

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**

NTL No. 2025-N01

Effective Date: September 12, 2025

**NATIONAL NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS AND
SULPHUR LEASES, OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)**

Revised OCSLA Civil Penalty Assessment Matrixes

Purpose

The purpose of this Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is to provide information regarding the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) assessment of civil penalties for violations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and its implementing regulations. This NTL replaces NTL No. 2024-N01. Effective September 12, 2025, the maximum civil penalty amount is \$55,764 per day per violation in accordance with the authorities described below.

BSEE utilizes three civil penalty matrices when assessing civil penalties for violations of OCSLA and its implementing regulations. This NTL:

- Explains the new maximum civil penalty amount per day per violation for 2025.
- Provides a revised Assessment Matrix for Harm and Threat of Harm Violations.
- Provides a revised Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Violations.
- Introduces and provides the Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Decommissioning Violations.

Authority

BSEE's regulations (at 30 CFR 250.103) authorize the issuance of NTLs that clarify or provide more detail about certain requirements.

OCSLA authorizes the assessment of civil penalties, sets the daily maximum civil penalty amount per violation, and establishes two violation categories (43 U.S.C. 1350(b)). These categories are (1) violations that are not corrected following notification and expiration of the period allowed for corrective action, and (2) violations that constitute a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm. Regulations regarding BSEE civil penalty assessments are in 30 CFR part 250, subpart N.

OCSLA directs the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the OCSLA maximum civil penalty amount at least once every 3 years to reflect any increase in the Consumer Price Index to account for

inflation. 43 U.S.C. 1350(b)(1). The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (FCPIA of 2015) (section 701 of Public Law 114-74) requires BSEE to adjust the OCSLA maximum civil penalty amount on an annual basis. Pursuant to OCSLA and the FCPIA of 2015, BSEE published the final rule on September 12, 2025 adjusting the OCSLA maximum civil penalty amount at 30 CFR 250.1403. The final rule adjusted for inflation the daily maximum civil penalty amount per violation. This NTL reflects the necessary adjustments to BSEE's OCSLA Civil Penalty Assessment Matrices based on the final rule.

OCSLA Civil Penalty Assessment Matrixes
September 12, 2025

Assessment Matrix for Harm and Threat of Harm Violations

HARM/THREAT OF HARM VIOLATIONS MATRIX FOR OCSLA CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENTS (\$ x DAY)			
Enforcement Code	Category A	Category B	Category C
W	\$7,031 – 55,764 (\$20,851) *	\$13,820 – 55,764 (\$27,882) *	\$27,882 – 55,764 (\$41,824) *
C	\$13,820 – 55,764 (\$27,882) *	\$20,851 – 55,764 (\$34,793) *	\$41,824 – 55,764 (\$48,733) *
S	\$20,851 – 55,764 (\$34,793) *	\$27,882 – 55,764 (\$41,824) *	\$48,733 – 55,764 (\$51,520) *

Note: W = Warning, C = Component Shut-in, and S = Facility Shut-in
 * = Starting Point for Assessment

<u>Category A</u>	<u>Category B</u>	<u>Category C</u>
Threat of injury to humans. Threat of harm or damage to the marine or coastal environment, including mammals, fish, and other aquatic life (threat may or may not involve endangered/threatened species). Threat of pollution. Threat of damage to any mineral deposit or property.	Injury to humans that results in 1-3 days away from work or 1-3 days on restricted work or job transfer. Minor harm or damage to the marine or coastal environment, including mammals, fish, and other aquatic life (harm to aquatic life did not involve an endangered/threatened species). Pollution caused by liquid hydrocarbon spillage of up to 50 barrels (bbls). Minor damage to any mineral deposit. Minor property damage equal to or less than \$25,000. Additional incidents required to be reported under 30 CFR 250.188, except (a)(6), (b)(1), and (b)(4).	Loss of human life. Injury to humans that results in more than 3 days away from work or more than 3 days on restricted work or job transfer. Serious harm or damage to the marine or coastal environment, including mammals, fish, and other aquatic life (harm to aquatic life involved numerous individuals or involved one or more members of an endangered/threatened species). Pollution caused by liquid hydrocarbon spillage of more than 50 barrels (bbls). Serious damage to any mineral deposit. Serious property damage greater than \$25,000.

BSEE will use the “Starting Point for Assessment” that corresponds with the appropriate violation Enforcement Code and Category as the starting point for each civil penalty assessment.

The Civil Penalty Reviewing Officer should then consider the following factors when determining, within the given range, the appropriate civil penalty amount:

1. Record of compliance (utilizing 3 years of annual performance review data, and District Office summary).
2. Severity of the violation(s).
3. Precedents set by similar cases.
4. Civil penalty case history.

Factors 1 and 4 may be used to raise the penalty amount within the given range.

Factors 2 and 3 may be used to raise or lower the penalty amount within the given range.

Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Violations

	Period of Non-Compliance Following Provision and Expiration of a Reasonable Period to Correct	
Category of Noncompliance	1-21 Days	After 21 Days
Failure to Correct a Warning (W) Incident of Noncompliance (\$ x Day)	\$1,589	\$3,177
Failure to Correct a Shut-In (C or S) Incident of Noncompliance (\$ x Day)	\$4,237	\$8,473

Introduction to the Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Decommissioning Violations

The Assessment Matrix for Decommissioning Violations applies to failures to decommission infrastructure pursuant to the regulations in 30 CFR part 250, Subparts J and Q.

The Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Decommissioning Violation applies to violations of decommissioning regulations that are not corrected following notification and the period allowed for corrective action. It does not apply to violations of decommissioning regulations that constitute a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm. Civil penalties for failure to correct decommissioning violations are assessed on a per violation basis (e.g. per well, platform, and pipeline that was not timely decommissioned). BSEE retains discretion to assess subsequent civil penalties pursuant to the Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Decommissioning Violation if the violations are not corrected following assessment of the first civil penalty.

Assessment Matrix for Failure to Correct Decommissioning Violations

	Civil Penalty Amount Per Violation
First Civil Penalty	\$55,764
Subsequent Civil Penalties	\$55,764

BSEE will determine the total number of violations of decommissioning regulations that are not corrected following notification, and a period allowed for corrective action and will multiply that number by the maximum daily civil penalty amount. BSEE retains discretion to assess subsequent civil penalties pursuant if the violations are not corrected following assessment of the first civil penalty.

Additional information about this program can be found on the BSEE home page at: <http://www.bsee.gov>.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement: This NTL imposes no information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

Contacts: If you have any questions regarding this NTL, please contact Janine Marie Tobias, Deputy Assistant Director, Safety Enforcement Division at (202) 208-4657.

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