



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JAN 26 2024

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman, House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber:

Enclosed are responses prepared by the Department of the Interior to questions for the record submitted to Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Paul Huang following his appearance at the April 26, 2023, oversight hearing entitled *Examining the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey*. We apologize for the delay in our response.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Ranking Member

Questions for the Record
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
House Natural Resources Committee
Oversight Hearing on BSEE FY24 Budget
April 26, 2023

Question from Chairman Westerman

Question 1: Can you provide the exact amount of decommissioning liabilities the U.S. taxpayer has acquired in the 60+ year history of offshore oil and gas development? Can you provide this information to the Committee?

Response: The estimated decommissioning cost for current orphan well and infrastructure inventory on the OCS is approximately \$73 Million. There is an estimated \$25 Million available for decommissioning activities, which includes approximately \$15 Million BOEM has collected in forfeited bonds and BSEE's \$6 Million in appropriated funds and \$4 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. BSEE's FY24 budget request includes \$30 Million to address this funding shortfall.