



Regulatory Affairs Report

David Dykes – Committee contact

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Send items to post in this report to David Dykes

October, 2016

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<p>BSEE BOEM</p>	<p>BSEE and ASEA Strengthen Cooperation, 10/5/2016, Washington In order to strengthen cooperation between the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection of the Hydrocarbons Sector (ASEA), the directors of both agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday in Washington, D.C. Carlos de Regules, Executive Director of ASEA, explained that the document specifies various areas of cooperation related to the design and implementation of regulations for companies that develop offshore exploration and production projects, stating that priority should be given to the safety of people and environmental protection in both Mexico and the United States.</p> <p>BOEM Announces Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Gulf of Mexico Geological and Geophysical Surveys, 09/28/2016, Washington The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) today announced the availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that recommends strong measures to protect marine mammals and coastal environments in the Gulf of Mexico from the potential impacts of geological and geophysical (G&G) surveys for oil, gas and minerals.</p> <p>Completion of the draft PEIS was a condition of a federal court settlement between BOEM and the Natural Resources Defense Council and other co-plaintiffs announced earlier this year.</p> <p>BOEM will conduct the following public meetings to solicit input on the Draft PEIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Orleans, Louisiana: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, Wyndham Garden New Orleans Airport, 6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana 70003; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST • Gulfport, Mississippi: Thursday, November 10, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST; • Fort Walton Beach, Florida: Monday, November 14, 2016, Four Points By Sheraton Destin-Fort Walton Beach, 1325 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST; • Mobile, Alabama: Tuesday, November 15, 2016, The Admiral Hotel Mobile, Curio 	<p>https://www.bsee.gov/newsroom/latest-news/statements-and-releases/press-releases/bsee-and-asea-strengthen-cooperation</p> <p>Press Release</p> <p>Federal Register Notice</p>
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	<p>Collection by Hilton, 251 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houston, Texas: Thursday, November 17, 2016, Houston Marriott North, 255 North Sam Houston Pkwy East, Houston, Texas 77060; one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST and ending at 7:00 p.m. CST. <p>Interior Issues Final Regulations to Address Current Offshore Production Safety Technologies, 08/26/2016, WASHINGTON</p> <p>The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is amending and updating the regulations regarding oil and natural gas production safety on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by addressing issues such as: Safety and pollution prevention equipment design and maintenance, production safety systems, subsurface safety devices, and safety device testing. The rule differentiates the requirements for operating dry tree and subsea tree production systems and divides the current BSEE regulations regarding oil and gas production safety systems into multiple sections to make the regulations easier to read and understand. The changes in this rule are necessary to improve human safety, environmental protection, and regulatory oversight of critical equipment involving production safety systems.</p> <p>DATES:</p> <p>This rule becomes effective on November 7, 2016. Compliance with certain provisions of the final rule, however, will be deferred until the times specified in those provisions and as described in part II.E of this document.</p> <p>Oil Spill Response Planning Aided by New Calculators, 08/17/2016, Sterling, VA</p> <p>The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) announced the release of four new oil spill response calculators today as part of an ongoing effort to improve future clean-up efforts. According to John Caplis, an oil spill response coordinator for the bureau, the use of the calculators is viewed by BSEE as a “best practice” and their use will be strongly encouraged when operators prepare oil spill response plans for offshore facilities. Caplis explained that the new calculators focus on methods to identify optimum system arrangements for three oil spill clean-up approaches: mechanical recovery equipment,</p>	<p>https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-09-07/pdf/2016-20967.pdf</p> <p>https://www.bsee.gov/site-page/response-system-planning-calculators</p>
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	<p>dispersants, and in situ burn. The calculators allow spill responders to better assess the oil removal capabilities of different equipment, and assist them in selecting the most effective approaches for responding to the potential spill scenarios contained within a response plan. “Use of the response planning calculators translates into better preparedness by industry. Ultimately their use should result in more effective responses to spills,” Caplis stated, “and an overall benefit to the environment by improved mitigation of the impacts of oil spills, should they occur.”</p> <p>BSEE provided funding for, and collaborated with, Genwest Inc. to create the new calculators.</p> <p>The four calculators are:</p> <p>Estimated Recovery System Potential (ERSP) Calculator – Provides a systems-based approach that is a significant improvement over the existing Effective Daily Recovery Capacity (EDRC) planning standard. While EDRC focused only on the capacity of the skimming device and removal pump, ERSP addresses the entire system’s ability to encounter, collect, contain, remove, store and offload recovered oil and water. The improvements address concerns expressed by the Deepwater Horizon Commission that the EDRC standard does not accurately estimate the removal capacity of mechanical recovery equipment.</p> <p>Recovery System Evaluation Tool (ReSET) – Allows plan holders and Oil Spill Removal Organizations to explore changes to their mechanical recovery systems and consider options to improve the system’s oil removal potential. ReSET allows users to vary individual components in the Estimated Recovery System Potential Calculator and determine how they can best invest in mechanical recovery equipment.</p> <p>Estimated Dispersant System Potential (EDSP) Calculator – Provides a technology update to the Dispersant Mission Planner 2 used by the U.S. Coast Guard to estimate the ability of different aircraft to spray dispersants and treat oil on the water’s surface. The EDSP Calculator features an improved user interface, added spray application platforms, and a more visual and intuitive set of graphical outputs.</p> <p>The Estimated Burn System Potential (EBSP) Calculator – This new oil spill countermeasure</p>	
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planning tool provides a way to estimate the potential for a towed fire boom system to encounter, contain, and burn oil.

