

Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) Program Overview and 2021 Emissions Inventory

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Abstract

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for preparing emission inventories in federal waters west of 87° 30' West longitude in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Central and Western Planning areas and offshore the North Slope Borough of Alaska (Alaska), which includes the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas and a portion of the Hope Basin Planning Area, in accordance with 30 CFR 550.303(k) and 550.304(g). BOEM requires this information to evaluate the effectiveness of its regulations of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and to support BOEM's environmental analyses and coordination with other agencies. The Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) is a new, state-of-the-art emissions data management system which was used for the 2021 inventory effort. OCS AQS provides significant benefits over the previous GOADS system including a web-portal where GOM and Alaska operators can input their facility sources, activities, and automatically calculate emissions. Other benefits include enhanced usability, automated QA/QC to expand data quality evaluations, and advanced data analysis, reporting and mapping tools. These capabilities provide multiple benefits including improved collaboration, increased productivity, and time savings. OCS AQS furnishes BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) with powerful tools for conducting complex air quality studies in the GOM and Alaska, ensuring that these agencies have the tools necessary for effectively implementing their respective regulatory air quality and enforcement programs.