

JUN 17 2015

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT'S
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES
WITHIN THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STATE GEOLOGISTS**

REGARDING COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

I. PARTIES AND PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM), Office of Strategic Resources (OSR) and the Association of American State Geologists (AASG).

The purpose of this program specific MOU is to foster interaction, cooperation, and coordination between BOEM and AASG regarding Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) resources. Annexes will be developed under this MOU expressing mutual agreement for cooperation and communication between the organizational or program offices of the BOEM and AASG. The Chief, Office of Strategic Resources of BOEM (BOEM Chief, OSR) will serve as BOEM's point of contact for this MOU. The President of AASG will serve as its point of contact.

II. BACKGROUND

The BOEM and the AASG recognize the need for cross collaboration and information sharing; while these informal relationships exist, today's interests in OCS resources have highlighted the need to further communicate plans and improve information exchange. Since the 1990s, the BOEM has worked with numerous state geological surveys on Cooperative Agreements to evaluate OCS sand resources for coastal resilience and restoration projects and planning.

BOEM's mission is to manage the development of the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

The BOEM OSR is responsible for the development of the Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program. The office also oversees assessments of oil, gas and other mineral resource potential of the OCS, inventories oil and gas reserves, develops production projections, conducts economic evaluations to ensure U.S. taxpayers receive fair market value for OCS leases, and prepares official maps and GIS data for the OCS.

The AASG is an organization of the chief executives of the state geological surveys in the 50 states and Puerto Rico. Objectives of the AASG are:

- i. To advance the science and practical application of geology and related earth sciences in the United States and its territories, commonwealths, and possessions;
- ii. To improve the effectiveness of state geological surveys through interchange of ideas pertaining to their administrative organization, programs, and applications to economic change and other geologically related issues;
- iii. To improve methods of assembling and disseminating data and information to mining, energy, agriculture, utility, construction, insurance, and banking industries, educational institutions, civic and professional organizations, legislators, governmental agencies, water resource managers, and the public; and,
- iv. To effectively coordinate activities with Federal and state agencies in related fields.

The responsibilities of the various state geological surveys differ from state to state, depending upon the enabling legislation, the traditions under which the survey evolved, and each survey's administrative position within a state's government. All state geological surveys function as basic scientific information sources for their respective governments' executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

III. AUTHORITIES

BOEM OSR is authorized to enter into this MOU under:

- i. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. § 1331 et seq., which charged the Secretary of the Interior with the responsibility for administering minerals exploration and development in the OCS; and formulating regulations to implement the provisions of the act.
- ii. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321-4347, which requires that all Federal agencies use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences in any planning and decision-making that may have an effect on the human environment.
- iii. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 388(b) which directs the Department of Interior to establish an interagency comprehensive digital mapping initiative for OCS to assist in decision-making related to the siting of activities related to alternate energy related uses on the OCS under OCSLA, §8(p).
- iv. Secretarial Order 3299 assigned BOEM conventional and renewable energy management functions, including, but not limited to, activities involving resource evaluation, planning, and leasing. Pursuant to this Secretarial Order 3299 and various delegations of authority BOEM conducts environmental studies, NEPA analyses, economic and reserves analyses, and geologic risk analysis.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

The BOEM OSR and the AASG will meet as appropriate to discuss their priorities. Opportunities for meeting will include, but not be limited to, AASG Spring and Fall Liaison Committee meetings, and the AASG Annual and mid-year meetings. The Chief of BOEM OSR and the AASG President will designate individuals to serve as the focal points for determining the frequency and nature of these meetings.

The BOEM OSR may provide information to AASG on relevant BOEM permitting, research, and planning activities for informal review and comment by the affected states. The AASG, through individual state geological surveys, may provide information to the BOEM OSR on relevant state projects for informal review and comment. The purpose of these reviews is to facilitate information sharing that will foster mutually beneficial interaction, increase opportunities for cooperative BOEM-state geological survey activities, and minimize conflicts and misunderstanding.

BOEM OSR agrees to:

- i. Collaborate and exchange non-proprietary information on projects and proposed offshore activities.
- ii. Communicate priorities based on mandates from Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the needs of its stakeholders including Federal, state, and local agencies.
- iii. Foster cooperative planning efforts amongst stakeholders, collaborators, and partners.

AASG agrees to:

- i. Collaborate and exchange information on state project offshore needs.
- ii. Communicate state priorities established in response to state legislative and administrative mandates and requests.
- iii. Foster cooperative planning efforts amongst applicable stakeholders, collaborators, and partners.

All press-related communication relating to this MOU will be approved by BOEM and the AASG Executive Committee and coordinated through the BOEM OSR and BOEM's Office of Public Affairs.

V. FUNDS

Nothing in this MOU will require changes in any funding obligations, nor require either party to assume new funding obligations, nor affect decisions regarding funding awarded by BOEM to state geological surveys in competition with other entities. This MOU may, however, provide a vehicle for interaction between various BOEM program offices, BOEM regional offices, and the AASG.

VI. DURATION OF AGREEMENT, AMENDMENTS, OR TERMINATION

This MOU will become effective upon signing by both parties. The MOU will continue in effect for 5 years from the effective date unless either party chooses to terminate the MOU after having provided 90 days' notice in writing to the other party.

At the conclusion of five (5) years, this MOU will be reviewed to determine whether it should be renewed, modified, or terminated. A letter signed by both parties shall be sufficient to renew this MOU for an additional period of five (5) years. This MOU will terminate automatically unless the parties renew it.

Any annexes, when developed, will continue in effect per mutual agreement for the duration

of this MOU or as described in each annex. Any annex will terminate upon the termination of this MOU.

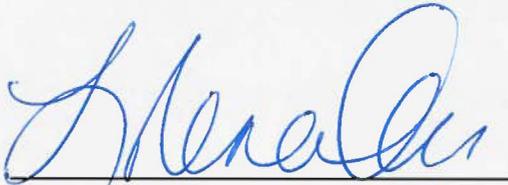
The parties intend that all future negotiated agreements between the BOEM (all disciplines and programs) and the AASG will become annexes to this MOU, when signed. Copies of all annexes shall be provided to the Chief of BOEM OSR and to the President of AASG.

VII. RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS

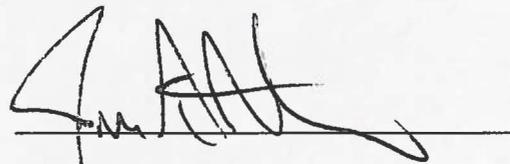
Should disagreement arise on the interpretation of the provisions of this MOU, or amendments and/or revisions thereto that cannot be resolved at the operating level, i.e. staff of BOEM OCS and the AASG Executive Committee, the area(s) of disagreement shall be stated in writing by each Party and presented to the other Party for consideration. If agreement on interpretation is not reached within 30 days, the Parties shall forward the written presentation of the disagreement to respective higher officials for appropriate resolution.

VIII. APPROVALS

This MOU is entered into and made effective as of the last date written below.



Renee Orr
Chief, Office of Strategic Resources
BOEM



Jonathan Arthur, Ph.D.
President
AASG

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