

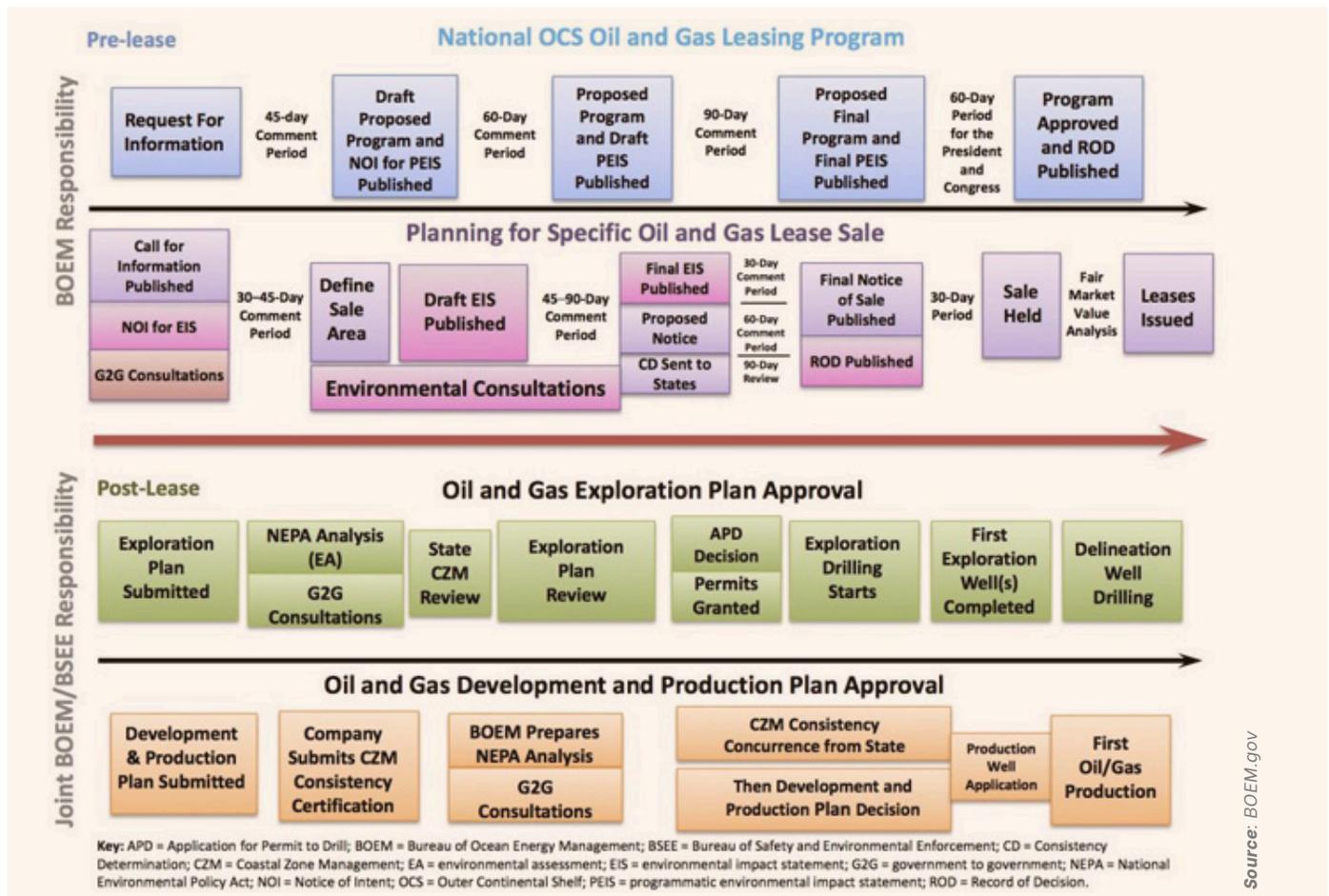


The Gulf of America: The Truth About Offshore Oil & Gas Development

What Goes into the Permitting and Environmental Review Process for Offshore Oil and Gas Activities?

The table below outlines the processes required for the leasing program, lease sales, and the development of individual projects. This snapshot represents just one aspect of the regulatory regime.

The Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) have established a comprehensive regulatory framework for offshore oil and gas development. This framework features multiple layers of decision-making, permitting, and environmental reviews.



Each stage of this process includes extensive analysis of potential environmental impacts and mitigation strategies, with thorough NEPA analysis conducted during the development of the leasing program, the planning of specific oil and gas lease sales, and the formulation of exploration and development plans.

Additional permitting processes and reviews, such as permits for seismic surveys, incidental take authorizations, and the region-wide Gulf of America Biological Opinion (BiOp), are also part of this framework. Furthermore, these processes and activities fall under the purview of overarching environmental laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Ultimately, this well-integrated regulatory environment ensures the protection of our workers, the ocean environment, marine life, coastal communities, and other stakeholders.