

energy-related research facilities, BOEM would prepare a plan-specific environmental analysis and will comply with all required consultation requirements.

## 2. Cooperating Agencies

BOEM invites Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as Tribal governments, to consider becoming cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EA. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA defines cooperating agencies as those with “jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative)” (40 CFR 1508.1(e)). Potential cooperating agencies should consider their authority and capacity to assume the responsibilities of a cooperating agency and remember that an agency’s role in the environmental analysis neither enlarges nor diminishes the final decision-making authority of any other agency involved in the NEPA process.

Upon request, BOEM will provide potential cooperating agencies with a draft memorandum of agreement that includes a schedule with critical action dates and milestones, mutual responsibilities, designated points of contact, and expectations for handling pre-decisional information. Agencies should also consider the “Factors for Determining Whether to Invite, Decline or End Cooperating Agency Status” in attachment 1 to CEQ’s January 30, 2002, memorandum for Federal agencies titled, “Cooperating Agencies in Implementing the Procedural Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.” A copy of this document is available at: <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/cooperating-agencies-implementing-procedural-requirements-national-environmental>.

BOEM, as the lead agency, will not provide financial assistance to cooperating agencies. Even if an organization is not a cooperating agency, opportunities will exist to provide information and comments to BOEM during the normal public input phases of the NEPA and EA process.

## 3. Comments

Federal, State, local government agencies, Tribal governments, and other interested parties are requested to send their written comments on the important issues to be considered in the EA by either of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the

entry entitled, “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM–2023–0031, and then click “search.” Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice; or

2. By U.S. Postal Service or other delivery service, send your comments and information to the following address and marked “Gulf of Maine Research Lease EA”: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, Mail Stop VAM–OREP, Sterling, VA 20166.

### *Freedom of Information Act*

BOEM will protect privileged or confidential information that you submit when required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Exemption 4 of FOIA applies to trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. If you wish to protect the confidentiality of such information, clearly label it and request that BOEM treat it as confidential. BOEM will not disclose such information if BOEM determines under 30 CFR 585.114(b) that it qualifies for exemption from disclosure under FOIA. Please label privileged or confidential information “Contains Confidential Information” and consider submitting such information as a separate attachment.

BOEM will not treat as confidential any aggregate summaries of such information or comments not containing such privileged or confidential information. Information that is not labeled as privileged or confidential may be regarded by BOEM as suitable for public release.

### b. Personally Identifiable Information

BOEM encourages you not to submit anonymous comments. Please include your name and address as part of your comment. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your name, address, and any personally identifiable information (PII) included in your comment, may be made publicly available. All submissions from identified individuals, businesses, and organizations will be available for public viewing on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Note that BOEM will make available for public inspection all comments, in their entirety, submitted by organizations and businesses, or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

For BOEM to consider withholding your PII from disclosure, you must identify any information contained in your comments that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted

invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe any possible harmful consequences of the disclosure of information, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm. Even if BOEM withholds your information in the context of this rulemaking, your submission is subject to FOIA and, if your submission is requested under the FOIA, your information will only be withheld if a determination is made that one of the FOIA’s exemptions to disclosure applies. Such a determination will be made in accordance with the Department’s FOIA regulations and applicable law.

c. Section 304 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 307103(a))

After consultation with the Secretary, BOEM is required to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, risk harm to the historic resources or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Tribal entities should designate information that falls under section 304 of NHPA as confidential.

**Elizabeth Klein,**

*Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000  
231S180110; S2D2S SS08011000  
SX064A000 23XS501520; OMB Control  
Number 1029–0091]

### Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Requirements for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations on Indian Lands

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 3, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to Mark Gehlhar, Office of

