

SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE

Protecting workers, communities and the environment are top priorities when it comes to offshore exploration and development. Industry and government work together to implement advanced technologies, stringent standards, best practices, and robust regulations.¹



STRONGER THAN EVER

More than 100 exploration and production industry standards have been created or strengthened since 2010 including standards for well design, blowout protection and environmental management. In 2011, the industry founded the Center for Offshore Safety (COS) to promote the highest level of offshore safety through systematic protocols, processes, leadership, third-party audits, certification and training.¹



+100

**EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION
INDUSTRY STANDARDS CREATED
OR STRENGTHENED SINCE 2010.**

ROBUST OFFSHORE REGULATIONS

Offshore natural gas and oil development is highly-regulated with a robust set of safety and environmental laws governed by a number of agencies to protect our land, air, sea, animals and communities.²

FEDERAL STATUTES

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZA)
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Submerged Lands Act (SLA)
- Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Clean Air Act (CAA) Marine Protection Research, and Sanctuaries Act (NPRSA)
- Ocean Dumping Act (ODA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)

U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (DOE)
- Coast Guard
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Marine Fisheries Services
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



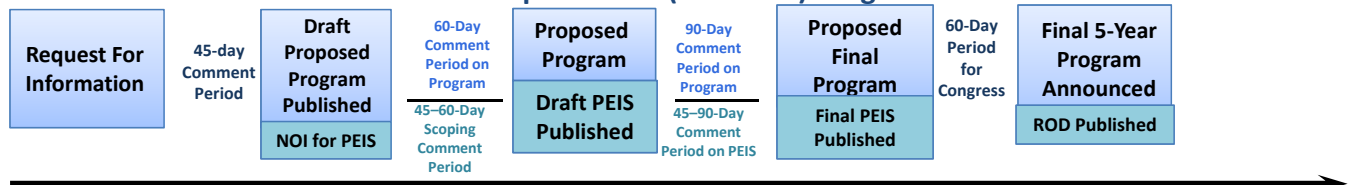
SAFETY FOCUS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

Companies provide comprehensive plans and follow best practices, standards and regulations throughout the offshore development process with oversight and input from experts and regulators at every step. Stringent procedures and inspections continue throughout production. For example, offshore operators must have Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS), which are subject to independent, third-party audits, and erect safety barriers that help prevent incidents that may occur from escalating. Additionally, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages a rigorous review process, with a number of government agencies, to oversee the offshore leasing, exploration and development process.³

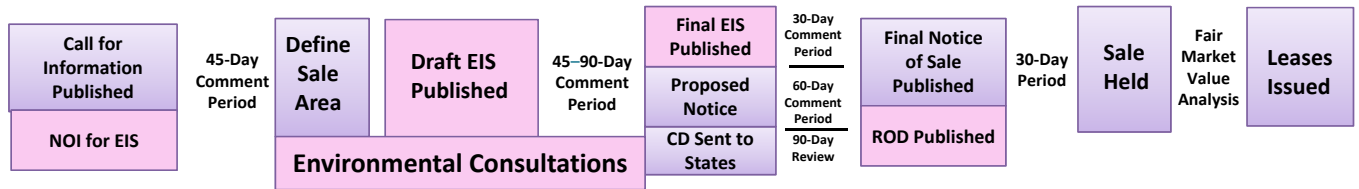


OCS Oil and Gas Leasing, Exploration, and Development Process

Pre-lease

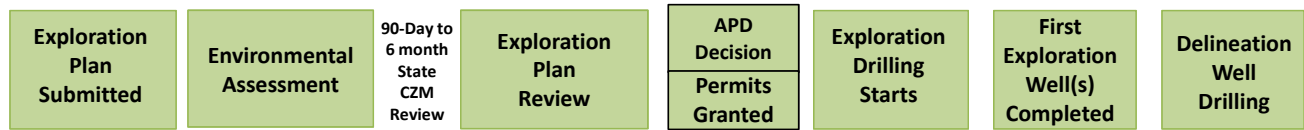


Planning for Specific Oil and Gas Lease Sale

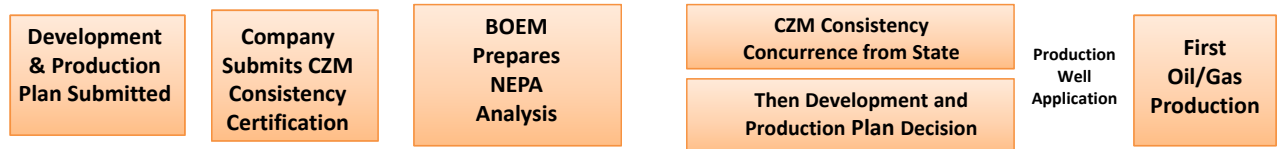


Post-Lease

Oil and Gas Exploration Plan Approval



Oil and Gas Development and Production Plan Approval



Abbreviations: APD, Application for Permit to Drill; CD, Consistency Determination; CZM, Coastal Zone Management; EIS, Environmental Impact Statement; NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act; NOI, Notice of Intent; OCS, Outer Continental Shelf; PEIS, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; ROD, Record of Decision.

LEARN MORE
VAENERGYFORUM.COM

VIRGINIA
ENERGY
FORUM

1 American Petroleum Institute. America's Offshore Energy. (americasoffshoreenergy.com).
2 Susan Tierney, PhD. Analysis Group. Planning for Offshore Energy Development. June 2013.
3. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.