



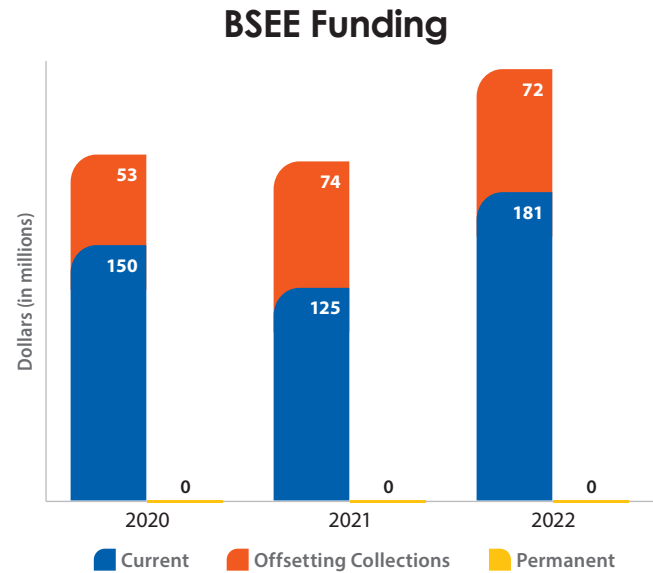
# BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

**Mission**—The mission of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of America’s offshore energy resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement.

**Budget Overview**—The 2022 budget request for BSEE is \$253.4 million, including \$181.2 million in current appropriations and \$72.2 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees. BSEE estimates staffing will total 906 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2022, including 125 FTEs that are fully reimbursed from other accounts to provide Departmentwide shared services.

**Program Overview**—As the United States’ regulator of offshore energy exploration, production, and development, BSEE promotes safety, protects the environment, and promotes the conservation of offshore natural resources through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement. BSEE’s jurisdictional and regulatory responsibilities are defined by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), which outlines Federal responsibility over the submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

BSEE pursues this objective by continuously improving mission delivery affecting the OCS operational environment. This objective is achieved through efficient permitting, a comprehensive program of regulations, compliance monitoring and enforcement, technical assessments, inspections, and incident investigations. BSEE works to mitigate oil spill risks through a focused prevention



program and emphasizes that the private sector must be prepared with the best plans, equipment, and training to respond to oil spills associated with their facilities if such spills occur. In addition, BSEE places great emphasis on enhancing and supporting environmentally safe processes throughout the oil, gas, and mineral resources industries.

BSEE continues to adapt its oversight approaches as offshore operations expand and move into environments requiring the use of new technologies. BSEE has established programs to identify, evaluate, and promote emerging technologies that aim to mitigate the risk of offshore energy operations while increasing safe and environmentally responsible operations.

Consistent with its 2019–2022 Strategic Plan, BSEE is implementing key management tools focused on strong and smart programs and processes moving



- The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement was established on October 1, 2011.
- The Bureau conducts more than 20,000 inspections per year to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible operation of approximately 1,700 offshore oil and gas drilling and production facilities and more than 20,000 miles of pipelines.
- BSEE develops standards and regulations to enhance safety and environmental protection for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas and renewable energy on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
- BSEE operates the largest facility in the United States that can test oil spill response equipment with a variety of crude oils and refined petroleum products under reproducible marine conditions.
- BSEE is responsible for initiating, supporting, and promoting science-based research to reduce risk, support safe operations, and promote environmental stewardship on the OCS.

forward. BSEE is working to improve and streamline processes, ensure the efficient use of resources within the bureau, enhance development opportunities for the workforce, and integrate effective stakeholder engagement. Specifically, BSEE is incorporating a risk-based inspection protocol in its inspection strategy; evaluating permitting processes and timeframes to ensure the efficient use of resources and permitting functions that are attuned to program needs; addressing recommendations from the Government Accountability Office, the Inspector General, and other outside organizations; and developing a human capital operating plan to advance the bureau's workforce.

**Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement**—The 2022 budget request supports a total of \$238.3 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement programs, consisting of \$166.1 million in appropriated funds, \$28.8 million in offsetting rental receipt and cost recovery collections, and \$43.4 million in inspection fee collections.

