



# Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

## Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of America’s offshore energy resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement.

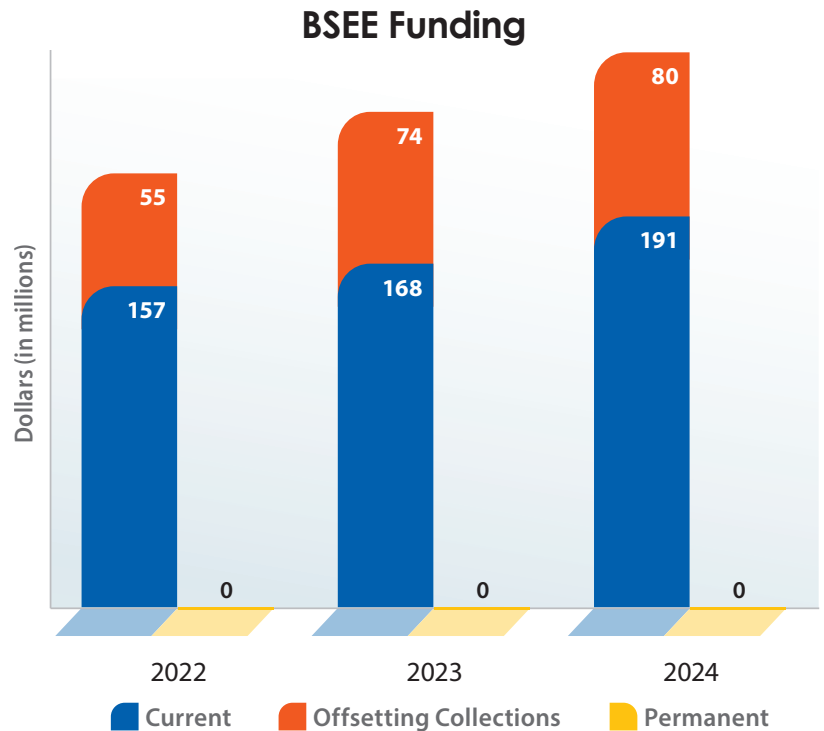
## Budget Overview

The 2024 budget request for BSEE is \$270.6 million, \$28.9 million above the 2023 enacted level, including \$190.9 million in current appropriations and \$79.7 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees. BSEE estimates staffing will total 938 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2024, including 125 FTEs that are fully reimbursed from other accounts to provide Departmentwide shared services.

## Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

The 2024 budget request includes \$255.5 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement programs, \$28.9 million above the 2023 enacted level, consisting of \$175.8 million in appropriated funds, \$28.9 million in offsetting rental receipt and cost recovery collections, and \$50.7 million in inspection fee collections, which includes a proposal to collect followup facility inspection fees.

The 2024 request enables BSEE to continue strengthening oversight, regulatory, and research capabilities on



the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by building and sustaining staff capabilities. Funds will be used to recruit, train, and retain expert engineers, geoscientists, and inspectors; oil spill planning, prevention, and response specialists; and employees in other disciplines to support the implementation of BSEE’s regulatory oversight responsibilities. BSEE will continue outreach and dialogue with stakeholders from academia, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other governmental agencies to enhance the knowledge base of technical personnel related to innovative technologies, regulatory gaps, real-time monitoring capabilities, and risk-based decision making for safety and environmental enforcement.

To support the Administration’s efforts to improve Tribal consultation, the 2024 request includes \$800,000 to establish a National Tribal Engagement Program with four dedicated, full-time Tribal liaison positions. With this additional funding, the National Tribal Engagement Program will provide timely coordination and consultation with Tribes and develop



- The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) was established on October 1, 2011, as part of a broad reorganization in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- BSEE develops standards and regulations to enhance safety and environmental protection for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas and renewable energy on the U.S. OCS.
- BSEE conducts more than 18,000 inspections per year to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible operation of approximately 1,700 offshore oil and gas drilling and production facilities, and management of more than 20,000 miles of pipelines.
- BSEE operates the largest facility in the United States that can test oil spill response equipment with a variety of crude oils and refined petroleum products under reproducible marine conditions.
- BSEE is responsible for initiating, supporting, and promoting science-based research to reduce risk, support safe operations, and promote environmental stewardship on the OCS.

precedent-setting policies for early and frequent engagement with Tribes.

In addition to regulating oil and gas operations on the OCS, the bureau continues to take actions to support the development of a safe, robust, and sustainable offshore renewable energy industry in the United States.

BSEE's 2024 budget reflects the progress made in the offshore renewable energy industry and anticipated growth, as well as the Administration's priority to tackle the climate crisis. The 2024 request continues to support BSEE's Renewable Energy Program to enable timely and rigorous industry plan and permit reviews, create a robust compliance verification and assurance program for new offshore wind infrastructure, and demonstrate BSEE's commitment and leadership in driving safety performance and protecting environmental, cultural, and biological resources on the OCS.

