



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

March 24, 2016

Dear Dr. Tom Hunter,

On behalf of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, I would like to thank you for your service to the American taxpayer through your role as Chairman of the Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee (OESC). The unique cross-section of industry, academic, government, and other non-government organizations provided balanced advice for the Bureau and we greatly appreciate your involvement.

With your combined contributions of all the committee and subcommittee members, we are now able to deliver a copy of the final set of compiled recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. I want to highlight the influential work of the committee by sharing several of the outcomes and bi-products of your work.

- Of the 56 OESC recommendations, for those recommendations where BSEE is the lead agency, we have addressed and implemented approximately 75%.
- Some very critical examples of the post-OESC implementation:
 - The committee proposed formation of the Ocean Energy Safety Institute. This was completed through a cooperative agreement with Texas A&M led consortium. [Recommendation 46]
 - The numerous recommendations on blowout preventers and general well control were critical in the formation of the proposed Well Control Rule. Additionally, the OESC recommended the use of Real Time Monitoring offshore [Recommendation 12]. This is a key provision in the proposed rule.
 - There were a variety of suggestions concerning Arctic drilling that were consulted in the drafting of the proposed Arctic Rule. These ranged from Arctic-specific oil spill response provisions to seasonal drilling limitations. [Recommendations 24, 34, 35, and 47-56]
 - The creation of a voluntary, confidential near miss reporting system - the SafeOcs program was created and is hosted by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. [Recommendation 29]

While this is not a comprehensive list of the implemented projects, it represents the breadth and depth of the impact that you have made in your service of the OESC.

Thank you for your service,

Brian M. Salerno
Director