



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

March 9, 2026

Greetings Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), I would like to provide information about a proposed rule and invite you to provide input as you deem appropriate, including through government-to-government consultation. BSEE is revising certain regulatory provisions that were published in the 2023 final rule entitled “Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions,” (2023 WCR). BSEE is proposing revisions to the 2023 WCR to clarify certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements. The proposed rule is *Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Revisions to the 2023 Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule* (Regulatory Identification Number 1014-AA63).

Background

BSEE promotes safety, protects the environment, and conserves resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement 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 (OCS), which is seaward of states’ jurisdiction off the West Coast and Hawai‘i in the Pacific Ocean; off Alaska in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the Bering Sea, and Cook Inlet; in the Gulf of America; and off the East Coast in the Atlantic Ocean.

BSEE regulates OCS oil and gas operations to enhance the safety of exploration for and development of oil and gas, to ensure those operations protect the environment, and to implement advancements in technology. BSEE also conducts onsite inspections to ensure compliance with regulations, lease terms, and approved plans and permits. BSEE's regulatory program covers a wide range of OCS facilities and activities - including drilling, completion, workover, production, pipeline, and decommissioning operations that offshore operators perform throughout the OCS.

BSEE is committed to fulfilling our legal obligations, carrying out our trust relationship with federally recognized Tribes, and inviting Tribes to consult on a government-to-government basis regarding BSEE actions on the OCS that may have Tribal implications.

In the summer of 2025, BSEE sent a letter notifying Tribes of the regulatory agenda for rulemakings that BSEE planned to pursue over the next few years.¹ The regulatory agenda included proposed rulemaking 1014-AA63, *Revisions to the 2023 Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule*.² As pledged in the 2025 letter, BSEE is providing additional notification

¹ The BSEE 2025 Regulatory Agenda table sent to Tribes is posted on BSEE’s website at: <https://www.bsee.gov/about-bsee/tribal-engagement-consultation>

² The Revisions to the 2023 Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control proposed rule is listed in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Spring 2025 Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, available at: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202504&RIN=1014-AA63>

and consultation opportunities as specific rulemakings progress.

Summary of the Proposed Rule

BSEE is undertaking this regulatory action in accordance with Executive Order 14154 “Unleashing American Energy”³ and Secretary’s Order 3418 “Unleashing American Energy.”⁴ Executive Order 14154 directed the removal of regulations that impose an undue burden on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources. Secretary’s Order 3418 directed all Assistant Secretaries to “review all agency actions and submit an action plan” that includes steps that “as appropriate, will be taken to suspend, revise, or rescind documents,” including the 2023 WCR, to address the potential burden to industry.

BSEE proposes narrowly focused revisions that would streamline certain submission requirements and procedures for operators seeking BSEE approval to use a blowout preventer. The proposed rule would:

- Clarify the submittal requirements for failure data,
- Modify the timeframes for commencing a failure analysis, and
- Clarify the recordkeeping requirements for independent third-party qualifications.

The proposed rule would not:

- Affect the blowout preventer equipment operational requirements,
- Limit BSEE's oversight of the independent third parties, or
- Have negative impacts on the safety of offshore operations or environmental protection.

In the proposed rule, BSEE describes and explains the specific proposed revisions to our regulations at 30 CFR 250.730 and 250.732.

Proposed Rule Timeline

Proposed rule 1014-AA63, *Revisions to the 2023 Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule* was published in the Federal Register on February 23, 2026 (91 F R 8397). The 30-day public comment period closes on March 25, 2026. The Federal Register Notice and proposed rule text is [available electronically via this link](#) and is also enclosed for your reference and review.

BSEE recognizes and respects that if you wish to provide your federally recognized Tribe’s input on this proposed rule, you may choose when and how to convey your input, including through the public comment process and/or government-to-government consultation.

BSEE will consider the comments received on the proposed rule and may publish a final rule revising the 2023 WCR.

³ See Executive Order 14154 at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-01956/unleashing-american-energy>

⁴ See Secretary’s Order 3418 at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3418-unleashing-american-energy>

Input Invitation

If you would like to submit written input on the proposed rule, you are welcome to do so via the public rulemaking docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), docket BSEE-2026-0100,⁵ or via letter directly to BSEE:

- *Preferred* - Electronic letter delivery to tribalengagement@bsee.gov and/or regs@bsee.gov
- Paper copy letter delivery to Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Attention: Regulations and Standards Branch, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166

BSEE complies with Executive Order 13175 “Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments” by following the Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes (512 Departmental Manual 4)⁶ and Procedures for Consultation with Indian Tribes (512 Departmental Manual 5).⁷ BSEE evaluated this proposed rule and determined that it would not have substantial direct effects on federally recognized Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal government and federally recognized Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal government and federally recognized Indian Tribes, and therefore that consultation under the Department’s consultation policies is not required. However, it is BSEE’s practice to initiate consultation at the request of any Tribe in accordance with the Department’s consultation procedures.

If you or your designee have questions or want to initiate consultation on this proposed rule, please contact me at (202) 208-7251 or bronia.ashford@bsee.gov. You can also submit a written request to BSEE’s National Tribal Engagement Program at tribalengagement@bsee.gov. We respectfully request that you submit any consultation requests by April 23, 2026.

We will publish this letter on BSEE’s National Tribal Engagement Program website at <https://www.bsee.gov/about-bsee/tribal-engagement-consultation>.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Bronia E. Ashford
Tribal Liaison Officer

Enclosure:

BSEE Proposed Rule - Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf- Revisions to the 2023 Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control, 1014-AA63 (91 FR 8397)

⁵ See rulemaking docket BSEE-2026-0100 at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BSEE-2026-0100>

⁶ See the Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/departmental-manual/512-dm-4-department-interior-policy-consultation-indian-0>

⁷ See the Procedures for Consultation with Indian Tribes at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/departmental-manual/512-dm-5-procedures-consultation-indian-tribes>