BSEE is partnering with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to develop regulations to implement offshore carbon sequestration authority, as directed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. BSEE's 2024 budget request includes \$1.5 million to hire personnel with the necessary technical expertise to establish a programmatic framework for offshore carbon sequestration, develop safety and environmental standards, and establish applied research needs and requirements to inform safe operational execution. The regulations are intended

to facilitate an effective and environmentally protective strategy for managing carbon sequestration on the OCS.

BSEE's 2024 budget request maintains the \$30.0 million funding level requested in 2023 for decommissioning. In 2023 and continuing into 2024, the bureau will issue contracts to perform decommissioning services on conventional energy infrastructure orphaned by bankrupt operators in the absence of other jointly or severally liable parties. Those contracts will initially fund the proper plugging and abandonment of orphaned wells and ultimately fund the proper



decommissioning of the associated orphaned pipelines and structures that remain.

Unplugged or poorly plugged wells are serious environmental hazards, as they provide potential conduits for fluids to migrate between formations and potentially into offshore waters. Strong winds and hurricanes can topple structures and wells on the OCS, thus posing additional risks to unplugged wells. Although some wells are equipped with downhole safety valves, leakage from those wells can occur. That circumstance is especially true for orphaned wells for which the downhole valves are not routinely tested nor their integrity verified. Proper decommissioning of orphaned pipelines reduces the risk of spills to the environment from any hydrocarbons remaining in those pipelines.

### **Oil Spill Research**

This program supports research on the prevention of and response to oil pollution, as authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Oil Spill Research program plays a pivotal role by funding applied research to support decision making on the methods and equipment needed to prevent

or mitigate oil spills, a critical component of the offshore permitting process. Located in Leonardo, NJ, the Ohmsett testing facility is the only one of its kind in North America, providing full-scale equipment and methodology testing for offshore spills in a safe, controlled environment. Funds are used to sponsor the testing of new equipment and methods and to support Ohmsett testing and training activities.

The 2024 budget proposes \$15.1 million for Oil Spill Research, equal to the 2023 enacted level. As renewable energy development from offshore wind and marine hydrokinetic energy accelerates, BSEE will continue to meet its oversight and safety responsibilities. The bureau's Oil Spill Preparedness Program will help ensure offshore renewable energy operations are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The request will also help BSEE to strengthen oil spill response capabilities, particularly in deepwater and Arctic environments.

### **Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs of \$8.0 million are fully funded.



BSEE inspectors play a pivotal role in ensuring that offshore operations are conducted in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

*BSEE Photo.*

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### *Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted*

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	778	152,914	790	175,846	+12	+22,932
Oil Spill Research .....	23	15,099	23	15,099	0	0
Subtotal, Current.....	801	168,013	813	190,945	+12	+22,932
Offsetting Collections .....	0	73,708	0	79,662	0	+5,954
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Reimbursable.....	125	0	125	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable .....	125	0	125	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (w/oc) .....</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>241,721</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>270,607</b>	<b>+12</b>	<b>+28,886</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

### APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Environmental Enforcement				
Appropriation .....	2,340	3,690	5,190	+1,500
Offsetting Collections .....	3,168	2,168	2,168	0
Subtotal, Environmental Enforcement .....	5,508	5,858	7,358	+1,500
Operations, Safety and Regulation				
Appropriation .....	121,591	117,738	110,591	-7,147
Offsetting Collections .....	39,546	61,941	67,895	+5,954
Subtotal, Operations, Safety and Regulation ..	161,137	179,679	178,486	-1,193
Administrative Operations				
Appropriation .....	10,121	11,663	11,592	-71
Offsetting Collections .....	8,629	7,629	7,629	0
Subtotal, Administrative Operations .....	18,750	19,292	19,221	-71
Executive Direction				
Appropriation .....	14,473	16,823	18,473	+1,650
Offsetting Collections .....	3,970	1,970	1,970	0
Subtotal, Executive Direction .....	18,443	18,793	20,443	+1,650
Offshore Decommissioning				
Appropriation .....	3,000	3,000	30,000	+27,000
Subtotal, Offshore Decommissioning .....	3,000	3,000	30,000	+27,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o oc) .....	151,525	152,914	175,846	+22,932
Total Offsetting Collections .....	55,313	73,708	79,662	+5,954
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc; w/o rescission and supplemental) .....	206,838	226,622	255,508	+28,886
Rescission of Prior-Year BA .....	-10,000	0	0	0
Disaster Relief Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43) .....	+223	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc, rescission, and supplemental) .....	197,061	226,622	255,508	+28,886

### APPROPRIATION: Oil Spill Research

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	15,099	15,099	15,099	0

