

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 11/19/25, 2:52 PM
Received: August 19, 2025
Status: Posted
Posted: November 17, 2025
Tracking No. mek-p91q-w2rx
Comments Due: October 06, 2025
Submission Type: Web

Docket: BOEM-2025-0008

Agency Information Collection Activities; Operating in the Outer Continental Shelf for Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulfur

Comment On: BOEM-2025-0008-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf for Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulfur

Document: BOEM-2025-0008-0002

Comment from Anonymous

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

The proposal to renew the information collection under 30 CFR part 582 for offshore critical minerals risks a significant expansion of mining activities without sufficient regard for long-term environmental and ecological impacts. While the focus is on ensuring compliance with regulations and maintaining orderly development, the history of offshore drilling for oil and gas demonstrates that such resource extraction often leads to unforeseen and irreversible harm to marine ecosystems. Expanding this model to other minerals, such as rare earth elements and other critical resources, poses the risk of exacerbating environmental degradation in marine environments, including pollution, habitat destruction, and disturbances to marine life. These impacts often cannot be fully mitigated, and the long-term consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services remain understudied and inadequately understood. Simply collecting information on compliance does not address the broader environmental threats posed by these activities.

Furthermore, the regulatory framework outlined by BOEM does not adequately address the public's right to know about and influence activities that could directly affect coastal communities, marine wildlife, and the larger environmental health of the oceans. The emphasis on facilitating resource extraction under the guise of "orderly development" could undermine public trust in how decisions are made regarding resource management. While the information collection may help ensure compliance with technical regulations, it does little to address the inherent conflicts between industrial-scale mining and the protection of coastal and marine environments. The recent push for offshore mineral extraction may prioritize economic and geopolitical goals—such as reducing dependence on foreign minerals—without giving sufficient weight to the environmental risks, or providing communities with adequate participation in decision-making processes.

Additionally, the use of this information to approve or disapprove mining activities on public offshore lands could open the door to increased exploitation of valuable marine resources without a clear and transparent assessment of the broader impacts. While technical and environmental evaluations are necessary, they should not be used as a way to expedite or greenlight potentially harmful activities that

may not align with long-term sustainability goals. The process needs to be more robust, incorporating a wider range of stakeholders, including environmental scientists, indigenous communities, and other groups who may bear the brunt of these activities. The proposed expansion of offshore mineral leasing should be approached with extreme caution, ensuring that the potential environmental risks are fully accounted for and that alternative, sustainable practices are prioritized over short-term resource extraction goals.