



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

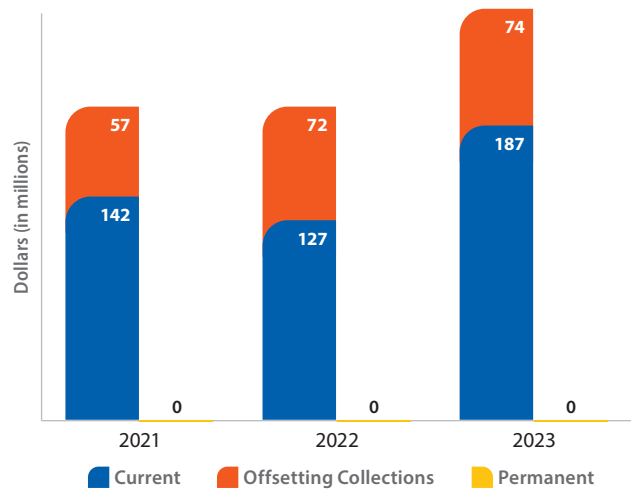
The 2023 budget request for BSEE is \$261.2 million, including \$187.5 million in current appropriations and \$73.7 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees. BSEE estimates staffing will total 926 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2023, including 125 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, 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, which is achieved through efficient permitting, a comprehensive program of regulations, compliance monitoring and enforcement, technical assessments, inspections, and incident investigations. The bureau

BSEE Funding



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, renewable energy, 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. The bureau 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.



- The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) 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.

In 2023, BSEE will continue to focus attention on achieving its mission and implementing key Departmental priorities, ensuring balanced resource use, supporting renewable energy development, and reclaiming land on the OCS. The bureau 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. Those responsibilities include continuing to incorporate a risk-based inspection protocol in its inspection strategy; evaluating permitting processes and timeframes to ensure the efficient use of resources and permitting functions 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 2023 budget request supports \$246.1 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement programs, consisting of \$172.4 million in appropriated funds, \$23.0 million in offsetting rental receipt and cost recovery collections, and \$50.7 million in inspection fee collections, which includes a proposal to collect followup facility inspection fees.

The 2023 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 2023 budget request includes \$1.2 million to establish BSEE's offshore cybersecurity safety threats effort. BSEE will work within Interior and with Federal partners in 2023 to promote the development and implementation of effective cybersecurity and infrastructure security on the offshore assets it regulates, with a particular focus on industrial control system security and program resource buildout to support the development, implementation, and sustainment of a program that will reduce OCS cybersecurity risk.

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 2023 budget reflects the progress made in the offshore renewable energy industry and anticipated growth, as well as the Administration's priority to tackle the climate crisis. The 2023 request includes \$7.7 million to expand BSEE's Renewable Energy Program to enable timely and rigorous industry plan and 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. In addition, the budget request includes \$1.4 million to support the Administration's zero-emission vehicles investment strategy to leverage Federal purchasing power to support the deployment of clean energy vehicles.

BSEE's 2023 budget request maintains the \$30.0 million funding level originally requested in 2022 for decommissioning. In 2022 and continuing into 2023, the bureau will issue contracts to perform

decommissioning services on conventional energy infrastructure orphaned by bankrupt operators in the absence of other jointly or severally liable parties. Those contracts will initially fund the proper plugging and abandonment of orphaned wells and ultimately fund the proper decommissioning of the associated orphaned pipelines and structures that remain.

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 on the OCS pose additional risks to unplugged wells. Although some wells are equipped with downhole safety valves, leakage from those wells can occur. That circumstance is especially true for orphaned wells for which the downhole valves are not routinely tested and their integrity verified. Proper decommissioning of orphaned pipelines reduces the risk of spills to the environment from any hydrocarbons remaining in those pipelines.

BSEE initiates, supports, and promotes



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

BSEE Photo.



This poster is one of several in BSEE's "Lift Your Awareness" campaign focusing on crane, or lifting, safety.

BSEE Photo.

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 continues to advance renewable energy research and plays a crucial role in ensuring that national policies are scientifically 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 funding 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 kind in the world, providing full-scale equipment and methodology testing for offshore spills in a safe, controlled environment.

The 2023 budget proposes \$15.1 million for Oil Spill 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 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 also addresses key knowledge and technology gaps in oil spill responses, focusing on deepwater and Arctic environments.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$4.7 million are fully funded.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2023 Request with 2022 CR

	2022 CR		2023 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	734	111,835	778	172,378	+44	+60,543
Oil Spill Research	22	14,899	23	15,099	+1	+200
Subtotal, Current.....	756	126,734	801	187,477	+45	+60,743
Offsetting Collections	0	72,200	0	73,708	0	+1,508
Reimbursable	125	0	125	0	0	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (w/ oc)	881	198,934	926	261,185	+45	+62,251

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations. For further details see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Environmental Enforcement				
Appropriation	1,590	1,590	2,690	+1,100
Offsetting Collections	3,168	3,168	3,168	0
Subtotal, Environmental Enforcement	4,758	4,758	5,858	+1,100
Operations, Safety and Regulation				
Appropriation	109,197	96,378	113,002	+16,624
Offsetting Collections	43,614	56,433	57,941	+1,508
Subtotal, Operations, Safety and Regulation ..	152,811	152,811	170,943	+18,132
Administrative Operations				
Appropriation	12,028	9,521	11,863	+2,342
Offsetting Collections	6,122	8,629	8,629	0
Subtotal, Administrative Operations	18,150	18,150	20,492	+2,342
Executive Direction				
Appropriation	14,123	14,123	14,823	+700
Offsetting Collections	3,970	3,970	3,970	0
Subtotal, Executive Direction	18,093	18,093	18,793	+700
Offshore Decommissioning				
Appropriation	0	0	30,000	+30,000
Subtotal, Offshore Decommissioning	0	0	30,000	+30,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o oc)	136,938	121,612	172,378	+50,766
Total Offsetting Collections	56,874	72,200	73,708	+1,508
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc; w/o rescission and supplemental)	193,812	193,812	246,086	+52,274
Rescission of Prior-Year BA	-10,000	-10,000	0	+10,000
Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 117-43)	0	+223	0	-223
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc, rescission, and supplemental)	183,812	184,035	246,086	+62,051

APPROPRIATION: Oil Spill Research

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	14,899	14,899	15,099	+200