providers mitigated the risks of unauthorized access and unauthorized use of AOWLS by enforcing adherence to auction rules and controlling and monitoring access to the system and auction-related information. All BOEM employees and contractors completed 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. In between auctions, the system was not online and could not collect or process data.

BOEM is working to complete a privacy impact assessment (PIA) for the BOEM Auction System to assess any privacy risks related to the use of the system. The BOEM Auction System PIA may be viewed on the [DOI PIA website](#) following its approval.

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

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (who has delegated to BOEM) the authority to grant leases, easements, or rights-of-way for activities on the OCS that produce or support the production, transportation, or transmission of energy from renewable sources.

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.

**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 Governance, Risk, and Compliance Platform?**

Yes: The UII Code is 10-000001875 00-06-01-01-02-00; System Security and Privacy Plan for BOEM AOWLS System.

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

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

Yes

No