

**NORTH ATLANTIC COAST  
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

**AMENDMENT ONE to  
COOPERATIVE and JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT**

**between**

**NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
National Park Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Energy, Installations, and Environment  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works**

**and**

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (HOST)**

**Bates College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
The City University of New York  
College of the Atlantic  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania  
Cornell University  
Harvard University  
Marine Biological Laboratory**

**Montclair State University  
Northeastern University  
Rutgers, The State University  
The Research Foundation for the State University of New York  
for SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
The Research Foundation for the State University of  
New York for SUNY Stony Brook University  
The Trustees of the Stevens Institute of Technology  
Stockton University  
University of Connecticut  
The University of Maine  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of New England  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University  
American Turtle Observatory  
Biodiversity Research Institute  
Center for Coastal Studies  
Maryland Coastal Bays Program  
Native Plant Trust  
Natural Areas Association  
New Jersey Audubon  
Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
Wildlife Management Institute**

**Adding:  
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

With the exception of the changes below, all terms and conditions of the North Atlantic Coast CESU Agreement apply to this Amendment, and this Amendment is hereby made part of the Agreement.

## **ARTICLE I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

- A.1. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is hereby included in the North Atlantic Coast CESU as a Federal Agency Partner.
- N. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (hereinafter called BSEE) was established in 2011 pursuant to S.O. 3299. BSEE is responsible for promoting safety, protection of

the environment, and conservation of resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement of offshore facilities engaged in energy exploration, development, and production operations on the Outer Continental Shelf. Department of the Interior Departmental Manual chapters were recently updated and posted to the Electronic Library of the Interior Policies on September 14, 2022, which state:

*"The Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), is delegated, through the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management (ASLM), the Secretary of the Interior's (Secretary) authority to oversee and regulate offshore operations and perform all related functions, including the following:*

*A. Under the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq.)[2], to conserve OCS mineral resources; to oversee offshore oil, natural gas, sulphur, and other energy and mineral exploration, development, and production; to oversee long-term carbon sequestration; to oversee production, transportation, or transmission of energy on OCS lands from sources other than oil and gas, such as renewable energy, or the use of OCS facilities for energy-related or other authorized marine-related purposes, including oversight of personnel safety; and to enforce safety and environmental standards related to those operations. The Director's oversight authority includes permitting, research, inspections for safety and environmental compliance, the implementation of offshore regulatory programs related to field operations, and training of inspectors. The Director's enforcement authority includes the authority to investigate, summon witnesses, require the production of evidence, assess civil penalties, and cancel or suspend activities.*

*B. Under the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, as amended (30 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq.), the authority to ensure production accountability and regulatory compliance. The Director's authority includes the authority to assess civil penalties.*

*C. Under sections 2(b)(3), 2(d)(3), and 2(c)(3) of Executive Order 12777, as amended, that delegate the authority under sections 311(j)(1)(C), 311(j)(5), and 311(j)(6)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972 (33 U.S.C. §§ 1321 et seq.) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including the authority to issue regulations: requiring the owners or operators of offshore facilities to prepare and submit response plans, establishing requirements for spill prevention and response equipment, and providing for inspections of such equipment.*

*D. Under 296 DM 2.3A, the authority to take action on requests from On-Scene Coordinators or, when the Regional Response Team is activated, from the designated representatives of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance for assistance responding to oil spills.*

*E. Under 318 DM, the authority to issue Federal Register notices that pertain to the responsibilities and functions assigned to BSEE. All proposed and final rules are issued by ASLM.”*

Through participation in the CESU Network, BSEE envisions conducting collaborative and interdisciplinary scientific and technological projects applied to safety, environmental protection, energy, biological, chemical, geological, geophysical, cultural, environmental, oceanographical, meteorological, and engineering disciplines. In accordance with the aforementioned authorities, BSEE is authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement to continue the North Atlantic Coast CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education.

### **ARTICLE III. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

- A.1. The effective date of the North Atlantic Coast CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement is 19 June 2024.
- A.2. The effective date of this Amendment to the North Atlantic Coast CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement shall be determined from the date of the last signature to this Amendment.

### **ARTICLE IV. KEY OFFICIALS**

- B.10. The representative(s) for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement are as follows:

*Technical Representative(s)*

Gerard Moore  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Renewable Energy and Regulatory Compliance  
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
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Eboné Pierce  
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*Administrative Representative(s)*

Robert Fila  
Program Analyst  
Renewable Energy and Regulatory Compliance  
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
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Sterling, VA 20166  
Phone: (703) 787-1224  
[robert.fila@bsee.gov](mailto:robert.fila@bsee.gov)

**ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**

Per Article III. C., the following authorizing signatures are attached:

- K. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
- L. UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (HOST)

#### ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

K. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

**PAUL HUANG** Digitally signed by PAUL HUANG  
Date: 2024.11.15 10:34:59 -05'00'

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Paul Huang  
Deputy Director

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Date

**ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

L. UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (HOST)

**Elizabeth Buchanan,  
CIP, Ph.D.**

Digitally signed by Elizabeth  
Buchanan, CIP, Ph.D.

Date: 2024.10.23 13:20:17 -05'00'

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Elizabeth Buchanan  
Associate Vice President for Research Administration

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Date