



## Peer Review Plan

**Date: September 2, 2022**

**BSEE Funding Source or Author's Division:** Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs  
Emerging Technologies Branch  
45600 Woodland Road  
Sterling, VA 20166

**Title: Peer Review of Technology Assessment Program (TAP) 795 -2019-20 Freeze-Up Study of Arctic Sea Ice in the Alaskan Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and 2020 Break-up Study of Arctic Sea Ice in the Alaskan Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.**

**Subject and Purpose:** This study is "PEER REVIEW OF REPORT 2019-20 FREEZE-UP STUDY OF ARCTIC SEA ICE IN THE ALASKAN BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS" and 2-"2020 BREAK-UP STUDY OF ARCTIC SEA ICE IN THE ALASKAN BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS." This peer review aims to verify the scientific and technical merit of the assumptions, inputs, methodologies, and results. Since the 1980s, BSEE has funded research to monitor the ice freeze-up and break-up in the Alaskan Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. The goal of these studies is to maintain a historical database for industry use to predict ice freeze-up and break-up. Operators utilize the freeze-up/break-up data as part of their area contingency plans, oil spill response plans, and requests for alternate compliance or departure from BSEE regulations and permitting submissions. This peer review will evaluate and assess the TAP 795 report studies investigating the ice conditions that prevailed in the Alaskan Beaufort and Chukchi Seas during the 2019-20 freeze-up and 2020 break-up seasons.

**Impact of Dissemination:** This study is considered by BSEE to be highly influential scientific information. The BSEE considers the 1-"2019-20 FREEZE-UP STUDY OF ARCTIC SEA ICE IN THE ALASKAN BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS" and 2-"2020 BREAK-UP STUDY OF ARCTIC SEA ICE IN THE ALASKAN BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS," both reports comprise highly influential technical data and analyses information. These studies' findings may suggest the need to update data and BSEE permitting processes and regulations as they may potentially directly impact BSEE's reviews of the industry's submitted area contingency plans, oil spill response plans, permits, and requests for alternate compliance or departure from BSEE's regulations utilizing this data.

BSEE will post all possible contracted deliverables, tasks, data, methodologies, tools, evaluations, assessments, analyses, and information, including the peer-review reporting, reports, and comments on BSEE's website: <http://www.bsee.gov>

**Timing of Review: September 2022 – January 2023** (Total peer review process of not more than six (6) months is desired for this project.)

**Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:**

This peer review shall be conducted through the contract US Fish and Wildlife Survey



Blanket Purchase Agreement Process. The selected peer reviewers shall achieve an optimum level of expertise across the spectrum of issues, balance, and independence while minimizing any potential conflicts of interest.

Primary criteria for peer reviewers include the following:

- Arctic oil and gas operations;
- Arctic-based research;
- Process safety (e.g., well control, critical barrier evaluation, loss of containment, spill prevention, well integrity),
- Areas you deem your company has energy-related expertise,
- Risk identification, assessment communication, and mitigation,
- Evaluation of best practices, industry standards, and applications,

The secondary tier of criteria should include the following:

- No more than two persons from the oil and gas industry
- At least one from outside of the oil and gas industry

Reviewers may be selected from academia, industry, and the federal government. The group of reviewers shall not include multiple reviewers from the same affiliation and shall strive to include various perspectives on the issue considered.

**Expected Number of Reviewers:**

Three reviewers, plus contractor oversight and writing personnel.

**Requisite Expertise:**

- Arctic oil and gas operations;
- Arctic-based research;
- Process safety (e.g., well control, critical barrier evaluation, loss of containment, spill prevention, well integrity),
- Areas you deem your company has energy-related expertise,
- Risk identification, assessment communication, and mitigation,
- Oil and gas industry background

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

The report is available on BSEE's Peer Review website located here:

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX** (Website Link). BSEE welcomes public comment, especially for those with Arctic, Arctic oil and gas operations, process safety, risk identification, and mitigation; however, the opportunity for public comment is not incorporated into the BSEE plan for the peer review of this document.

**Agency Contact: Candi Hudson, PhD., [Candi.Hudson@bsee.gov](mailto:Candi.Hudson@bsee.gov), 703-787-1190**