THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

Order No. 3451

Subject: Establishment of the Marine Minerals Administration

Sec. 1. **Purpose**. This Order reunifies the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) into a single Bureau—the Marine Minerals Administration (MMA)—within the Department of the Interior (Department) to enhance safety, streamline governance of the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources, create administrative efficiencies and improve oversight of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities for the benefit of the American people.

Sec. 2. **Authorities**. This Order is issued under the authority of sections 2 and 5 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 *et seq*.).

Sec. 3. **Background**. Following congressional hearings concerning inefficiencies in OCS operations, the Department created the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) in 1982 to serve as the Department's Bureau responsible for managing offshore energy and mineral resources, including associated revenue from approximately 2.5 billion acres of the OCS at that time. MMS operated until shortly after the Deepwater Horizon incident in April 2010, after which the Department issued Secretary's Order No. 3299, titled "Establishment of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue," in May 2010 and two amendments to that Order in June 2010 and August 2011 to reorganize MMS. Through that reorganization, MMS' functions were divided between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). BOEMRE was subsequently separated into two distinct entities:(1) BOEM, to administer offshore energy and minerals leasing, resource evaluation and environmental review and (2) BSEE, to oversee operational safety, environmental enforcement, resource conservation and regulatory compliance. Since 2010, ONRR has remained the independent manager of both onshore and offshore royalty collection and revenue disbursement.

These organizational changes were made in 2010 and 2011, in part, to address conflicts of interests between those in MMS who regulated offshore drilling and those who collected the revenues from it. To avoid any future potential conflicts of interest related to the revenue management function, ONRR will continue to manage those functions independently from MMA. Regarding any other perceived conflicts between the BOEM and BSEE functions, reviews of the tragic Deepwater Horizon disaster concluded that its root causes primarily involved operational failures by companies and operators, not organizational deficiencies within the former MMS.

The Department has worked tirelessly to codify substantial safety and environmental reforms in regulation, including enhanced well control requirements, mandatory Safety and Environmental Management Systems, strengthened blowout preventer standards, expanded inspection capacity and independent third-party verification mechanisms. All such reforms remain in full force and effect in the Department's regulations.

With these safeguards firmly established, the Department is now positioned to build on its regulatory and policy advancements by pursuing greater operational efficiency, as well as greater unity in both mission fulfillment and decision-making processes. The two Bureau structures of BSEE and BOEM created unnecessarily duplicative executive leadership, administrative operations, information technology systems and support functions across organizations that share a common mission and overlapping workforce. This fragmentation increased inter-Bureau coordination burdens and limited the Department's ability to strategically deploy its workforce.

The operational demands of overseeing energy and mineral resources on the 3,167,568,771-acre OCS reinforce the need for more efficient operations. As of December 2025, the Department manages nearly 2,000 active OCS leases, maintains oversight of nearly 1,300 offshore structures, and performs more than 12,000 inspections annually. In 2025, approximately 11,980 inspections of oil and gas structures were conducted, compared with approximately 20 inspections of offshore wind facilities. With regional operations already co-located in New Orleans, LA; Camarillo, CA; and Anchorage, AK, and headquarters functions already co-located in Sterling, VA, and Washington, DC, reunification of BOEM and BSEE into a single Bureau will reduce overhead, enhance the deployment of subject matter expertise across the entire mission area and deliver stronger safety outcomes for the workers and communities who depend on safe and responsible OCS operations. This strategic reunification will better position the Department to advance the administration's energy dominance and critical minerals priorities, as set forth in Executive Orders (EO) 14156, 14154, 14285 and 14303. In doing so, reunification can address safety and environmental concerns more holistically throughout the OCS for all leasing, exploration, development, production and decommissioning processes, which will improve leadership decision-making.

Sec. 4. **Establishment of the Marine Minerals Administration.**

a. The Marine Minerals Administration is hereby established. MMA will be responsible for all aspects of the Department's offshore energy and mineral resource management and conservation, safety oversight, environmental enforcement and related activities on the OCS. MMA will be led by a Director under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management (AS-LMM).

b. All functions, personnel, assets, obligations, authorities, and responsibilities of BOEM and BSEE are hereby combined and vested in MMA. All existing regulations and standards applicable to BOEM and BSEE remain in full force and effect under the authority of MMA.

c. All functions, personnel, assets, obligations, authorities, and responsibilities of ONRR shall not be affected by this Order and remain under the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget (AS-PMB).

Sec. 5. **Transition Period.** The Department is directed to work diligently to operationalize MMA in appropriate phases, while ensuring no negative impact to ongoing safety, permitting, inspection, enforcement, leasing, production or environmental review operations. The Directors and staff of BOEM and BSEE are authorized to retain any operational authority necessary to provide for the uninterrupted accomplishment of their respective missions until notified by the MMA Director of the transfer, modification or cessation of such authority.

Sec. 6. **Implementation Responsibilities**.

a. *AS-LMM*. The AS-LMM is directed to take all necessary actions to operationalize MMA, including issuing final organizational structures; determining appropriate phasing and steps for personnel realignment; and ensuring the transfer or reprogramming of applicable funds, programs, records, and property.

b. *MMA Director*. The MMA Director is directed, no later than 9 months after the effective date of this Secretary's Order, to promptly work with AS-LMM and senior leadership to finalize the organizational structure and deployment of MMA, including finalizing program and regional office alignment; reviewing the distribution of inspection, enforcement, leasing and permitting personnel; establishing clear internal lines of authority for safety and environmental enforcement functions; and advancing all required actions and administration priorities without interruption. Furthermore, the MMA Director shall take steps to expand and modernize the offshore safety and inspection program. The MMA Director, not later than one year after the effective date of this Order, shall provide the Secretary with a report describing the safety and inspection program measures implemented pursuant to this subsection.

c. *Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget (AS-PMB)*. The AS-PMB is directed to take all necessary actions to support the establishment of MMA, including administrative support for the transition and transition of payroll, budget, financial systems and information technology infrastructure to establish unified operational capability.

d. *BOEM and BSEE Directors and Staff*. The Directors of BOEM and BSEE and all associated leadership and staff are directed to support the orderly transition of their organizations and workforces into MMA.

Sec. 7. **Delegation**. This Order delegates all authority necessary to the MMA Director to fulfill the Department's offshore energy and mineral management, safety oversight and environmental enforcement missions, including any existing or future authority applicable to BOEM or BSEE and personnel management, including delegations of authority provided for in 205 Departmental Manual (DM) 8, 218 DM and 219 DM. To the extent the delegation of authority in this Order conflicts with other delegations to BOEM or BSEE leadership, this delegation supersedes such contrary delegation.

Sec. 8. **Revocation**. Applicable provisions of Secretary's Order No. 3299, including all amendments, are superseded to the extent inconsistent with this Order. Secretary's Order No. 3302 is hereby revoked.

Sec. 9. **Effect of this Order**. This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting reports or recommendations are not intended to, and do not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 10. **Effective Date**. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are incorporated into the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded or revoked, whichever occurs first.

Doug Burgum

Secretary of the Interior

JUL 10 2026

Date: