

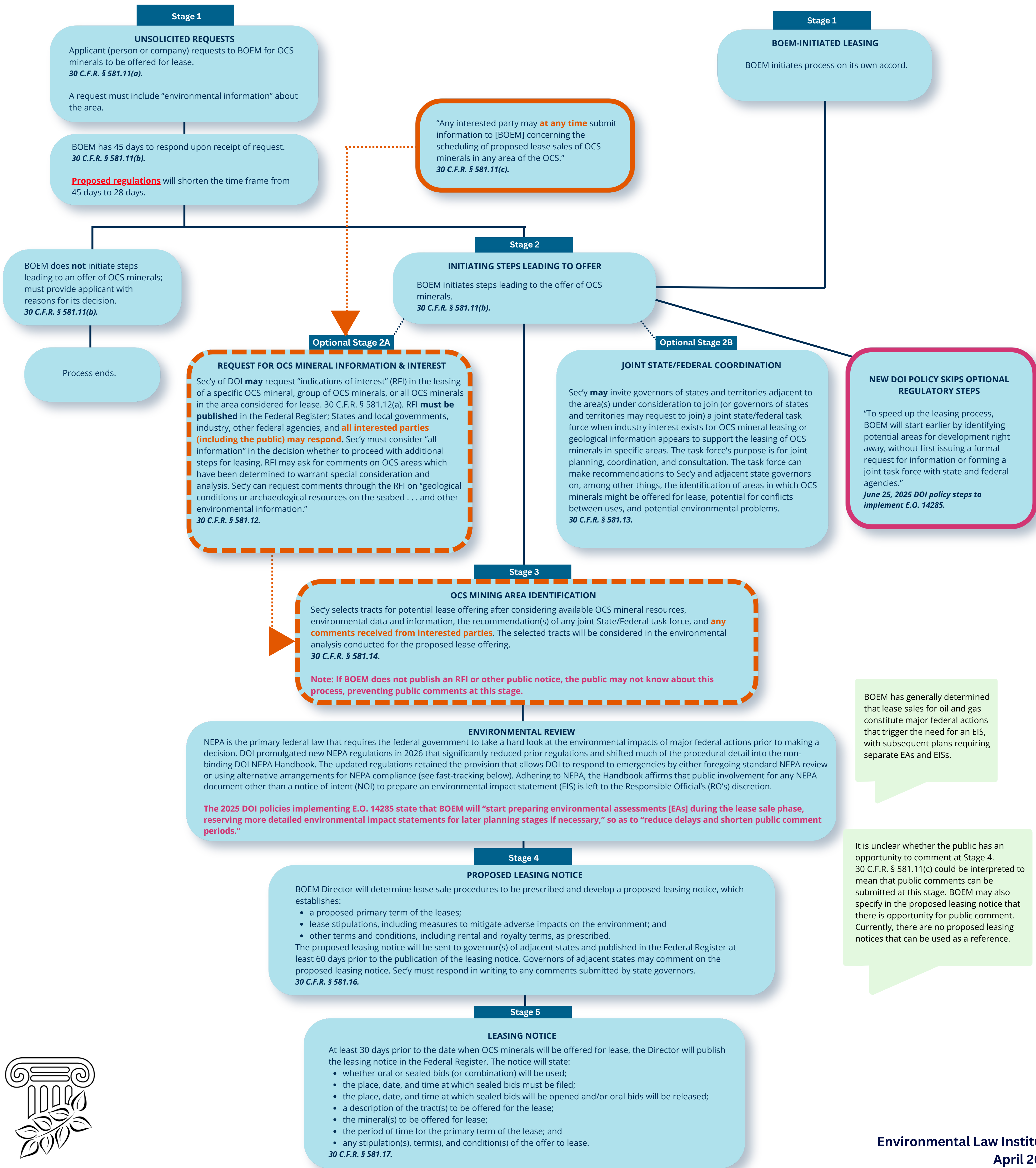
OCSLA LEASING & OPERATIONS

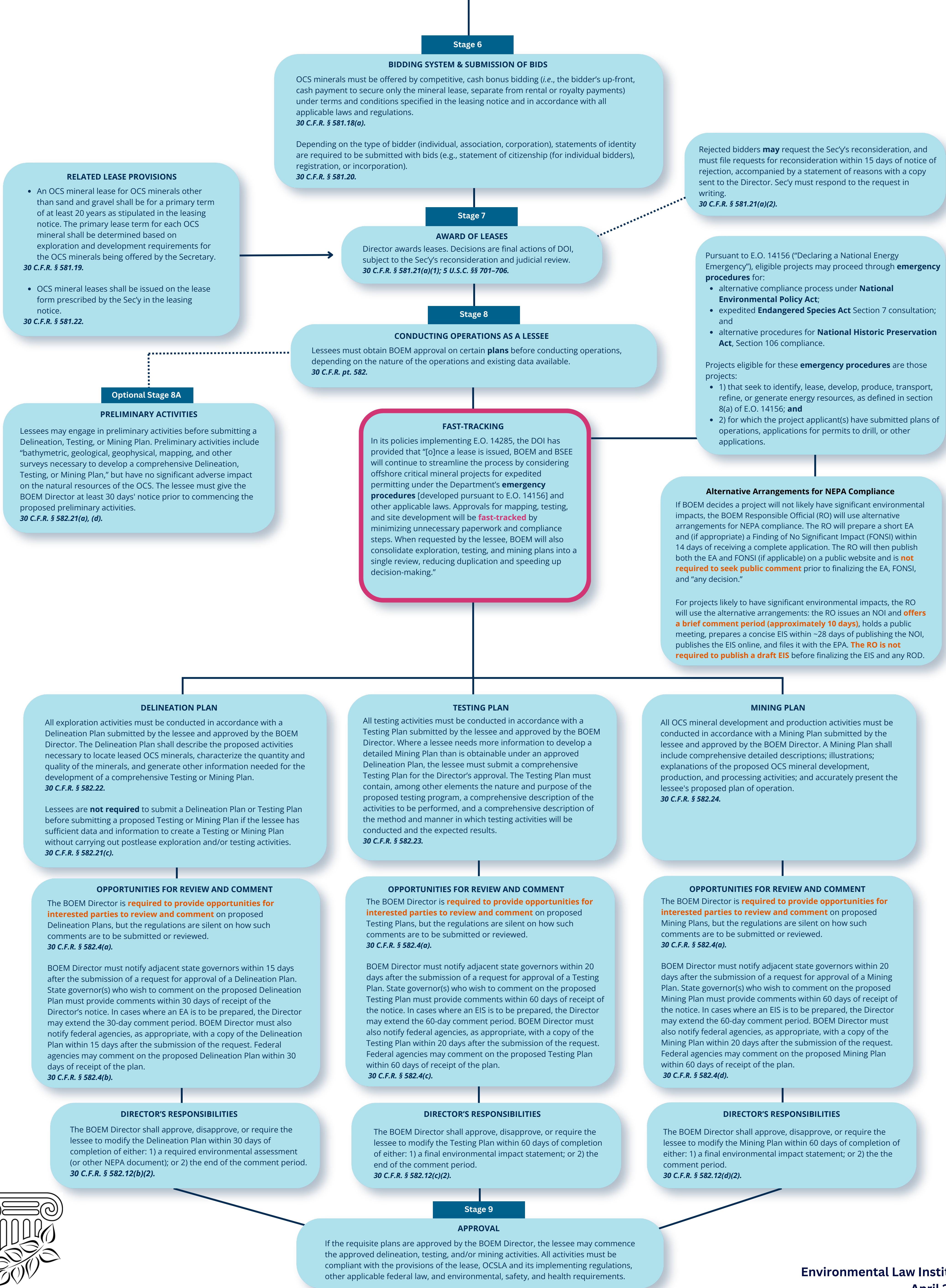
Competitive Leasing Framework for OCS Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur: Process Initiation and Conducting Operations under 2025 BOEM Policies

Opportunities for comment from interested parties are outlined in orange.

