



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Greetings Native Hawaiian Organization Leader,

I am reaching out to introduce you to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and to invite you to engage with us on BSEE's activities of interest. BSEE is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and has the responsibility to oversee safety and environmental standards related to offshore energy and mineral exploration, development, and production under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), among other laws. OCSLA authorizes BSEE to regulate energy- and minerals-related activities on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, which is seaward of states' jurisdiction off the West Coast and Hawai'i in the Pacific Ocean; off of Alaska in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the Bering Sea, and Cook Inlet; in the Gulf of Mexico; and off of the East Coast in the Atlantic Ocean. More information about BSEE can be found in the enclosed fact sheet and at www.bsee.gov.

Currently, there are no energy- or minerals-related activities under BSEE's regulatory authority occurring on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore Hawai'i. At this time, BSEE is building our programs and teams so that we may consult on a government-to-sovereign basis before taking actions that have the potential to significantly affect Native Hawaiian resources, rights, or lands. BSEE is committed to maintaining open and transparent communications with Tribal Nations, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations, and the Native Hawaiian Community. BSEE emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility as part of a deliberative process to promote effective collaboration and transparent and informed decision-making.

One initiative that may interest you is the development of the first-ever BSEE Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan. Background on this initiative is included below, and we invite your input on the four preliminary goals as well as on what you would like to see in the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan.

Executive Order (EO) 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, defines Environmental Justice as "the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment." This order advances the tenets of EO 12898, *Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, by expounding on the need for federal agencies to ensure their activities 1) protect people from disproportionate, adverse, and cumulative health and environmental burdens and 2) protect people from racism and other barriers to equitable access and opportunity.

On April 13, 2023, DOI released a two-year work plan to advance environmental justice implementation throughout DOI. The work plan focuses on policy, community engagement and involvement, science and data, and investments and community assistance. Additionally, the work plan reinforces pre-existing DOI policy requiring bureau and office heads to develop and maintain environmental justice implementation strategies and action plans and requires bureaus/offices to finalize them by September 2024.

BSEE has started developing the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan with recognition of other related justice efforts, such as the Ocean Justice Strategy and the National

Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, as well as other DOI bureaus and offices environmental justice implementation strategies and action plans. BSEE aims to complete the development of its Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan by the end of 2023. BSEE has developed a preliminary set of four environmental justice strategic goals:

1. ***Institutionalizing Environmental Justice***: Cultivate bureau environmental justice competency and incorporate environmental justice considerations into bureau actions.
2. ***Delivering Equity through Investments***: Advance equitable access to federal procurement opportunities, resources, and other qualitative benefits.
3. ***Reducing Burdens and Harms***: Enhance compliance and enforcement actions to reduce impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns.
4. ***Meaningful Outreach and Engagement***: Foster opportunities for communities to participate as informed partners in bureau actions that are important to their wellbeing.

If you are interested in attending an informational meeting regarding the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan and/or providing feedback on the four preliminary goals, please use the registration link below:

When: Nov 2, 2023 10:00 AM Hawaii Standard Time / 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://bsee.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscOCqqToqHArSkiSbaGaB-gGqZQGnDPg>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

You can also provide written responses; we request all written responses be provided within 45 days of your receipt of this letter to any of the following BSEE contacts:

- Bronia Ashford, National Tribal Liaison Officer, bronia.ashford@bsee.gov
- Sara Gultinan, Pacific Regional Tribal Liaison, sara.gultinan@bsee.gov
- BSEE National Tribal Engagement Program, tribalengagement@bsee.gov

Once BSEE has developed the draft Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan, we will provide it to you for review and feedback.



Kevin M. Sligh Sr.,
BSEE Director

Enclosure
About BSEE Fact Sheet



**Bureau of
Safety and
Environmental
Enforcement**

ABOUT BSEE

Fact Sheet



**BSEE REGULATES
THE OFFSHORE ENERGY INDUSTRY
BY PROMOTING SAFETY, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
AND CONSERVING RESOURCES.**



MISSION

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is responsible for promoting safety, protecting the environment, and conserving resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.

OVERVIEW

BSEE is led by an appointed director who oversees a staff of about 850 federal employees. Headquartered in Washington D.C., national policy is set by BSEE's six divisions, primarily in Sterling, Virginia, and implementation of policies occurs through three regional offices: Anchorage, Camarillo, California, and New Orleans, with its five Gulf Coast district offices.

BSEE also manages an office in Houston, near many offshore energy industry headquarters, and Ohmsett, in New Jersey, to provide the bureau and the energy industry with innovative solutions that lessen the impacts of oil spills. BSEE regulates the offshore energy industry by promoting safety, protecting the environment, and conserving resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).



BSEE PULLS EXPERTISE FROM VARIOUS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS, CIVIL PENALTIES, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (SEMS) IN ORDER TO CONDUCT ANALYSIS, DEVELOP GUIDELINES, REVIEW OPERATOR PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES.

SAFETY

BSEE promotes compliance with safety standards through regular inspections and other monitoring activities. BSEE's regulations, inspections, permitting, investigations and analysis of incidents and equipment failures, and enforcement programs promote a culture of safety and risk reduction.

Through timely notice of detected violations, BSEE provides operators clear direction for coming into compliance, and a reasonable opportunity to make corrections. BSEE's intent is to prevent incidents; however, should they occur, BSEE has a duty to investigate, determine the causal elements/factors, and take the appropriate corrective actions. The agency incorporates a varied enforcement approach in response to incidents depending on the severity and other causal factors.

CONSERVATION

BSEE recognizes the importance of the OCS to America's energy portfolio and promotes diligent and responsible exploration, development, production, and transportation of offshore energy. Maximizing oil and gas recovery, ensuring accurate production measurement and preparing for the advancement of offshore renewable energy are not only in keeping with the resource conservation mission established by the OCS Lands Act, but they are also core bureau functions.

BSEE's efforts to prevent the stranding of the nation's oil and natural gas resources promotes responsible, efficient production of these resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BSEE advances environmental stewardship through the dedicated work of qualified and trained personnel who work collaboratively across regions and programs to integrate prevention, compliance, and preparedness activities. Their efforts ensure that offshore energy operations comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Administering a robust environmental stewardship program includes focus on air quality, protected species, oil spill preparedness and cultural resource protection, among others. Although the focus has been primarily on oil and gas, BSEE is now leading efforts to develop environmental compliance strategies for renewable energy projects on the OCS.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, established in 2011, is a U.S. Department of the Interior agency. BSEE promotes worker safety, environmental protection and conservation of resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement of the offshore energy industry on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.
