



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement NATIONAL TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM ALASKA REGION

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS BSEE'S ROLE IN TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulates offshore energy activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These operations may affect lands, waters, resources, and practices of importance to federally recognized Tribal Nations, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations, and the Native Hawaiian Community.

BSEE is committed to early, meaningful, and legally compliant engagement with Tribal Nations and ANCSA Corporations in accordance with:

- Treaties between the United States and Tribal Nations.
- U.S. Constitution.
- Federal trust responsibility.
- Applicable statutory authorities and regulatory responsibilities.
- 25 U.S.C. 5301 Congressional Act requiring Federal Agencies to consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Federally recognized Indian Tribes under E.O. 13175.
- Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government.
- Department of the Interior (DOI) Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures.
- DOI ANCSA Corporation Consultation Policy and Procedures.



ALASKA REGION

The Alaska Region oversees more than one billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and more than 6,000 miles of coastline – more coastline than in the rest of the United States combined. Alaska has 229 federally recognized Indian Tribes and 12 ANCSA regions. Spanning the Arctic Ocean, the Beaufort Sea, and the Northern Pacific Ocean, the region holds considerable interest for offshore drilling activities, particularly in the Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet.

BSEE Alaska Region responsibilities often overlap with the responsibilities and regulations of other federal and state agencies. The Bureau works closely with these partners to ensure we approach this shared regulatory space in an efficient and consistent manner. Committed to maintaining open and transparent communications, the Alaska Region regularly engages Tribal Governments, Alaska Native organizations, and communities, keeping them apprised of general offshore activities, and facilitating communication with BSEE senior leaders. These important conversations emphasize trust, respect, and shared responsibility as part of a deliberative process to promote effective collaboration and informed decision-making.

WHO WE ENGAGE

- **Federally Recognized Tribal Nations:** BSEE engages in formal government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes when Bureau actions may have Tribal implications. Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with unique legal and political status. Some Tribal Nations have treaties with the United States and treaty-reserved rights. The United States has a trust relationship with each federally recognized Tribal Nation.

- **ANCSA Corporations:** These are Native-owned corporations created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. BSEE coordinates with ANCSA Corporations regarding activities that may affect their lands or resources, consistent with statutory guidance.

WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

BSEE engages with Tribal Nations, ANCSA Corporations, and the Native Hawaiian Community to:

- Uphold Tribal treaty and reserved rights.
- Fulfill legal and trust responsibilities.
- Identify and consider potential impacts to cultural, historical, economic, and natural resources.
- Support informed and lawful federal decision-making.
- Promote transparency and coordination in offshore energy regulation.
- Respect and promote the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge in BSEE's actions.

WHEN ENGAGEMENT OCCURS

BSEE initiates consultation and engagement:

- During rulemakings and regulatory actions.
- Prior to major permitting decisions and decommissioning activities.
- As part of environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- When any proposed action may have Tribal or ANCSA Corporation implications.

HOW WE ENGAGE

BSEE conducts engagement through:

- Government-to-government and government-to-corporation consultation meetings.
- Formal notification letters on proposed BSEE actions with sufficient detail to allow Tribal and ANCSA Corporation leaders to determine if they wish to consult.
- Webinars, briefings, and listening sessions.
- Participation in national and regional summits, conferences, trainings, and gatherings focused on Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian issues.
- Coordination via regional Tribal and Indigenous community liaisons.

BSEE ensures that these engagements are substantive, documented, and occur early enough to meaningfully inform bureau decisions.

BSEE'S MISSION

BSEE's Tribal engagement work directly supports its broader mission to:

- Promote U.S. energy dominance.
- Protect the offshore environment.
- Ensure safety in offshore operations.
- Streamline government oversight.
- Support the responsible development of offshore energy and mineral resources.



CONTACT

To initiate consultation or request more information, contact BSEE's Tribal Liaison Officer at tribalengagement@bsee.gov

