



## MEETING SUMMARY

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
**PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR OIL AND GAS  
DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES ON THE PACIFIC OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
NOVEMBER 10, 2022  
3 P.M. – 5 P.M. PT  
VIRTUAL MEETING

### I. Introduction

As part of the public comment process, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hosted two virtual public meetings to present the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS or “Draft”) and gather public input on the content of the Draft. This summary covers the first of the two meetings (the second took place on November 15, 2022).

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Fifty-one participants attended. Government participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, and local governments. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the media. The meeting began at 3 p.m. and ended at 4:06 p.m. Staff remained available online until 5:01 p.m.

The meeting recording and transcripts are available at: <https://www.boem.gov/regions/pacific-ocs-region/oil-gas/pacific-oil-and-gas-decommissioning-activities>.

Meeting objectives:

- Inform the public on the Draft PEIS.
- Answer questions related to the Draft PEIS process.
- Solicit public comment on the Draft PEIS.
- Next Steps for PEIS Process.

This document focuses on public comment input received rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West (K&W) facilitated the meeting.

Summary contents:

- I. Introduction

- II. Draft PEIS Meeting Highlights
  - A. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - B. Overview of BOEM Decommissioning Draft PEIS
  - C. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
  - D. Public Input Opportunity (Listening Session)
  - E. Closing Remarks
- III. Appendices
  - A. Agenda
  - B. Public Participant List
  - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
  - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
  - E. Poll Results

## II. Draft EA Meeting Highlights

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### 1. *Jenna Tourje, Facilitator with Kearns & West*

The meeting opened with a welcome to participants, followed by a summary of meeting objectives and guidance on navigating the Zoom Webinar. The facilitator presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations, and the second determined the number of participants planning to provide oral comments at the meeting. Appendix E contains polling results.

Mrs. Tourjé-Maldonado explained the question and answer and public comment portions. She noted that the question and answer portion is open for questions related to the environmental NEPA process and questions outside of that scope will be noted by the BOEM and BSEE teams. The public comment portion is an opportunity to provide official comments on the record.

#### 2. *Richard (Rick) Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific Regional Office*

Rick Yarde thanked the public for joining the meeting. He noted that the draft PEIS is out and available for public comment. Mr. Yarde explained the authority of BOEM's Office of Environment and BOEM's directives to prepare the environmental impact statement. He noted that BSEE is the decision-making authority on the PEIS. Mr. Yarde explained how participants could provide public comments and welcomed comments on how to make analyses better for decommissioning applications and oil and gas infrastructure in California.

#### 3. *Bruce Hesson, Regional Director, BSEE Pacific Regional Office*

Bruce Hesson welcomed participants to the first of two public meetings on the decommissioning PEIS in the Pacific Region. He explained BSEE's authority to enforce safety and environmental activities in the Pacific OCS. He noted BSEE's authority to enforce obligations of offshore oil and gas platforms and associated facilities in federal waters. Mr. Hesson stated that BSEE initiated a PEIS in July 2021, and that BSEE is assisting BOEM in the environmental analysis as BSEE is the decision maker over decommissioning activities. He noted that the environmental analysis will provide critical information on

decommissioning activities. And finally, Bruce Hesson shared, BSEE staff will consider all comments received today or in writing on the draft PEIS.

4. *Theresa Stevens, Senior Project Manager, Regulatory Division, Los Angeles District, North Coast Branch ACOE*

Theresa Stevens welcomed participants to the meeting and stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was invited as a cooperating agency to address NEPA compliance on the PEIS. She stated the USACE has no current action, but the PEIS will inform the permit process for future activities in the future. Additionally, Theresa explained, the USACE is determined to understand impacts on the environment. Under the federal permit program, Theresa Stevens shared, the Corps is responsible for actions in federal waters, and they have a responsibility to analyze impacts prior to making a permit decision. Lastly, she noted the USACE will accept and consider all comments received today on the draft PEIS.

