



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



27 July 2015

Heidi Hadley, Bureau of Land Management Scientific Integrity Officer
1849 C Street, NW, Rm 2134 LM
Washington, DC 20240

Claire Douglass, Oceana, Inc. Campaign Director, Climate and Energy
1350 Connecticut Ave. NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Subject: ESO-S0000423 Allegations of scientific misconduct contained in two *Science Notes* articles published by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Dear Ms. Douglass,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of the Executive Secretariat received Oceana, Inc.'s formal Complaint on May 8, 2015 concerning alleged scientific integrity policy violations in BOEM publications. The Complaint was routed to the BOEM Science Integrity Officer. Based on a possible perceived conflict-of-interest, and in accordance with 305 DM 3, 3.8 B. (1), the Department Scientific Integrity Officer reassigned this Complaint to me, the Bureau of Land Management Scientific Integrity Officer, on June 10, 2015.

After a preliminary review into the allegation of violation of the Department of the Interior's policy on Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities, I have found no merit to the charge.

The Complainant alleged two articles in *Science Notes*, a BOEM summary-broadcast media, failed to meet the Department's policy by:

- 1) Not communicating the results of scientific activities clearly, honestly, objectively, thoroughly, and accurately;
- 2) Not clearly differentiating among facts, personal opinions, assumptions, hypotheses, and professional judgment; and,
- 3) Not fully disclosing the scientific methodology used, all relevant data and information, and the procedures for identifying and excluding faulty data.

The purpose of this particular media is to notify the public of recent agency actions and give summary information on where to locate additional and full coverage of the science regarding that topic. These articles do not misrepresent the science that is sourced in the references.

Neither do they contain original science themselves. It is not expected that all results of scientific activities would be covered in a *Science Notes* news article.

In addition, it is not clearly shown that a personal opinion was stated in the two news articles cited, and is subjective on the Complainant's part to determine there is not a clear differentiating among facts. It is not the purpose of *Science Notes* to fully disclose scientific methodology, relevant data, and procedures for identifying and excluding faulty data. It is the purview of the documents referenced in *Science Notes* to meet those requirements.

Therefore, I find that the Complaint fails to allege a viable claim of scientific misconduct or a loss of scientific integrity and there is no violation of the Department's Scientific Integrity policy (305 DM 3, 3.8 B. (2) (iii)). As a result, the concerns of this allegation are considered closed.

Sincerely,



Heidi Hadley
BLM Scientific Integrity Officer

cc: Department Scientific Integrity Officer
Office of the Executive Secretary
BOEM Scientific Integrity Officer