



[DATE]

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

OVERVIEW: American prosperity depends on safe, sustainable production of offshore energy. Offshore oil accounts for approximately one in six barrels of oil produced in the United States and offshore natural gas production can heat 18 million American homes. Additionally, offshore renewable energy resources (wind, wave, tidal) off U.S. coasts has the theoretical potential to more than double current U.S. electricity supply. These vital resources are, and will continue to be, key factors impacting our country's energy, economic, and national security. As other forms of offshore energy are explored and developed, there is a need for understanding the types of technologies, solutions, and trainings that will be necessary to ensure the safety of workers and protection of natural environments.

In recent years, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has instituted a number of organizational and regulatory reforms to ensure a safe and environmentally sustainable future for offshore oil and natural gas development activities, and provide a robust foundation for a future offshore renewable energy industry. In addition to DOI's reforms, and consistent with recommendations by the National Commission on the BP *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (Oil Spill Commission), the Department of Energy (DOE) has refocused offshore oil and gas research and development (R&D) to increase safety and prevent future incidents.¹ DOE has also significantly increased its focus on research to advance offshore wind and marine energy technologies.

¹ In the January 2011 Report to the President, the Oil Spill Commission recommended that DOE research and development "should be refocused toward mitigating the risks of offshore operations."



Interagency Collaboration

DOE, through the Office of Fossil Energy's Office of Oil and Natural Gas and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, hereby enters into this memorandum under the authority of section 646 of the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, as amended; 42 U.S.C. § 7256). DOI, through the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs, hereby enters into this memorandum under the authority of 43 U.S.C. § 1347.

The lead DOI office for the implementation of this memorandum is the BSEE Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs. BSEE works to promote safety, protect the environment, and conserve resources offshore through rigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.

The lead DOE office for the implementation of this memorandum is the Office of Fossil Energy's Office of Oil and Natural Gas. The Office of Oil and Natural Gas supports research and development to scientifically quantify, mitigate, and address the risks of oil and gas exploration and production.

The lead DOI and DOE offices implementing this memorandum of collaboration will take specific steps to ensure that their activities pursuant to this memorandum are complementary and appropriately coordinated. These actions will minimize duplication and increase the effectiveness of the Federal Government's ability to create a regulatory environment and to develop technology that fosters the safe development of the Nation's resources.

Actions

In support of the objectives outlined above, the lead DOI and DOE offices will take action to work more collaboratively on safety and research-related efforts.

The lead DOI and DOE offices will seek opportunities for DOE to support BSEE as necessary in research and analysis for the effective implementation of BSEE's safety mission, as well as to collaborate with BSEE in assessing the risks associated with various aspects of offshore drilling, renewable energy development, and production operations and technology. This includes renewable energy technology solutions to serve oil and natural gas platforms.

The lead DOI and DOE offices also will seek opportunities for BSEE to support DOE with planning and implementation of offshore energy R&D focused on safety, conservation, and environmental protection.



Ongoing Collaboration

The lead DOI and DOE offices will meet to share near-term goals and track key milestones, identify and address any implementation challenges, and ensure that work in the priority areas is carried out efficiently and effectively. Each lead office will identify a lead contact for ongoing collaboration. Additionally, each lead office will notify the other should a change in leadership or point of contact occur.

General Provisions

This memorandum is strictly for internal management purposes for each of the offices. It is not legally enforceable and will not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of either office or agency. This memorandum will not be construed to provide a private right or cause of action for or by any person or entity.


Nothing in this memorandum will be interpreted as limiting, superseding, or otherwise affecting either office's normal operations or decisions in carrying out its statutory or regulatory duties. This memorandum does not limit or restrict the offices or agencies from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities.

This memorandum is neither a fiscal nor a funds document. This memorandum does not itself authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds. Nothing in this memorandum obligates the offices or agencies to expend appropriations, direct the actions of personnel, or enter into any contract or other obligation.



This memorandum may be modified or amended in writing upon the consent of both offices, is to be executed in full compliance with all applicable laws and will be effective upon the last signature appearing below.

Signatures:

 9/24/20

Scott A. Angelle
Director
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
U.S. Department of the Interior

Steven E. Winberg 07/22/2020

Steven E. Winberg
Assistant Secretary
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

DAVID
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David Solan
Acting Assistant Secretary
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U.S. Department of Energy