



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

January 20, 2015

TO: Douglas Morris, Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Program

FROM: Brian Salerno, Director

I wish to thank you and your staff for the report entitled: *Evaluation of Seal Assembly and Cement Failures*. I appreciate your team's work on this initial evaluation, and upon my initial review, I generally concur with their recommendations. We will post a copy of the report on our website, and I ask that you and your team share the report with industry trade associations and standards development organizations.

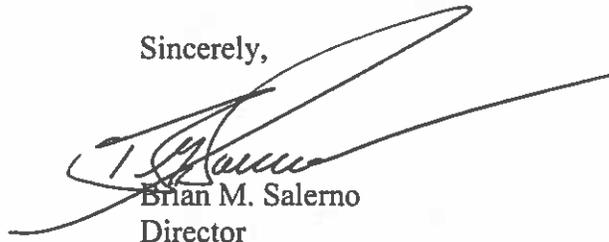
While I will conduct a more detailed review of the report, I believe there are some immediate steps the Bureau can take to address your team's findings and recommendations.

I would like you and your team to ask the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) to explore the feasibility of a joint research project with industry that will analyze well designs that utilize shallow liners and sub mudline casing hangers. The goal of the project should be to ensure best engineering practices are being followed.

I also encourage you to utilize the upcoming API Winter Standards meeting as a forum to discuss ways to incorporate new standards related to the integrity of dual barriers. The new standards should ensure the integrity of the barriers can be verified after installation. In addition, you and your team should include this as part of the discussion during the BSEE Domestic and International Standards Workshop later in the Spring.

I ask that you and your staff continue to monitor information related to the performance of dual barriers, and to update this report as new information becomes available and as you continue to discuss these issues with industry and standards development organizations.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Salerno
Director