

MISSION: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is responsible for promoting safety, protecting the environment and conserving resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.

OVERVIEW

BSEE is led by an appointed director who oversees a staff of about 850 federal employees. Headquartered in Washington D.C., national policy is set by BSEE's six divisions, primarily in Sterling, Virginia and implementation of policies occurs through three regional offices: Anchorage, Camarillo, California and New Orleans, with its five Gulf Coast district offices.

BSEE also manages an office in Houston, near many offshore energy industry headquarters, and Ohmsett, in New Jersey, to provide the bureau and the energy industry with innovative solutions that lessen the impacts of oil spills. BSEE regulates the offshore energy industry by promoting safety, protecting the environment and conserving resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).



BSEE

REGULATES THE OFFSHORE ENERGY INDUSTRY BY
PROMOTING SAFETY, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
AND CONSERVING RESOURCES



SAFETY

BSEE promotes compliance with safety standards through regular inspections and other monitoring activities. BSEE's regulations, inspections, permitting, investigations and analysis of incidents and equipment failures, and enforcement programs promote a culture of safety and risk reduction.

Through timely notice of detected violations, BSEE provides operators clear direction for coming into compliance, and a reasonable opportunity to make corrections. BSEE's intent is to prevent incidents; however, should they occur, BSEE has a duty to investigate, determine the causal elements/factors, and take the appropriate corrective actions. The agency incorporates a varied enforcement approach in response to incidents depending on the severity and other causal factors.

CONSERVATION

BSEE recognizes the importance of the OCS to America's energy portfolio and promotes diligent and responsible exploration, development, production, and transportation of offshore energy. Maximizing oil and gas recovery, ensuring accurate production measurement and preparing for the advancement of offshore renewable energy are not only in keeping with the resource conservation mission established by the OCS Lands Act, but they are also core bureau functions.

BSEE's efforts to prevent the stranding of the nation's oil and natural gas resources promotes responsible, efficient production of these resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BSEE advances environmental stewardship through the dedicated work of qualified and trained personnel who work collaboratively across regions and programs to integrate prevention, compliance, and preparedness activities. Their efforts ensure that offshore energy operations comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Administering a robust environmental stewardship program includes focus on air quality, protected species, oil spill preparedness and cultural resource protection, among others. Although the focus has been primarily on oil and gas, BSEE is now leading efforts to develop environmental compliance strategies for renewable energy projects on the OCS.

BSEE pulls expertise from various programs, including inspections, civil penalties, environmental compliance and the Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) in order to conduct analysis, develop guidelines, review operator performance and develop alternative enforcement strategies.

