

Environmental Review of Offshore Energy Projects: Oil and Gas

Infrastructure Review and Permitting: Is Change in the Wind?

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Relevant Federal Laws

- Submerged Lands Act of 1953 (SLA), Pub. L. No. 83-31
- Outer Continental Shel Lands Act of 1953 (OCSLA), Pub. L. No. 83-212
- Federal Oil and Gas Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA), Pub. L. No. 97-451
- Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (DPA), Pub. L. No. 93-627
- Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (RSFA), Pub. L. No. 104-185
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005), Pub. L. No. 109-58
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Pub. L. No. 81-190
- Endangered Species Act (ESA), Pub. L. No. 93-205
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Pub. L. No. 95-522
- Clean Air Act (CAA), Pub. L. No. 88-206
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Pub. L. No. 92-583
- Clean Water Act (CWA), Pub. L. No. 92-500



Federal Agencies Regulating Offshore Oil and Gas Development

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA)



- The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is a vital national resource reserve held by the Federal Government for the public, which should be made available for expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs.

BOEM and BSEE

■ BOEM oversees:

- Offshore oil and gas (and renewable) planning and leasing;
- Resource evaluation;
- Environmental studies;
- Geological and Geophysical (G&G) permitting;
- Exploration Plan review;
- Development and Production Plan review;
- Financial assurance.

■ BSEE oversees:

- Approval of applications for permit to drill (APDs)
- Safety regulation and enforcement;
- Environmental enforcement;
- Oil spill response preparedness;
- Approval of decommissioning operations.



The Life Cycle of an Offshore O&G Project

- Resource Evaluation
- Five Year Program
- Lease Sale
- Exploration Plan (EP)
- Application for Permit to Drill (APD)
- Development and Production Plan (DPP) /
Development Operation Coordination Document
(DOCD)
- APD
- Decommissioning



Opportunities for Greater Efficiency

- Early vetting of alternate compliance and technologies
- Change in policy position re: phased development
- Approval of tailored plans for financial assurance

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