

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

NTL No. 2025-N02

Effective Date: January 20, 2025

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES,
PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANTS, RIGHT-OF-USE AND EASEMENT GRANTS,
RENEWABLE ENERGY LEASES, AND ALTERNATE USE RIGHT-OF-USE AND
EASEMENT GRANTS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Renaming the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America

Purpose

In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 14172 “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness,” the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is issuing this Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) to inform all stakeholders of an official terminology change regarding offshore operations, records, and communications to the geographic region previously designated as the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America.”

Authority

Executive Order 14172, “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness,” issued on January 20, 2025, directs the Secretary to take all appropriate actions to rename, as the “Gulf of America,” the U.S. Continental Shelf area formerly named as the Gulf of Mexico. This includes the area bounded on the northeast, north, and northwest by the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and extending to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba.

Secretary’s Order (SO) 3423, “The Gulf of America,” implements the direction in EO 14172 and directs the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to take all actions necessary to rename the feature known as the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, including updating the Geographic Names Information System. The BGN is responsible for maintaining uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government.

Guidance Statement

BSEE issues guidance and information documents to lessees, grant holders, and operators on the OCS. These documents include NTLs, Letters to Lessees (LTLs), Renewable NTLs, Regulatory Interpretations, and Q and As. These documents provide the offshore energy industry, lessees, grants holders, and operators, with a better understanding of the scope and meaning of a regulation by explaining BSEE’s interpretation of a requirement. BSEE-issued guidance documents may clarify, interpret, or provide more detail regarding the implementation of BSEE’s regulations or lease stipulations.

Implementation

Pursuant to EO 14172, the Gulf of Mexico is hereby renamed the Gulf of America in all official governmental records, regulations, and communications. All active guidance and information documents remain valid; BSEE *will not* reissue these guidance and information documents, unless we determine that additional updates, besides the Gulf of America name change, are warranted or necessary. In documents previously issued by BSEE, references to the “Gulf of Mexico” mean the “Gulf of America” and the “Gulf of Mexico Region” means the “Gulf of America Region.” Additionally, the acronym “GOM” means “GOA” and “GOMR” means “GOAR.”

Guidance for Lessees, Operators, and Grant Holders

1. Any prior documents you submitted to BSEE referring to the Gulf of Mexico, remain valid, but the name should be updated in subsequent amendments and renewals.
2. You are expected to replace references to the “Gulf of Mexico” in environmental reports, operational plans, and other submissions with “Gulf of America” going forward.
3. You should update any signage, maps, and official communication materials under the purview of BSEE accordingly.
4. You should adjust digital platforms, databases, and geospatial references to reflect the change in official terminology.

Guidance Disclaimer

Except to the extent that the contents of this document derive from requirements established by statute, regulation, lease, contract, or other binding legal authority, the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding legal requirements, related agency policies, and technical issues.

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.).

Additional Information

For further clarification regarding this NTL or assistance with implementation requirements, please contact BSEE Office of Public Affairs: 1-800-200-4853 or bseepublicaffairs@bsee.gov.

Michael Idziorek, Acting Associate Director
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