The 2022 request enables BSEE to continue to strengthen oversight, regulatory, and research capabilities on the OCS by building and sustaining staff capabilities. Funds will be used to recruit, train, and retain expert engineers, geoscientists, and inspectors; oil spill planning, prevention, and response specialists; and employees from other disciplines to support the implementation of BSEE's regulatory oversight responsibilities. BSEE will continue outreach and dialogue with stakeholders

from academia, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other governmental agencies to enhance the knowledge base of technical personnel related to innovative technologies, regulatory gaps, real-time monitoring capabilities, and risk-based decision making for safety and environmental enforcement.

BSEE's 2022 budget will continue to focus on supporting risk-based oversight, promoting research and development of new technologies, scientific investments, and monitoring techniques to best manage the Country's natural resources while promoting safe and environmentally responsible development of the Nation's offshore energy resources.

**Deploying Clean Energy**—In addition to regulating oil and gas operations on the OCS, the bureau continues to take actions to support the development of a safe, robust, and sustainable offshore renewable energy industry in the United States.

BSEE's 2022 budget reflects progress made in the offshore renewable energy industry and anticipated growth. Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad directs the Department to review siting and permitting processes on public lands and offshore waters to identify steps to facilitate increased renewable energy production. The Administration has established a goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind production capacity by 2030 while ensuring robust protection

for land, waters, and biodiversity and creating thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs.

BSEE's 2022 budget request fully supports the Administration's priority to tackle the climate crisis. The 2022 request includes \$4.0 million to expand BSEE's Renewable Energy Program to enable timely and rigorous industry plan/permit reviews, create a robust compliance verification and assurance program for new offshore wind infrastructure, and demonstrate BSEE's commitment and leadership in driving safety performance and protecting environmental, cultural, and biological resources on the OCS.



The BSEE!Safe program brings critical safety information directly to offshore workers on the Outer Continental Shelf through the use of text messaging notification technology.

The budget request includes \$1.4 million to support the Administration zero emission vehicles (ZEV) investment strategy to leverage Federal purchasing power to support the deployment of clean-energy vehicles. The program has three core elements: replacing hydrocarbon-powered vehicles with ZEV, investing in ZEV charging infrastructure, and integrating ZEV fleet and infrastructure management.

### Creating Reclamation Jobs—

BSEE's 2022 budget request creates a new budget activity to support the decommissioning of abandoned oil and gas infrastructure on the OCS. The 2022 budget includes \$30.0 million to properly plug and abandon (i.e., cutting 15 feet below mudline) orphaned wells and properly decommission the associated orphaned pipelines. Although this funding does not address the structures associated with these wells and pipelines, it

does fund the most immediate and urgent need to help reduce the risk of pollution.

Unplugged or poorly plugged wells are an environmental hazard, as they provide potential conduits for fluids to migrate between formations and potentially into OCS and State waters. Hurricane forces toppling structures and wells in the OCS pose risks to unplugged wells. Although some wells are equipped with downhole safety valves, leakage from these wells can occur. This circumstance is especially true for orphaned wells for which the downhole valves are not routinely tested and verified. Proper decommissioning of orphaned pipelines reduces the risk of spills to the environment from the oil inventory in these pipelines.

**Advancing Science—**BSEE requests \$4.8 million in 2022 to support renewable energy research. BSEE initiates, supports, and promotes science-based research to fulfill the bureau's mission through the identification and evaluation of critical energy equipment and technology. This process serves to reduce risk, support safe operations, and promote environmental stewardship on the OCS. Research is an essential component of the evaluation and decision-making process used to shape appropriate regulatory policies and practices within emerging programs. As renewable energy continues to rapidly expand along the Atlantic Coast, BSEE's renewable energy research will play a crucial role in ensuring national policies are scientifically



BSEE inspectors play a pivotal role in ensuring that offshore operations are conducted in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

sound and robust. Research outcomes in the three primary areas of risk identification and reduction, technology development, and policy will support the promotion and development of safer and more reliable technology, increase BSEE's ability to analyze and provide solutions to systemic problems, provide leadership with factual data for decision making, and identify and resolve potential safety issues before incidents occur.

**Oil Spill Research**—This program supports research on the prevention and response to oil pollution, as authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Oil Spill Research program plays a pivotal role by initiating applied research to support decision making on the methods and equipment needed to prevent or mitigate oil spills, a critical component of the offshore permitting process. Funds are used to sponsor the testing of new equipment and methods and to support Ohmsett testing and training activities. Located in Leonardo, NJ, the Ohmsett testing facility is the only one of its type in the world, providing full-scale equipment and methodology testing for offshore spills in a safe, controlled environment.

