

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2024

Mr. Kevin M. Sligh Sr.
Director
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Director Sligh Sr.,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at an oversight hearing titled, *"Examining the President's FY 2025 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue"* on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Jacob Greenberg, Clerk, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov by June 13, 2024. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Chairman

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
May 23, 2024
10:00 AM

"Examining the President's FY 2025 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue"

Questions from Rep. Westerman

Director Klein and Director Sligh,

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law (P.L. 117-58) on November 15, 2021. Section 340307 amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant a lease, easement, or right-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf for activities that "provide for, support, or are directly related to the injection of a carbon dioxide stream into sub-seabed geologic formations for the purpose of long-term carbon sequestration." The Act requires the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement jointly with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to promulgate regulations within one year of the law's enactment. Given the evolving landscape of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and its importance for carbon management, enhanced oil recovery, and other evolving uses; I'd like to understand BOEM's current stance and plans regarding CCS on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

1. **Directors** Can you provide an update on where BOEM and BSEE are in drafting and publishing the necessary regulations for CCS? Specifically, when can we expect these proposed regulations to be available for public comment?
2. **Director Sligh:** Is there any provision that allows companies with existing OCS oil and gas leases to perform CCS activities before the new regulations are finalized and published?

West Coast Decommissioning/Chumash Sanctuary

Directors Sligh and Klein

On behalf of a broad community consortium, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council submitted their sanctuary nomination in July 2015. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries issued a Notice of Intent to begin the designation process for the proposed sanctuary in November 2021.

Now that NOAA has formally proposed the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary, it doesn't allow for an exception for decommissioning. BOEM and BSEE are currently in the process of working towards the decommissioning of the platforms within the proposed sanctuary. If the proposed sanctuary is finalized without a decommissioning exception, how will that impact BOEM and BSEE's mission to have these platforms decommissioned?