Even Low Levels of Combustible Gas Endanger Offshore Helicopters, 08/05/2016, Washington

Mounting evidence suggests exposure to low levels of methane and other combustible gases can be catastrophic for helicopters traveling to and from offshore platforms, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Doug Morris stated today. "We have been out sending alerts on the issue of aviation safety and methane releases for some time," Morris said, "but we are now concerned that even low levels of gases can be extremely dangerous." Morris, BSEE's Chief of Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs, explained that "the intake of a highly combustible gas can result in a sudden change in helicopter engine performance."

Morris pointed to a recent BSEE supported study in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers that found the presence of methane gas may cause power loss in turbo-shaft engines at much lower concentrations than originally estimated. The study identified mechanisms by which methane ingestion can cause sudden and significant degradation of turbo-shaft engine performance. Prior recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board and experts from many parts of affected industries also point to the dangers of helicopter flights in areas where combustible gases may be present. "This issue impacts both offshore oil workers and BSEE's own personnel," Morris noted, adding that BSEE staff log "more than 9,000 flight hours each year during inspection and investigation activities."

BSEE inspectors and engineers travel offshore on helicopters daily as part of the Bureau's mission to regulate oil and gas activities. According to Morris, BSEE is evaluating options for future research and the applications of new technology that may reduce the risk of exposure to combustible gas by helicopters operating on the Outer Continental Shelf.

<https://www.bsee.gov/what-we-do/regulatory-safety-programs/aviation>



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	BSEE/BOEM Federal Regulations, Safety Alerts, and Notices To Lessees	BSEE/BOEM Federal Regulations BSEE Notices To Lessees BOEM Notices To Lessees Safety Alerts
OSHA	<p>OSHA releases recommendations for creating a Safety and Health Plan, OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels today released a set of Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs to help employers establish a methodical approach to improving safety at their workplaces. The recommendations update OSHA's 1989 guidelines to reflect changes in the economy, workplaces, and evolving safety and health issues. Key principles include: leadership from the top to send a message that safety and health is critical to business operations; worker participation in finding solutions; and a systematic approach to find and fix hazards. "We know that working together to implement these programs will help prevent injuries and illnesses, and also make businesses more sustainable," said Dr. Michaels, who released the document at the National Safety Council Congress in Anaheim, Calif. In his remarks, he asked business groups and safety and health professionals to help spread the word through a campaign that encourages creation of a safety and health program using OSHA's recommendations or others.</p> <p>OSHA proposes improvements to respiratory protection standard, 10/7/2016 OSHA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to add two quantitative fit-testing protocols to the agency's Respiratory Protection Standard. The proposed protocols are variations of the existing OSHA-accepted PortaCount® protocol, but differ from it by the exercise sets, exercise duration, and sampling sequence. The protocols would apply to employers in the general, shipyard and construction industries. OSHA invites the public to comment on the accuracy and reliability of the proposed protocols.</p> <p>OSHA proposes rule to improve provisions in several standards As part of an ongoing effort to revise provisions in its standards that may be confusing,</p>	<p>Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs</p> <p>Notice of Proposed Rulemaking</p> <p>OSHA's Standards Improvement Project, Proposed</p>



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	<p>outdated or unnecessary, OSHA is proposing 18 changes to the agency's recordkeeping, general industry, maritime and construction standards. "The changes we propose will modernize OSHA standards, help employers better understand their responsibilities, increase compliance and reduce compliance costs," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. Individuals may submit comments electronically via www.regulations.gov, by facsimile or mail by Dec. 5. See the news release or Federal Register notice for details.</p> <p>Oil and Gas Safety and Health Conference to be held in Houston Nov. 29-30 Representatives from OSHA and UT Arlington OSHA Training Institute Education Center will meet Nov. 29-30 with other regulatory agency representatives and oil and gas industry leaders in Houston for the 2016 OSHA Oil & Gas Safety and Health Conference. Speakers will update participants on the latest OSHA focus areas, industry best practices and trends, and new areas of research. OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Director Dr. John Howard, and National Safety Council President & CEO Deborah Hersman will be among the speakers. The conference will feature more than 75 exhibitors. For more information visit the conference website.</p> <p>OSHA Quicktakes Newsletter</p>	<p>Revisions</p> <p>Notice of Proposed Rule</p> <p>Conference Website</p> <p>https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html</p>
EPA	<p>Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) collects Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data from large emitting facilities, suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial gases that result in GHG emissions when used, and facilities that inject carbon dioxide underground.</p> <p>GHGRP and the Oil and Gas Industry</p> <p>Oil and Gas Extraction Sector (NAICS 211) Website</p>	<p>https://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/ghgrp-and-oil-and-gas-industry</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/regulatory-information-sector/oil-and-gas-extraction-sector-naics-211</p>