THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

On December 26, 2024, the Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior issued a decision denying Hilcorp Alaska, LLC's (Hilcorp) suspension of production (SOP) request for the three leases that comprise the Liberty Unit. I hereby rescind the December 26, 2024, decision and remand the matter to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) for additional consideration consistent with the direction provided herein.

Hilcorp is a lessee and designated operator for the three Liberty Unit leases located in the Beaufort Sea on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OSC) offshore of Alaska. Hilcorp has held the Liberty Unit leases since November 18, 2014. The prior SOP for those leases was set to expire on December 26, 2024. On August 12, 2024, Hilcorp submitted an SOP request to BSEE for the three Liberty Unit leases, but BSEE determined the request to be incomplete. Hilcorp resubmitted another SOP request on August 28, 2024, in which it included the information requested by BSEE. BSEE determined that the August 28, 2024, SOP request contained sufficient information to allow BSEE to commence its review of the request. On December 13, 2024, Hilcorp submitted additional supplemental information to BSEE regarding its SOP request. BSEE reviews SOP requests pursuant to the regulations at 30 C.F.R. §§ 250.168-250.177.

Because the additional information provided by Hilcorp on December 13, 2024, raises additional questions regarding Hilcorp's commitment to production and its proposed schedule of work (see 30 C.F.R. § 250.171), I am rescinding the December 26, 2024, decision and remanding the matter to BSEE for further consideration of the SOP request. This is not a final determination of any matter at issue in Hilcorp's revived SOP request.

On remand, BSEE will further consider the supplemental information provided by Hilcorp on December 13, 2024, and likely request from Hilcorp additional information that BSEE may need to make its decision. I additionally encourage BSEE to engage in comprehensive discussions with Hilcorp to ensure that all pertinent information is thoroughly considered and that the public interest is appropriately addressed.

Karen Budd-Falen
Associate Deputy Secretary

Date: APR 24 2025