

BOEM fast-tracking

- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA)
 - Interior streamlining announcement
 - Revised BOEM DSM regulations
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - NEPA handbook
 - Alternative Arrangements for NEPA Compliance
- Other alternative procedures
 - Alternative procedures for ESA section 7
 - Emergency NHPA section 106 process

Interior Streamlines Offshore Mineral Policies to Strengthen U.S. Supply Chains and Security

Reforms boost industry certainty and speed permitting; USGS research strengthens U.S. knowledge of deep-sea mineral potential

06/25/2025

- Speed up leasing by foregoing RFI and joint task force with state and federal agencies
- Prepare EA, not EIS, for offshore minerals lease sales
- Offer “favorable lease terms”
- Consider expedited permitting under emergency procedures

Revised BOEM regulations

Prospecting activities (off-lease)	Leasing	Operations (under lease)
<p>30 CFR 580.31:</p> <p>“Whom will BOEM notify about environmental issues?”</p>	<p>30 CFR 581.11(b):</p> <p>Shortens decision period before RFI on unsolicited lease request from 45 days to 28 days</p>	<p>30 CFR 582.7:</p> <p>“Jurisdictional Controversies”</p>
<p>30 CFR 580.29:</p> <p>“Will BOEM monitor the environmental effects of my activities?”</p>	<p>30 CFR 581.5:</p> <p>“False Statements”</p>	<p>30 CFR 582.50:</p> <p>“Appeals</p>
<p>30 CFR 580.30:</p> <p>“What activities will not require environmental analysis?”</p>	<p>30 CFR 581.9:</p> <p>“Jurisdictional Controversies”</p>	
<p>30 CFR 580.33 & 580.34</p> <p>“How can I appeal a penalty” and “How can I appeal an order or decision?”</p>		

§ 581.11 Unsolicited request for a lease sale.

- (b) Within 45 days after receipt of a request submitted under paragraph (a) of this section, the Director shall either initiate steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease and notify the applicant of the action taken or inform the applicant of the reasons for not initiating steps leading to the offer of OCS minerals for lease.



Change: “Within 28 days”

§ 580.31 Whom will BOEM notify about environmental issues?

- (a) In cases where Coastal Zone Management Act consistency review is required, the Director will notify the Governor of each adjacent State with a copy of the application for a permit immediately upon the submission for approval.
- (b) In cases where an environmental assessment is to be prepared, the Director will invite the Governor of each adjacent State to review and provide comments regarding the proposed activities. The Director's invitation to provide comments will allow the Governor a specified period of time to comment.
- (c) When a permit is issued, the Director will notify affected parties including each affected coastal State, Federal agency, local government, and special interest organization that has expressed an interest.

****Prospecting****

**516 DM 1 – U.S. Department of the Interior
Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act
Implementing Procedures**



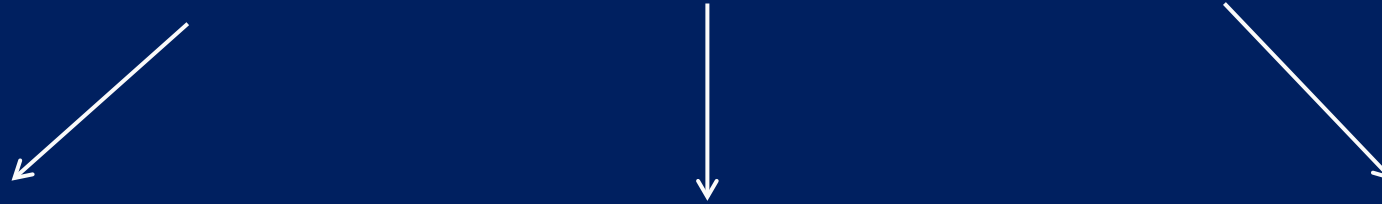
February 2026

Regulations rescinded; replaced with handbook

Eliminates opportunities for public comment on draft EISs and EAs

Does not require publication of draft EAs and EISs

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Alternative Arrangements for NEPA Compliance

- Prepare EA within 14 days
- 10-day comment period on Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare EIS
- Publish EIS within 28 days of NOI

Alternative Procedures for ESA Section 7 Consultation

- Bypass formal consultation for energy-related projects

Emergency Process for NHPA Section 106 Compliance

- 7-day comment period for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations

Interior NEPA regulations

46 C.F.R § 46.150

“This section applies only if . . . an emergency exists that makes it necessary to take actions to address imminent threats to life, property, or important natural, cultural, or historic resources before preparing an environmental document.”

ESA regulations

50 C.F.R § 402.05

(a) “Where emergency circumstances mandate the need to consult in an expedited manner, consultation may be conducted informally . . . This provision applies to situations involving acts of God, disasters, casualties, national defense or security emergencies, etc.”

(b) “Formal consultation shall be initiated as soon as practicable after the emergency is under control.”

NHPA regulations

36 C.F.R § 800.12(b)

Authorizes alternative procedures when “an agency official proposes an emergency undertaking as an essential and immediate response to a disaster or emergency declared by the President, a tribal government, or the Governor of a State or another immediate threat to life or property.”