## B. Overview of the BOEM Pacific OCS Decommissioning Draft PEIS

*Linette Makua, NEPA Coordinator, Environmental Analysis Section, BOEM's Pacific Regional Office*

Linette Makua presented an overview of BOEM's planning approach for oil and gas platform decommissioning, background on the infrastructure, and an overview of the PEIS. She provided information on the oil and gas platform locations and the Pacific coastline. Ms. Makua then overviewed a simplified platform diagram, images, and the history of offshore federal infrastructure installations.

Linette Makua highlighted the process for decommissioning and noted that a working group was formed to develop a citizen's guide to offshore oil and gas decommissioning in federal waters off California. She noted that conductor removal is a separate analysis already taking place, which is described in Appendices B and C of the draft PEIS. Ms. Makua highlighted the differences between a PEIS and EIS, stating that the PEIS does not approve decommissioning activities, nor does it require consultation. A PEIS evaluates the effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions, Linette Makua noted, whereas EIS are site-specific. Additionally, she stated, BSEE will analyze input exactly as received in later site-specific NEPA analyses.

Linette Makua then highlighted the chapters of the PEIS beginning with Chapter 1 on Purpose and Need, which is to ensure safe and environmentally sound decommissioning activities. She reviewed Chapter 2 which describes the alternatives and the proposed action such as complete removal of platforms, partial platform removal, partial removal and upper jackets placed as an artificial reef, and no action. Linette Makua described the alternatives in detail and noted associated regulations. Ms. Makua provided an overview of Chapter 3 which includes the four resource impact levels (negligible, minor, moderate, and major) and various biological, physical, and sociocultural impacts. She noted that these studies will be consulted on through the Section 106 process, and BOEM's preferred mitigation method is avoidance. Ms. Makua then described Chapter 4, which covers cumulative impacts and environmental consequences, such as noise, habitat loss, sanitary waste, and space-use conflicts, amongst others, noting that tables 4.1-1 and 4.1-2 would include the full potential consequences. Impact analyses considered reasonably foreseeable future activities such as offshore wind development, offshore military training, commercial shipping and navigation, commercial and recreational fisheries, and aquaculture, amongst others.

Ms. Makua noted the 42 research and studies conducted on oil and gas decommissioning offshore California that are included here: <https://www.boem.gov/Selected-BOEM-BSEE-Research-Decommissioning-CA/> which will inform BOEM's assessment. She explained the process to provide public comments and noted the deadline is December 12, 2022, at 8:59 Pacific Time. Linette Makua asked that further questions on the BOEM Decommissioning Draft PEIS process be directed to her at [linette.makua@boem.gov](mailto:linette.makua@boem.gov).

### C. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions related to the draft PEIS process. BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered such topics as:

- Members of the public asked about the process for the eight platforms currently underway with decommissioning.
- Members of the public asked if there is a separate process for associated onshore facilities.

Appendix E contains the questions and responses.

### D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

Mrs. Tourjé-Maldonado invited participants to provide oral public comments. A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- Public comment period extension. Extend the public comment period to 45 days to allow for a full review of the draft PEIS.
- Management of debris mounds. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 would allow the industry to leave debris mounds and not allow for sufficient cleanup. Look more closely at leaving mounds in place long-term because of concerns about toxic contamination related to previously removed oil platforms.
- Identify the responsible party of the federal state reef program. Alternative 2 would allow the lower jacket to be left in place. This can only be done under a federal state reef program.
- Water contamination. Analyze the risk of seismic events and tsunamis that will leave toxic waste. Identify how pipeline decommissioning can be done so it doesn't contaminate the marine environment with what is in the pipelines. Use cleaner engine boats and barges to reduce diesel fuel and improve the climate. Analyze mitigation measures for burned fuels.
- Consider re-purposing platforms. Utilize platforms, save jackets, and maintain top portions of the platforms for aquaculture, desalination, and renewable energy.

Appendix D lists public comments.

