

Letter of Intent between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection of the Hydrocarbons Sector of the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States

Purpose

The purpose of this Letter of Intent is to document that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, hereinafter BOEM, of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America (U.S.), and the National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection of the Hydrocarbons Sector, also referred to as the Agency for Safety, Energy, and Environment, hereinafter ASEA, of the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) of the United Mexican States (Mexico), intend to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and information sharing on environmental matters related to offshore hydrocarbon activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Background

BOEM is responsible for managing the development of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. In carrying out its responsibilities, BOEM balances the goals of economic development, energy production, and environmental protection through its oil and gas and renewable energy leasing programs, as well environmental reviews and studies.

ASEA was formally established on March 2, 2015, as a decentralized administrative body of Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources. ASEA has technical and administrative autonomy and is responsible for the regulation and supervision of industrial and operational safety, as well as for environmental protection related to activities and facilities in the hydrocarbon sector.

The U.S. and Mexico have a long history of mutually beneficial cooperation on conservation, management, and sustainable development of natural resources.

Continued cooperation between BOEM and ASEA is in keeping with broader bilateral efforts of cooperation in the environmental and hydrocarbons sectors between the two countries, including but not limited to the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of the Interior and Mexico's SEMARNAT, the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of the Interior and Mexico's Ministry of Energy, and the 2012 Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Terms of Cooperation

Desiring to promote safe and environmentally responsible development of the offshore hydrocarbon resources of the U.S. and Mexico, BOEM and ASEA intend to pursue terms of cooperation that may include the following:

1. Cooperation related to shared environmental objectives, including but not limited to the preparation of joint studies and research where appropriate.
2. Application of science and management practices related to environmental protection.
3. Periodic exchanges of information.
4. Organization of bilateral events and visits.
5. Participation as observers in activities related to each country's respective authorities.
6. Training of staff.
7. Further cooperation by way of any other terms BOEM and ASEA may hereafter determine.

Responsibilities

BOEM and ASEA designate the following officials to implement the terms of cooperation for this Letter of Intent:

1. On behalf of BOEM: The Director of BOEM
2. On behalf of ASEA: The Executive Director of ASEA

The Director of BOEM and the Executive Director of ASEA may designate staff from their respective agencies to serve as points of contact and to provide overall coordination for each agency.

Scope and Relationship

BOEM and ASEA intend to carry out the terms of cooperation referred to herein within the scope of their respective legal authorities. Nothing in this Letter of Intent creates, affects, amends, or alters any legal rights, obligations, or requirements of BOEM and ASEA.

Funding

All terms of cooperation under this Letter of Intent are subject to the availability of funds. BOEM and ASEA intend to implement the terms of cooperation under this Letter of Intent in accordance with each agency's legal authorities and applicable laws. This Letter of Intent does not make or authorize any expenditure or obligation of funds; nor does it make any financial or other legally enforceable commitment on behalf of BOEM or ASEA. Any commitments or specific program initiatives that may be undertaken in furtherance of this Letter of Intent may be addressed in separate documents. This Letter of Intent does not create any legally enforceable right or benefit, substantive or procedural, by a party against either BOEM or ASEA, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Effectiveness

This Letter of Intent becomes effective on the date that it is signed by representatives of both BOEM and ASEA. The Letter of Intent may be modified in writing upon the mutual determination of BOEM and ASEA, and may be discontinued by either agency 90 days after written notice.

Notices

Notices to either participant related to this Letter of Intent may be transmitted electronically to:

For BOEM:

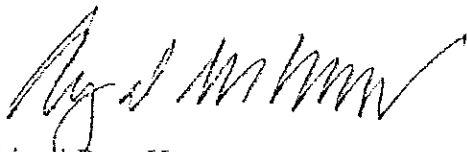
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Attn: International Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W., MS-5238
Washington, DC, 20240
United States
internationalaffairs@boem.gov

For ASEA:

Office for International Cooperation (Dirección
General de Cooperación Internacional)
Agencia de Seguridad, Energía y Ambiente
Melchor Ocampo 469, Col. Nueva Anzures,
Delegación Miguel Hidalgo
Ciudad de México, C.P. 11590
México
vinculacion@asea.gob.mx

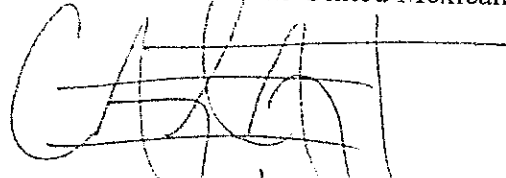
Signed in the city of Washington, D.C. on this 5th day of October, 2016, in English in duplicate.

For the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
of the Department of the Interior
of the United States of America:



Abigail Ross Hopper

For the National Agency for Industrial Safety and
Environmental Protection of the Hydrocarbons
Sector of the Secretariat of the Environment and
Natural Resources of the United Mexican States:



Carlos Salvador de Regules Ruiz-Funes