

## Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement NATIONAL TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

### FACT SHEET



## WHAT IS BSEE'S ROLE IN TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT?

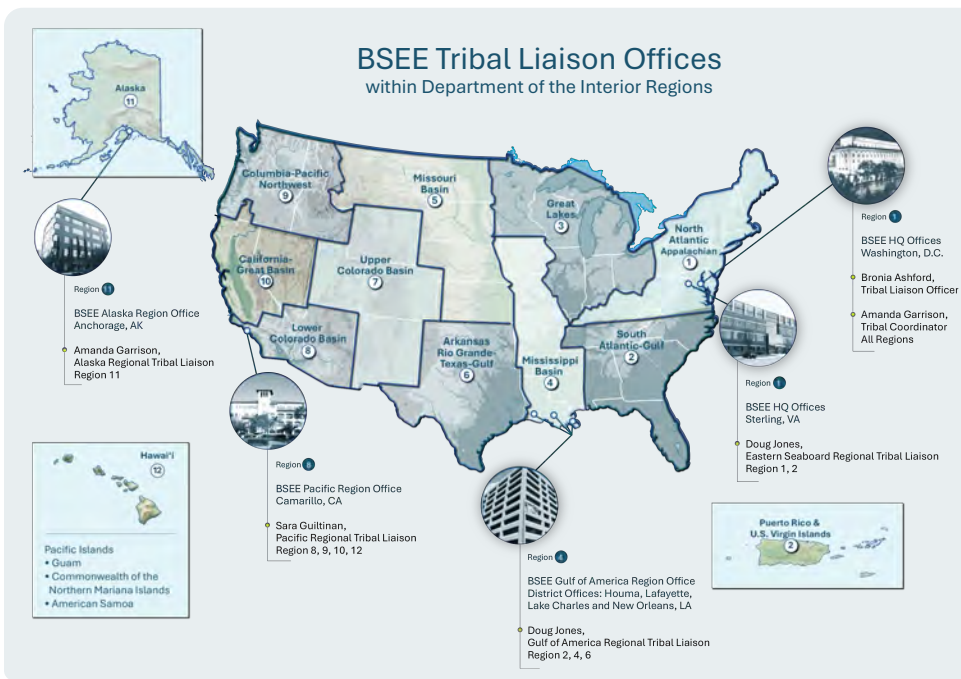
The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulates offshore energy activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These operations may affect lands, waters, resources, and practices of importance to federally recognized Tribal Nations, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations,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

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

- Treaties between the United States and Tribal Nations
- U.S. Constitution
- Federal trust responsibility
- Applicable statutory authorities and regulatory responsibilities
- Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- Department of the Interior (DOI) Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures

## 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.
- **Native Hawaiian Community:** BSEE engages in formal government-to-sovereign consultation with representatives of the Native Hawaiian Community before taking actions that have the potential to significantly affect Native Hawaiian resources, rights, or lands. The Native Hawaiian Community maintains a special political and trust relationship with the federal government. BSEE engages in accordance with DOI policies and federal statutes.



## 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.

## HOW WE ENGAGE

BSEE conducts engagement through:

- Government-to-government, government-to-corporation, and government-to-sovereign consultation meetings.
- Formal notification letters on proposed BSEE actions with sufficient detail to allow Tribal, ANCSA Corporation, and Native Hawaiian Community 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](mailto:tribalengagement@bsee.gov).