

## **Summary: Operator Modified Equipment Without BSEE Approval and Did Not Report a Discharge or Gas Leak**

**Report Date: May 4, 2026**

**Report Number: 24-0051**

The OIG investigated allegations from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) involving Quarter North Energy (QNE), formerly Fieldwood Energy. QNE previously held Federal oil and gas leases and operated multiple offshore platforms in the Gulf of America. BSEE reported to our office that QNE may have submitted misleading information to BSEE regarding well pressure readings and a casing leak on an offshore platform. BSEE also reported that QNE failed to timely report a related pollution event that occurred in January 2021. We substantiated the allegations.

We found that QNE failed to receive the required written approval from BSEE when it installed a hose to relieve pressure on the platform. QNE's installation of the hose contributed to a discharge of at least 107 gallons of oil into the navigable water of the United States. We also found that QNE released gas in excess of allowable limits.

In coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, we presented our findings to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, which declined to prosecute the matter.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the BSEE Principal Deputy Director.

