

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
CONTINGENCY PLAN Q & A DOCUMENT
SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios.

Will BOEM continue to provide review and approvals for oil and gas exploration plans, development and production plans, and development operation coordination documents?

No, BOEM will not be continuing these functions in the event of a shutdown. The only exception will be that BOEM will process and review certain plan revisions related to the ongoing permitting work performed by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

Will BOEM continue renewable energy work?

No, BOEM will not be continuing these functions in the event of a shutdown, including management of environmental assessments and lease programs for renewable energy. BOEM will be unable to process any applications or regulatory submittals for the renewable energy program. Renewable energy and alternate use projects may include wind, wave energy, and ocean current projects.

Will BOEM continue environmental studies for oil and gas?

No, BOEM will be unable to award any new contracts for environmental studies. In some cases, where funding has already been obligated, the contractor may continue the work, but BOEM will not have employees available to manage the contract, which may require the work to be delayed.

Will BOEM continue to review the high bids from Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 233?

No, BOEM will be unable to continue the review of high bids for Lease Sale 233. This will likely delay both the issuance of leases and the associated payments to the Department of Treasury that occur upon execution of the lease.

What happens if there is a major oil spill?

If there is an oil spill that requires response from BOEM employees, employees will be available for activation to handle the event.

Is there anyone I can contact if I have questions?

Please visit the DOI website at www.DOI.gov.