The 2022 budget proposes \$15.1 million for Oil Spill Research, which includes additional funding for renewable energy research. As renewable energy solutions such as offshore wind and marine

hydrokinetic energy gain wider acceptance and emphasis, BSEE is meeting the need to conduct its related mission and responsibilities. The bureau's Oil Spill Preparedness Program is forecasting important resource needs to ensure that offshore renewable energy operations are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The request will also address key knowledge and technology gaps in oil spill responses, focusing on deepwater and Arctic environments.

**Promoting Equity and Diversity**—The BSEE budget includes \$200,000 as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility budget initiative to address identified high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation. As part of this initiative, the Department, bureaus, and offices will jointly conduct a review of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility program across Interior to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and to examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance.

**Fixed Costs**—Fixed costs of \$3.6 million are fully funded.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2022 Request with 2021 Enacted <sup>1/</sup>*

	2021 Enacted		2022 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement .....	734	110,165	758	166,073	+24	+55,908
Oil Spill Research .....	22	14,899	23	15,099	+1	+200
Subtotal, Current .....	756	125,064	781	181,172	+25	+56,108
Offsetting Collections .....	0	73,647	0	72,200	0	-1,447
Reimbursable						
Reimbursable .....	125	0	125	0	0	0
Subtotal, Reimbursable .....	125	0	125	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (w/ oc) .....</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>198,711</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>253,372</b>	<b>+25</b>	<b>+54,661</b>

<sup>1/</sup> The 2021 Enacted amount reflects a rescission of \$10 million.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES**  
*By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity*

**APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request	Change
Environmental Enforcement				
Appropriation.....	2,070	1,590	2,340	+750
Offsetting Collections .....	2,688	3,168	3,168	0
Subtotal, Environmental Enforcement...	4,758	4,758	5,508	+750
Operations, Safety and Regulation				
Appropriation.....	111,951	94,931	107,714	+12,783
Offsetting Collections .....	39,860	57,880	56,433	-1,447
Subtotal, Operations, Safety and Regulation.....	151,811	152,811	164,147	+11,336
Administrative Operations				
Appropriation.....	10,829	9,521	11,546	+2,025
Offsetting Collections .....	7,321	8,629	8,629	0
Subtotal, Administrative Operations.....	18,150	18,150	20,175	+2,025
Executive Direction				
Appropriation.....	14,725	14,123	14,473	+350
Offsetting Collections .....	3,368	3,970	3,970	0
Subtotal, Executive Direction.....	18,093	18,093	18,443	+350
Offshore Decommissioning				
Appropriation.....	0	0	30,000	+30,000
Subtotal, Offshore Decommissioning....	0	0	30,000	+30,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION ( <i>w/o oc</i> ).....	139,575	120,165	166,073	+45,908
Total Offsetting Collections .....	53,237	73,647	72,200	-1,447
TOTAL APPROPRIATION ( <i>w/oc, w/o rescission</i> ) .....	192,812	193,812	238,273	+44,461
Rescission of Prior-Year BA.....	-4,788	-10,000	0	+10,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION ( <i>w/oc and rescission</i> ).....	188,024	183,812	238,273	+54,461

**APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement** *(continued)*

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2022 Change from 2021 Enacted		2022 Change from 2021 Enacted
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	+54,461		
Environmental Enforcement .....	+750	Executive Direction.....	+350
Renewable Energy Program .....	+400	Fixed Costs .....	+350
Fixed Costs .....	+350	Offshore Decommissioning .....	+30,000
Operations, Safety and Regulation.....	+11,336	Offshore Decommissioning .....	+30,000
Renewable Energy Research.....	+4,800	Elimination of Rescission.....	+10,000
Renewable Energy Program .....	+3,600	Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple Subactivities	
Change in Inspection Fees .....	+443	Fixed Costs .....	[+3,593]
Fixed Costs .....	+2,493		
Administrative Operations.....	+2,025		
Zero Emission Vehicles.....	+1,425		
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Initiative.....	+200		
Fixed Costs .....	+400		

**APPROPRIATION: Oil Spill Research**

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	14,899	14,899	15,099	+200

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2022 Change from 2021 Enacted
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	+200
Renewable Energy Research.....	+200