FACTsheet

Environmental Compliance Program

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Environmental Compliance Program focuses on monitoring, verifying, improving, and enforcing industry's compliance with environmental standards during Outer Continental Shelf operations.

The ECP's compliance work protects our sensitive offshore environmental resources, a critical component of BSEE's mission.

MISSION

The mission of the ECP is to ensure lessees/operators that are active on the OCS and subject to BSEE jurisdiction comply with all required environmental laws and regulations; environmental standards established by science and found in leases, plans and permits; and applied mitigations and conditions of approval.

The ECP advances this mission through the dedicated work of qualified and trained personnel who work collaboratively across regions and programs.

ECP OFFICES

ECP employees from BSEE's three regional offices and headquarters work collaboratively to support the environmental compliance mission for conventional and renewable energy operations and marine mineral program work in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Alaska—including the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the Bering Sea, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska.

The Environmental Compliance Program advances the BSEE mission to protect the environment through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.

PRIMARY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

ECP has six primary functions:

- Regulatory program consultation and coordination.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
- Office compliance verification.
- Field compliance verification.
- Enforcement.
- Communication and outreach.

The ECP scientists and engineers review monitoring reports during activities, review post-activity submittals for completed operations, conduct field inspections, and review unplanned events for impacts to environmental resources on the OCS.

The ECP's compliance and enforcement programs for oversight responsibilities are tied to:

- Air quality.
- Water quality.
- Marine archaeological and cultural resources.
- Marine ecology / benthic resources.
- Marine protected species.
- Artificial reefs / Rigs-to-Reefs emplacement.
- Marine trash and debris.
- Site clearance verification/space-use conflict.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Over the past decade, ECP has conducted an average of 750 environmental compliance inspections and reviews annually to verify compliance with environmental Conditions of Approval and other environmental standards, as well as to determine enforcement needs.

The ECP uses a combination of office compliance verification and field compliance verification to confirm operators' and permittees' compliance with environmental standards. Field compliance verification consists of ECP personnel visiting OCS work locations (e.g., facilities) or OCS sites (e.g., archaeological sites) to determine whether BSEE OCS regulations and policies are being followed by offshore operators.

The Seafloor Compliance, Assessment, and Monitoring, also known as SCAMP, is an element of ECP's field compliance verification activities. SCAMP uses remote sensing and hands-on verification and monitoring to confirm operators' and permittees' compliance with environmental standards.

ECP'S ROLE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

In support of the administration's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, the ECP integrated renewable energy responsibilities into environmental compliance functions and developed consistent environmental compliance policies and procedures for offshore renewable energy projects on the OCS.

ECP's work ensures that offshore energy activities on the OCS comply with all required environmental laws and regulations; environmental standards, applied mitigations and conditions of approval.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, established in 2011, is a U.S. Department of the Interior agency. BSEE promotes worker safety, environmental protection and conservation of resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement of the offshore energy industry on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

Environmental compliance is a critical component of BSEE's environmental stewardship mission.