BOEM has issued proposed regulations, which it will finalize after the comment period ends on April 27, 2026.

2025 DOI/BOEM Policy Updates are outlined in pink. As of April 2026, these policies are not formally codified in the law or regulations.





OCSLA LEASING & OPERATIONS

GLOSSARY



BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Situated within DOI; Administers offshore energy and mineral leasing on the OCS, pursuant to OCSLA.
DOI	U.S. Department of Interior	Manages public lands and minerals, national parks, and wildlife refuges and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to Native American tribes and Alaska Native entities.
E.O. 14156	“Declaring a National Energy Emergency”	Executive Order declaring a national energy emergency and directing federal agencies to use emergency authorities to rapidly expand domestic energy production, infrastructure, and supply.
E.O. 14285	“Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources”	Executive Order that directs the federal government to accelerate and streamline the exploration, mining, and processing of offshore seabed minerals.
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973	Requires a permit for the taking of any protected species, and that all Federal actions not significantly impair or jeopardize protected species or their habitats. The ESA mandates that BOEM consult with other Federal agencies in carrying out its regulatory responsibilities.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1970	Requires a detailed environmental review before any major federal action, including the sale of leases on the OCS and the setup of facilities.
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966	Intended to preserve historic properties and archaeological resources in the U.S. Under this statute, BOEM must ensure its funded and permitted actions do not adversely affect historic properties.
NOI	Notice of Intent	In this context, a notice published on a public website, indicating that BOEM’s Responsible Official will prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposed project.
OCS	U.S. Outer Continental Shelf	All submerged lands beyond submerged state and territorial lands that are within the U.S. jurisdiction, including lands within the US. exclusive economic zone adjacent to territories; “a vital national resource reserve held by the Federal Government for the public.”
OCSLA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act	Enacted by Congress in 1953, the Act governs the leasing and development of the U.S. offshore mineral and energy resources.
RFI	Request for Information	In this context, BOEM’s request to the public for information, comments, and indications of interest in the leasing of OCS minerals in the area being considered for lease; not a final decision to lease.

OCSLA LEASING & OPERATIONS SOURCES



Executive Orders

- [Exec. Order No. 14,156](#), Declaring a National Energy Emergency, 90 Fed. Reg. 8,433 (Jan. 29, 2025)
- [Exec. Order No. 14,285](#), Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources, 90 Fed. Reg. 17,735 (Apr. 29, 2025)

Statutes

- [Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act](#), 43 U.S.C. §§ 1331–1356c (2026)
- [National Environmental Policy Act](#), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4370m-11 (2026)
- [Endangered Species Act](#), 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2) (2026)
- [National Historic Preservation Act](#), 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (2026)

DOI & BOEM Regulations

- [Leasing of Minerals other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur](#), 30 C.F.R. pt. 581 (2026)
- [Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf for Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur](#), 30 C.F.R. pt. 582 (2026)
- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations](#), 91 Fed. Reg. 8,738 (Feb. 24, 2026)

BOEM Proposed Regulations

- [Administrative Revisions to Regulations Related to Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Other Than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur](#), 91 Fed. Reg. 8,803 (proposed Feb. 24, 2026) (to be codified at 30 C.F.R. pts. 580, 581, and 582)

DOI Alternative Arrangements, Alternative Procedures, and Emergency Provisions

- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [Alternative Arrangements for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act amid the National Energy Emergency](#) (Apr. 23, 2025)
- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [Alternative Procedures for Informal, Expedited Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for Energy Projects amid the National Energy Emergency](#) (Apr. 23, 2025)
- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [Using the Emergency Provisions to Comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in Response to the National Energy Emergency](#) (Apr. 23, 2025)

DOI Policy & Procedures

- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [Department of the Interior Implements Emergency Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply](#) (Apr. 23, 2025)
- U.S. Dep't of Interior, [Interior Streamlines Offshore Mineral Policies to Strengthen U.S. Supply Chains and Security](#) (June 6, 2025)
- U.S. Dep't of Interior, 516 DM 1, [Department of the Interior NEPA Handbook: National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (Feb. 23, 2026)