### E. Closing Remarks

Richard Yarde thanked participants for their time and comments. He encouraged participants to submit further comments via mail and email and to visit <https://www.boem.gov/regions/pacific-ocs-region/oil-gas/pacific-oil-and-gas-decommissioning-activities> to and view meeting recordings.

Mr. Yarde noted the next steps in the PEIS process and that the public comment period ends December 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST / 8:59 p.m. PST. Comments can be submitted through Regulations.gov under the docket number BOEM-2021-0043. Comment period extension requests are being considered and updates will be posted on the website.

Ms. Makua noted that the final PEIS would come out around June 2023, and a final decision will be made in late summer of 2023.

Thanked BSEE and USACE for being partners in the PEIS process.

### III. Appendices

#### A. Agenda

## Public Meeting for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf

### Public Meeting

#### Agenda

November 10, 2022

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. PT

Registration:

[https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2M1AsI5sR\\_ybCiEQ89lu5Q](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2M1AsI5sR_ybCiEQ89lu5Q)

#### Meeting Objectives

- Provide an overview of the PEIS and briefly cover the NEPA process
- Answer questions related specifically to the NEPA process
- Solicit public comment on the Draft PEIS
- Next Steps for PEIS Process:
  - o December 12 – PEIS comment closes
  - o Follow website for updates
  - o Final PEIS will be released around May/June 2023
  - o Decision Document expected to be complete in Summer 2023

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
3:00 – 3:5 pm	Welcome and Webinar Guidance	K&W Facilitator: Jenna Tourje-Maldonado
3:05 – 3:15pm	Introductory Remarks	Rick Yarde (BOEM) Bruce Hesson (BSEE) Theresa Stevens (USACE)

<b>3:15 – 3:35 pm</b>	<b>Overview of BOEM Decommissioning Draft PEIS</b>	Linette Makua (BOEM)
<b>3:35 – 3:55 pm</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b> <i>Clarifying questions on the NEPA process</i>	Rick Yarde & Linette Makua
<b>3:55 – 4:55 pm</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	K&W Facilitator: Jenna Tourje-Maldonado
<b>4:55 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Rick Yarde (BOEM)

## B. Public Participation List

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Type of Affiliation</b>
Aubrie	Fowler	MPA Collaborative Network	Non-governmental Organization
Becky	Ota	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	Government
Bill	Toman	U.S. Air Force	Government
Bob	Wilson	Stantec	Business/Industry
Brady	Bradshaw	Center for Biological Diversity	Non-governmental Organization
Brian	Owens	CDFW	Government
Christopher	Potter	CDFW	Government
Corianna	Flannery	CDFW	Government
Crystal	D'Souza	CDFW	Government
Daniel	Snyder	Chevron	Business/Industry
Daniel	Studt	NOAA Fisheries West Coast	Government

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Type of Affiliation</b>
David	Rose	Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas	Business/Industry
Emily	Lieban	Holland & Knight	Other
Geneva	Monteleone	Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	Government
Hadley	Clark	WHOI	Non-governmental organization
Ivor	John	Retired	Community-Based Organization
Janet	Stich	None	Other
Jean		Chevron	Business/Industry
Jeff	Maassen	CSUDN- California Sea URchin Divers Network	Other
John	Smith	TSB Offshore Inc.	Business/Industry
Jonathan	Wallace	Chevron	Business/Industry
Julia	Chunn-Heer	Surfrider Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Kate	Herrod	Aon Risk Services Southwest	Business/Industry
Kimberly	Ward	BSEE	Government
MacKayla	Class	Orange County Coastkeeper	Community-Based Organization
Mary	Nishimoto	Joint Oil/Fisheries Liaison Office	Other
Molly	Troup	Santa Barbara Channelkeeper	Non-governmental organization



