AXPC AMERICAN EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COUNCIL

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Who Regulates Oil & Gas Operations?

The oil and natural gas industry is one of the most highly regulated industries in the United States. Across all levels of energy operations, regulations help ensure the wellbeing of our environment and communities, and the safety of our employees and contractors.

What	Regulator	Description
Air, Water, Land	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The EPA is responsible for overseeing environmental protection during oil and gas operations. The EPA is tasked with enforcing current regulations in place as dictated by bills passed by Congress such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. These bills ensure operators maintain the highest quality of life for the environments in which they live and operate.
Threatened or endangered species	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries	The USFWS and NOAA Fisheries implement the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These agencies consult with BOEM and BLM on oil and gas projects to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect nearby species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA and their habitat.[1]
Onshore federal lands development	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	BLM is responsible for managing the federal government's onshore oil and gas program, including leasing and permitting of oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on federal and Native American lands.[2]
Offshore development	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	BOEM manages the responsible exploration and development of offshore energy and marine mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).[3]
Offshore safety and environment	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)	BSEE's regulatory programs evaluate emerging technologies, safety improvements, offshore training, and the development and maintenance of up-to-date regulations, policies, standards and guidelines.[4]
Interstate pipeline construction	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	FERC regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, in addition to hydropower and natural gas projects.[5]
Pipeline safety	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)	PHMSA develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air.[6]
State regulations	Miscellaneous state regulatory agencies	Onshore oil and natural gas operations (whether they're on state, federal or private lands) require state permits in addition to federal permits. State regulations are tailored specifically to formations within each state, and account for site-specific expertise. In many states, jurisdiction for water and air protection has been delegated by EPA.

1. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about-us 2. https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas) 3. https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Fact-Sheet/
4. https://www.bsee.gov/what-we-do/offshore-regulatory-programs 5. https://www.ferc.gov/about/about.asp 6. https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/faqs/general-faqs