

## OCS AQS Operator User Manual

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| Study Title                       | Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) Operator User Manual (Version 1.9)   |
| Report Title                      | Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) Operator User Manual (Version 1.9)   |
| Report Number(s) (OCS Study)      | BOEM 2022-048   |
| Completion Date of Report         | September 28, 2022  |
| Number of Pages                   | 201   |
| Award Number(s)                   | 140E0119C0006   |
| Sponsoring OCS Region or Office   | BOEM Headquarters   |
| Applicable Planning Area(s)       | Federal waters west of 87° 30' West longitude in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Central and Western Planning areas; and offshore of the North Slope Borough of Alaska, which includes the Beaufort and Chukchi Planning Areas and a portion of the Hope Basin Planning Area |
| Fiscal Year(s) of Study Funding   | FY22  |
| Costs by Fiscal Year              | FY22  |
| Cumulative Project Cost           | \$12,000  |
| Project Manager(s)                | Dave Lim, Mohammad Munshed  |
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| Keywords                          | OCS AQS, Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, oil and gas operators, emissions inventory   |

**ABSTRACT:** The Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) is a comprehensive web-based software solution for managing emission inventories in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and Alaska regions that are under the jurisdiction of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), in accordance with 30 CFR 550.303(k) and 550.304(g). Through its web interface, OCS AQS allows GOM and Alaska operators to prepare and submit their required annual emissions data. A comprehensive operator user manual for OCS AQS was developed under this study to assist GOM and Alaska operators in this effort, thereby facilitating the source data input, calculation, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and submission processes.

**BACKGROUND:** OCS AQS is a new, state-of-the-art emissions data management and air modeling system that was first used for the 2021 inventory effort in the GOM region. OCS AQS provides significant benefits over the previous GOADS system including a web-portal where GOM and Alaska operators can input their facility sources, activities, and automatically calculate emissions. Other benefits

include enhanced usability; automated QA/QC to expand data quality evaluations; and advanced data analysis, reporting, and mapping tools. The OCS AQS operator user manual exposes these capabilities to the operators so they can use the system effectively and with maximum benefit.

**OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of the study was to develop comprehensive and helpful documentation on how to use OCS AQS in order to empower GOM and Alaska oil and gas operators in their effort to prepare and submit emissions data in accordance with BOEM’s emissions inventory requirements.

**METHODS:** The operator user manual was developed iteratively in consultation with BOEM and with additional feedback from the user community. By using this approach, the user manual attempted to capture all relevant system features in a clear and easy-to-follow manner. The user manual is a living document that will be continuously updated as software updates are made to OCS AQS.

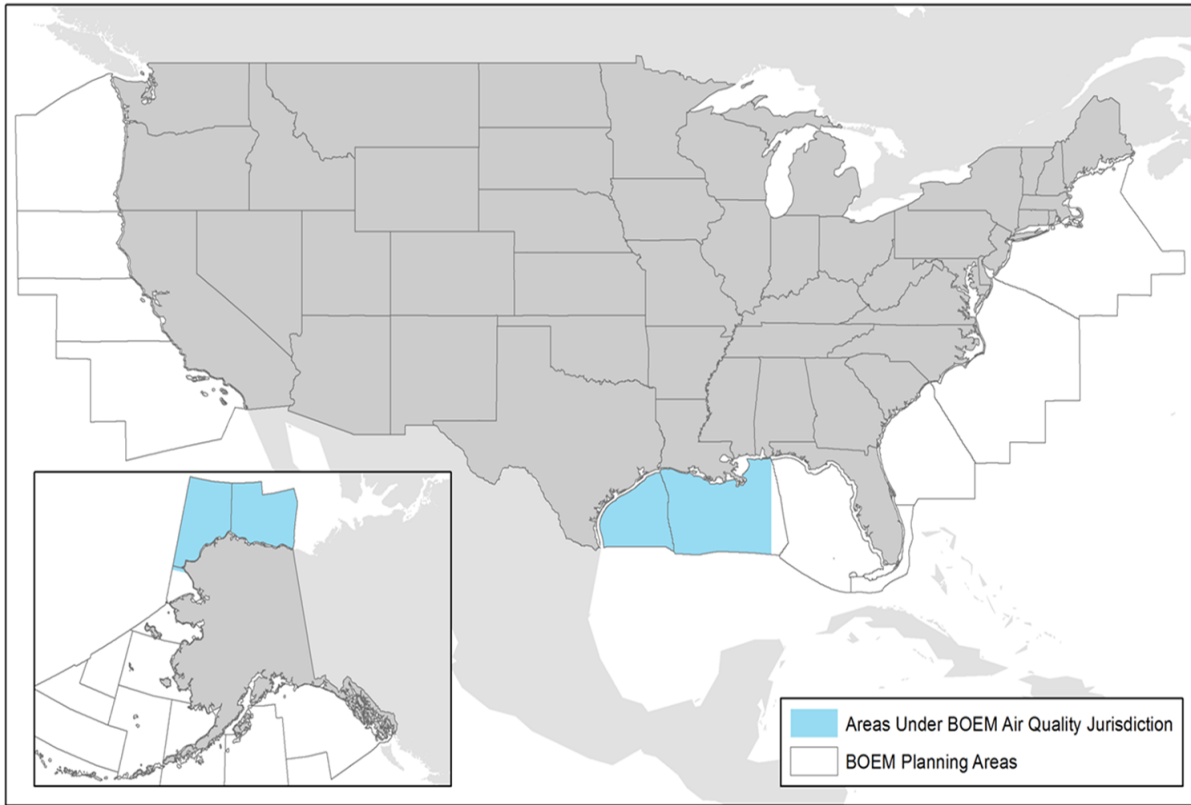
**RESULTS:** This study developed a comprehensive operator user manual to describe all relevant features of OCS AQS necessary for GOM and Alaska operators to prepare and submit their emissions data as required by BOEM. The manual begins with a brief “getting started” section to quickly orient new users to the system, provides a description of the dashboards including the Submittals Dashboard, and discusses in depth how to use the Activity and Emissions Manager as well as the Lease Operations Emissions Manager to input, calculate, and prepare required emissions data. The manual also describes other powerful features of the system that can help the operators to analyze, understand, and document their data, including various Documents, Map, and Reports tools. Finally, the manual provides an appendix section that describes all the calculators that have been implemented in OCS AQS.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The operator user manual has supported successful submission of the 2021 emissions data by facilitating the process of input and data submission by the operators. As a living document, the current version will provide the most up-to-date information in anticipation of the 2023 inventory effort.

#### **STUDY PRODUCT(S):**

1. BOEM study report: Thé J, Thé C, Munshed M, Torrens A, Alkabbani H. 2022. Outer Continental Shelf Air Quality System (OCS AQS) operator user manual (version 1.9). Sterling (VA): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. 201 p. Report No.: OCS Study BOEM 2022-048.
2. OCS AQS website: <https://ocsags.doi.gov>

**MAP OF STUDY AREA:** Federal waters west of 87° 30' West longitude in the GOM Central and Western Planning areas; and offshore of the North Slope Borough of Alaska, including the Beaufort and Chukchi Planning Areas and a portion of the Hope Basin Planning Area as shown in the figure below.



**Figure 1. Map of study area**

This figure shows OCS planning areas. The blue shaded areas are under BOEM air quality jurisdiction, requiring those operators in these regions to submit emissions data to BOEM using the OCS AQS tool.