

Air Quality in the Gulf of Mexico Study

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BOEM is required to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to the extent that OCS offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production sources do not significantly affect the air quality of any state. To assess the emissions of offshore oil and gas production activities and their impacts, BOEM sponsored the *Air Quality Modeling in the Gulf of Mexico Region* Study. The study will assist states and regional planning organizations that conduct modeling for State Implementation Plan (SIP) demonstrations and will be used to enhance the BOEM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The study consists of four major tasks: meteorological modeling, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) support, emission exemption threshold (EET) evaluation, and report preparation. The study team is led by Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) with support from Ramboll Environ, Inc. and Alpine Geophysics, LLC.

An overview will be presented on the EIS support tasks conducted to date and future plans—base case and future scenario emissions inventory development, meteorological modeling tasks, and photochemical modeling tasks. Last, current progress in the EET evaluation task will be presented.

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