First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Type of Affiliation
Pete	Stauffer	Surfrider Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Rachel	Krasna	ECONcrete	Business/Industry
Rachel	Kondor	Environmental Defense Center	Non-governmental organization
Raoul	Martin	Chevron	Business/Industry
Rebecca	Ramirez	NRDC	Non-governmental organization
Rebecca	Trujillo	Chevron	Business/Industry
Renato	Cordeiro	BMP AMBIENTAL	Other
Sara	Dearman	Chevron	Business/Industry
Sean	Guiltinan	Stantec	Business/Industry
Simon	Poulter	Padre Associates, Inc.	Business/Industry
Walid	Masri	Chevron	Business/Industry

### c. Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participants asked clarifying questions in the Zoom Q&A box after both presentations. Descriptions of questions and responses for both sessions are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

#### *Questions*

1. What is the process for the eight platforms currently underway with decommissioning?
  - a. The PEIS provides a foundation for future analysis. The PEIS does not include any current approvals, so the eight platforms currently underway are not included since they are in very early stages i.e. only conductor removal. As BSEE receives applications for decommissioning in the future, there will be environmental assessments associated with each application.
2. Is there a separate process for associated onshore oil and gas facilities?

- a. Question was noted for later response.

## D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments were received during the meeting. These are summaries of the comments received and are not intended to be verbatim.

1. A robust EIS will provide a key foundation to successfully decommission the 23 platforms off California in a safe and environmentally sound manner.
2. We're also encouraged to hear that the public comment period was extended. However, we urge you to extend the comment deadline by a full forty-five days, so the public will have sufficient time to review the document.
3. We are happy to see the agency analyze a full range of alternatives, including the full removal of platforms off California's coast. We're also pleased that the EIS addresses both temporary and long-term impacts and recognizes the differences between the two.
4. Alternatives two, three, and four would allow industry to leave debris mounds and that would not allow for complete site cleanup. This represents a potential environmental hazard that should be addressed in the Programmatic EIS.
5. Alternative two would allow the lower jacket to be left in place and under Federal regulations, this can only be done if it's part of a State artificial reef program. So that raises questions about who maintains liability and management responsibility.
6. The alternatives analysis and impacts on invasive species were particularly well done, as well as the way this executive summary and the body of the EIS analyzed populations of fish with the localized versus regional population impacts.
7. The analysis of the challenges and feasibility of some of the alternative reuses that have been proposed for the platform, such as renewable energy given the age and deterioration of the platforms, was appreciated.
8. There are concerns with the shell mounds. Are there efforts to look more closely at the environmental impacts of leaving infrastructure and debris mounds in place long term? There are concerns because of the evidence of toxic contamination in the debris mounds left when Chevron removed the four H platforms offshore. And in addition, the EIS should analyze the potential risks of seismic events and tsunamis for a possible release of contaminants from shell mounds.
9. In terms of water quality, there is a question regarding the pipeline flushing issue when the pipelines are decommissioned either to be removed or to be left in place. How is that done so that it doesn't contaminate the marine environment with what is inside the pipelines?
10. And then lastly we're looking and hoping for a more robust discussion of the likelihood of the availability of cleaner engine boats and barges and equipment to reduce the use of diesel fuel, both to reduce the pollution as well as the impact of the climate. And we'd also like to ask for the effect of the proposed mitigation measures of cleaner burning fuels to be analyzed.
11. Utilize the platforms, saving the jackets and maintaining some portion of the topsides, for aquaculture possibilities. There are likely 40 sea urchin vessels that are uniquely qualified and competent to be able to dive, harvest, and perform aquaculture activities on the oil platform legs. Keep the jackets up to the surface, and then some form of topside, and grow abalone, scallops, muscles, etc. for food.

12. Utilize platforms for desalination for any potential future technology that comes up with alternative energy sources. With the current climate crisis in mind, the platforms can also be used to provide habitat and refuge for sea life and marine life.

## E. Poll Results

### *Participant Affiliation*

<b>Affiliated Group</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Community-Based Organization	6%
Other	6%
Government	17%
Non-Governmental Organization	28%
Business/Industry	44%

### *Public Comment: Are you planning to provide a public comment today?*

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	17%
No	72%
Maybe	11%