



Onshore and Offshore Upstream Oil and Gas Operations: Federal Auditing Guide

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new & noteworthy

- **Methane and Waste Prevention Rule:** On October 8, 2020, the federal District Court of Wyoming vacated the 2016 Methane Waste Prevention Rule, excluding for the following provisions: 43 CFR Subpart 3178, and the amendment of 43 CFR 3103.3-1, finding the rule went beyond BLM's statutory authority and encroached on EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act. **The Bureau of Land Management Rulebook** has been updated accordingly.
- **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** On October 21, 2020, California and environmental plaintiffs submitted their opening briefs in their appeal of the Northern District of California's decision upholding the Trump administration's rollback of the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule. **The Bureau of Land Management Rulebook** has been updated accordingly.

highlights of this release

To incorporate amendments to the proposed rule referenced above, changes were made to the **Bureau of Land Management Rulebook:**

- New information was added to the **Regulatory Summary** in the Introduction concerning the status of the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule and the Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.
- References to the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule were removed from **Key Compliance Definitions, General Applicability Checklist,** and the **Pre-audit Preparation** in the Introduction.
- **Rulebook** Section 3 has been removed as a result of the court ruling vacating the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule.

A number of changes were made to the **Outer Continental Shelf Rulebook:**

- A website address was updated in **Key Compliance Definitions** in the Introduction.

release notes

please review

did you know?

- **Proposed Arctic Rule:** On December 9, 2020, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (85 FR 79266) to revise its existing regulations for exploratory drilling and related operations on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf. Specifically, this proposed rule would revise certain requirements promulgated through the rule entitled, Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf-Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf. This proposed rule would also add new provisions to BSEE's regulations pertaining to suspensions of operations, and BOEM's Exploration Plan and Development and Production Plan regulations. For details, see <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-12-09/pdf/2020-25818.pdf>.
- **BSEE issues NTL:** Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has issued NTL 2020-N04 - Flaring and Venting Requests, a national Notice to Lessees (NTLs): For more information, go to <https://www.bsee.gov/guidance-and-regulations/guidance/notice-to-lessees>.



related STP publications

- **Pipeline Safety Auditing: Federal Compliance Guide** is designed to assess a pipeline facility's compliance with applicable federal DOT pipeline regulations. This guide is a valuable resource for pipelines and related facilities that transport materials covered under the 49 CFR 190 regulations, including hazardous liquids and carbon dioxide pipelines, liquefied natural gas (LNG) systems, and natural gas systems. Available formats: online and via risk management systems.
- **Environmental Auditing: Federal Compliance Guide** is a tool for assessing a facility's compliance with federal environmental regulations. Environmental audit checklists address auditing requirements for manufacturing and service industry facilities, as well as utilities, exploration, oil and gas, chemical companies, and regulatory agencies. Available formats: online and via risk management systems.

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