



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Greetings Tribal Leader,

We are interested in receiving your input on development of the first-ever Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). We invite your input on the four preliminary goals listed below and on what your Tribal Nation would like to see in the strategy and action plan.

BSEE has the authority to oversee safety and environmental standards related to offshore energy and mineral exploration, development, and production under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), among other laws. OCSLA authorizes BSEE to regulate energy- and minerals-related activities on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, which is seaward of states' jurisdiction off of the West Coast and Hawai'i in the Pacific Ocean; off of Alaska in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the Bering Sea, and Cook Inlet; in the Gulf of Mexico; and off of the East Coast in the Atlantic Ocean.

Executive Order (EO) 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, defines Environmental Justice as “the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment.” This order advances the tenets of EO 12898, *Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, by expounding on the need for federal agencies to ensure their activities 1) protect people from disproportionate, adverse, and cumulative health and environmental burdens and 2) protect people from racism and other barriers to equitable access and opportunity.

On April 13, 2023, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a two-year work plan to advance environmental justice implementation throughout DOI. The work plan focuses on policy, community engagement and involvement, science and data, and investments and community assistance. Additionally, the work plan reinforces pre-existing DOI policy requiring bureau and office heads to develop and maintain environmental justice implementation strategies and action plans and requires bureaus/offices to finalize them by September 2024.

BSEE has started the process of developing its first-ever Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan. BSEE is developing the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan with recognition of other related justice efforts, such as the Ocean Justice Strategy and the National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy in development by the federal Ocean Policy Committee, as well as other DOI bureaus and offices environmental justice implementation strategies and action plans. BSEE aims to complete the development of

its Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan by the end of 2023. BSEE has developed a preliminary set of four environmental justice strategic goals:

1. ***Institutionalizing Environmental Justice***: Cultivate bureau environmental justice competency and incorporate environmental justice considerations into bureau actions.
2. ***Delivering Equity through Investments***: Advance equitable access to federal procurement opportunities, resources, and other qualitative benefits.
3. ***Reducing Burdens and Harms***: Enhance compliance and enforcement actions to reduce impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns.
4. ***Meaningful Outreach and Engagement***: Foster opportunities for communities to participate as informed partners in bureau actions that are important to their wellbeing.

If you are interested in attending an informational meeting regarding the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan and/or providing feedback on the four preliminary goals, please use the registration link below:

When: Oct 31, 2023 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://bsee-
gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOqqzqkqEhRQqPw5olu4g0yEaSPwIn8](https://bsee.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOqqzqkqEhRQqPw5olu4g0yEaSPwIn8)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

You can also provide written responses. We request all written responses be provided within 45 days of your receipt of this letter to any of the following BSEE contacts:

- Bronia Ashford, bronia.ashford@bsee.gov, National Tribal Liaison Officer.
- BSEE National Tribal Engagement Program tribalengagement@bsee.gov.

Once BSEE has developed the draft Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan, we will provide it to you for review and feedback.



Kevin M. Sligh Sr.,
Director