

## **TRANSCRIPT, BOEMRE DIRECTOR MICHAEL R. BROMWICH**

When I became Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, I received an urgent mandate from President Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. It was to reform offshore energy development, including the agency responsible for overseeing it. Since that time, we have been working aggressively to make the changes necessary to restore the public's confidence that offshore oil and gas drilling and production can be conducted safely and with appropriate protections for marine and coastal environments.

One of our guiding principles is to remake our approach to decision-making, which includes as a starting point a renewed commitment to make decisions on the basis of thorough, credible and unfiltered scientific data. To do so – now more than ever – we need talented environmental scientists to come work for the agency, to help our country deal with the challenges of ensuring balanced and environmentally sound energy development.

I want to take a moment to discuss the exciting, new opportunities for environmental scientists within our bureau.

On October 1, 2011, the bureau will be divided into two independent agencies with distinct but complementary missions: the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management – or BOEM – and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement – or BSEE. This re-organization is more than just moving boxes around on an organization chart – it is about making fundamental, thoughtful changes in the way these agencies operate. And one of those fundamental changes is elevating the stature and standing of science within both organizations.

When the reorganization is complete next October, BOEM will be responsible for managing the development of the nation's offshore resources. This involves ensuring that the environment is protected and that those resources – including oil, gas and renewable resources – are developed wisely, economically and in the country's best interests. To advance that goal, we are creating a key new leadership position in BOEM – the first-ever Chief Environmental Officer. This person will be responsible for ensuring that environmental concerns are appropriately balanced in leasing and planning decisions, and will be instrumental in helping to set the scientific agenda relative to our oceans. This is a new, high-profile and extremely important position, which we hope and expect will attract top-flight talent. We will also be looking for scientists to support this new leadership function.

Also new when the reorganization is complete, BSEE will independently and rigorously enforce safety and environmental regulations. A new Environmental Compliance Officer and a team of environmental enforcement specialists will be responsible for ensuring that environmental concerns continue to be addressed through review, monitoring and enforcement once operators undertake offshore activities that have environmental implications, including exploration and production. We hope to add more than 30 full time personnel to this unit alone by the end of next year.

Beyond these new roles for environmental scientists in both bureaus, we are looking to augment our science efforts by adding capacity and expertise in a variety of areas. From environmental

studies to NEPA review to environmental compliance, we plan to add significant capacity to undertake activities that are so very important to the balanced development of our offshore resources. These are jobs that will require environmental scientists trained in our universities that have developed the best environmental programs and therefore have attracted those students most interested and committed to careers in environmental science. And there are other incentives to consider, especially for students that have recently completed their education. Bureau employees have the opportunity to participate in our Student Loan Repayment Program, which could repay a significant part of student loan debt. We also offer opportunities to pay for our employees' graduate courses that will enhance their ability to contribute to the efforts of their bureaus.

As you can see, we are taking numerous steps to underscore and increase our commitment to the responsible stewardship of our nation's resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. We hope to interest you in becoming a part of that important effort.

Please read about the current opportunities within our current agency, as well as how you can obtain updates when other opportunities become available at: [www.boemre.gov/jobs](http://www.boemre.gov/jobs). We hope you agree that the present at BOEMRE – and the future in BOEM and BSEE – are both interesting and exciting and provide a means to serve your country while you pursue a satisfying career in the field you have chosen.