

## THE PERMITTING PROCESS

A primary role of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is the review and approval of permits for all proposed and planned activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Designated operators are required to submit their permits, requests for approvals, and associated data to BSEE prior to start of any operations on the federal OCS. Some of these permits also require revisions to permit approvals if there are any changes to the initial approved permits after operations start.

*Permit requests generally they fall into one of these five categories:*

1. Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) - includes well design, casing program, cementing program, mud program; design and well drilling.
2. Applications for Permit to Modify (APM) - includes completion, workover, and abandonment design and procedures.
3. Platform Installation Permits - includes review of the design, fabrication and installation of the production facility structure.
4. Platform Process Safety System Application - includes the review of the oil, gas and water production process and associated safety system design and installation.
5. Pipeline Permits - includes the review of the design and installation of pipeline systems.



*BSEE personnel provide regulatory guidance prior to start of oil and gas drilling operations on the OCS.*

## PERMITTING REVIEW & APPROVAL

The BSEE process for issuing permits includes an extensive review of information submitted by an operator to meet the requirements for oil and gas drilling operations set forth in federal regulations.

To comply with the federal regulations, operators are required to submit documentation to BSEE to facilitate a complete review of information and data in various formats

including text and structured data in forms, tables or attachments.

Some requests also include geophysical and geological maps and data. In support of the review and approval processes, BSEE has a wealth of internal information available within BSEE's Technical Information Management System and the National Consolidated Information System.

Additionally, BSEE manages and has access to all Federal offshore well data, and has access to seismic data managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

After a thorough review and determination that an operator's application is complete relative to requirements in regulations and guidance documents, BSEE verifies information submitted and conducts independent analysis prior to considering permit approval.

If BSEE determines the operator's request meets appropriate technical adequacy, safety and environmental sustainability standards, the permit will be approved.

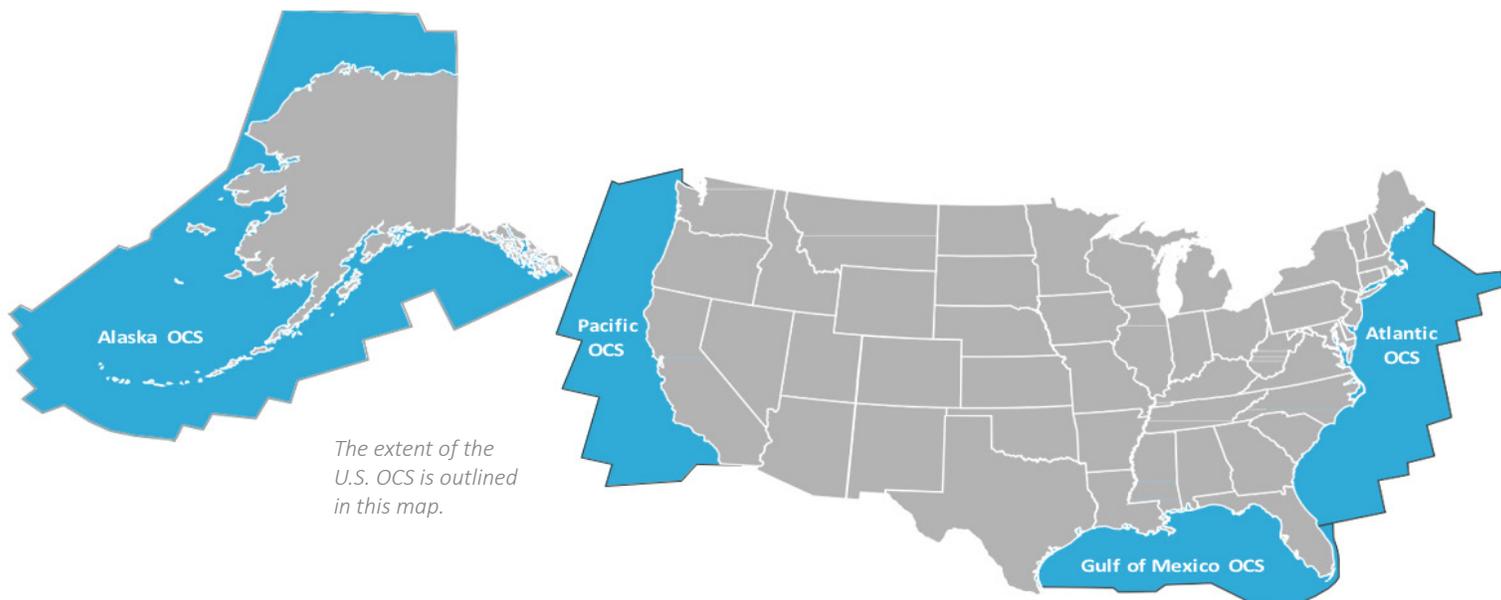
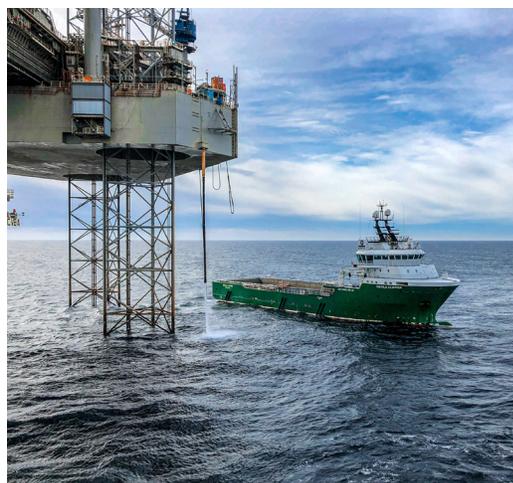
However, if the request is missing information or has inaccuracies in calculations or assumptions, BSEE returns the permit to the operator for corrections or requests additional information. After the full evaluation is complete for the permit, BSEE approves or denies the permit application.

Some approved permits such as applications to drill require operators to submit a revised permit when any changes are required to the conditions approved in the original permit.

Also, some permits require environmental and historical preservation reviews to confirm mitigations in approved plans, especially if the planned activity includes seafloor impacts or discharges into the sea.

The expertise required by BSEE to review and analyze permits and approval requests from operators includes a diverse team of professionals, with most positions in the engineering and sciences career fields.

BSEE's team of professionals includes petroleum engineers, civil engineers, environmental engineers, geologists, geophysicists, marine biologists, ecologists, environmental scientists, and archeologists.



*The extent of the U.S. OCS is outlined in this map.*