

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
GULF OF MEXICO AND ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICES**

BOEM NTL No. 2022-N01

Effective Date: October 1, 2022
Expiration Date: September 30, 2024

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

**2023 OCS Emissions Inventory
Western and Central Gulf of Mexico and Adjacent to the North Slope Borough of the State
of Alaska**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is reissuing and updating this Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL). This NTL supersedes NTL No. 2020-N03 dated, October 1, 2020. It describes when and how to report 2023 emissions data to BOEM.

Introduction

BOEM is issuing this NTL to instruct lessees and operators about the activity information and related emissions source data they should collect and submit for use in the 2023 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Emissions Inventory and to inform them about where they can find instructions for submitting the activity and emissions reports necessary for compliance with BOEM’s regulations at 30 CFR 550.303(k) and 550.304(g).

Background

The BOEM Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Office (GOMR) prepared Gulfwide Emissions Inventories in 2000, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2021, to monitor emissions from OCS facilities in accordance with 30 CFR 550.303(k) and 550.304(g). The 2021 inventory collected information about OCS facilities in the Alaska OCS Region offshore of the North Slope Borough of Alaska in addition to the GOMR, and BOEM plans to prepare a 2023 OCS Emissions Inventory that will include facilities in both the GOMR and offshore Alaska’s North Slope Borough.

BOEM needs this information to evaluate the effectiveness of its regulations under section 5(a)(8) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1334(a)(8), and to support BOEM’s environmental analyses and coordination with other agencies. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (Pub. L. No. 101-549, Nov. 15, 1990; 40 CFR Part 51.30; as implemented through 40 CFR part 51,) require states to prepare air emission inventories every three years, beginning in 1996. BOEM has assisted states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with meeting this requirement by collecting and compiling emissions from OCS sources. BOEM is continuing this assistance with the 2023 inventory. These emission inventories

support the coordination between Department of the Interior (DOI) and the USEPA called for in section 328(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7627(b)) with respect to regulation of OCS emissions in areas under DOI air quality jurisdiction as described in the next paragraph, and emissions in adjacent onshore areas.

Collecting and Reporting Information

BOEM requests information about 2023 emissions from OCS facilities located west of 87° 30' West longitude in the Gulf of Mexico Central and Western Planning Areas and offshore the North Slope Borough of Alaska, which includes the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas and a portion of the Hope Basin Planning Area. Lessees and operators with facilities (as defined in 30 CFR 550.302) in these areas are to collect and report activity information, including facility, equipment, and fuel usage, and report emissions data covering the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

The collection and submission of this OCS activity and emissions data are to be completed using the web-based emissions reporting tool, OCS AQS. The tool will capture activity data and calculate a 2023 inventory of emissions data. The activity and emissions information needed is more specifically delineated and described in the OCS AQS User's Guide.

Operators and lessees are not required to report emissions from sources that do not constitute a "facility" as defined in 30 CFR 550.302. Supply or crew transport vessels are not facilities as defined in the regulation, and drilling rigs or vessels such as mobile offshore drilling units are required to report emissions only when they are connected either to the seabed or to a facility. Additional instructions on what constitutes a facility for the purposes of meeting the requirements of 30 CFR 550.302 are covered in the OCS AQS User's Manual.

On October 1, 2022, BOEM will place the following information on its website at <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/2023-ocs-emissions-inventory>:

- (1) A copy of this NTL;¹
- (2) A link to the web-based emissions reporting tool, OCS AQS, which will be used to collect and report lessee and operator OCS activity and emissions data;
- (3) The OCS AQS User's Manual, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and submittal information; and
- (4) Technical Support/Updates.

By March 29, 2024, submit all calendar year 2023 activity and emissions data to BOEM through OCS AQS. As provided above, this notice applies to all facilities located on the OCS in areas under DOI jurisdiction for air quality.

¹ This Notice will also be available at: <https://www.boem.gov/guidance>

Authority

BOEM's authority for requiring emissions monitoring and reporting is based on section 5(a)(8) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1334(a)(8), (the geographical extent of which was modified by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-74)), and BOEM's regulations at 30 CFR 550.303(k) and 550.304(g).

Guidance Document Statement

BOEM issues NTLs as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 550.103 to clarify and provide more detail about certain BOEM regulatory requirements and to outline the recommended information to be provided in various submittals.

Except to the extent that provisions of this NTL derive from requirements established by statute, regulation, or by a provision in the lease, they do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This NTL is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

This NTL provides clarification, description, and interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR Part 550, Subpart C. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. OMB has approved the information collection requirement in these regulations under OMB control number 1010-0057. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

If you have any questions concerning this Notice, please contact Ms. Holli (Ensz) Wecht of BOEM's Office of Environmental Programs by telephone at (571) 585-8348, or by email at holli.wecht@boem.gov.

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