



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

June 6, 2023

Steven Welch
Agency Records Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Steven Welch,

Thank you for your letter dated May 26, 2023, notifying the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) of the potential loss of records from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

Your notification letter indicates that the BOEM, Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources had two boxes containing 23 reels of geophysical data that may have been lost during shipment. The regional office in Camarillo, CA shipped 35 boxes of reels to a vendor for digitization, and 2 of the 35 boxes have not been accounted for since shipment.

Additionally, the letter states that the missing records are temporary and following digitization, BOEM planned to refile the reels with the Riverside, CA Federal Records Center for the remainder of its retention period.

NARA acknowledges that BOEM is currently investigating whether or not copies of the missing records are filed elsewhere, and will submit a full report in accordance with 36 CFR 1230 by July 7, 2023. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence M. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

cc: David Alspach,
DOI Departmental Records Officer



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October 10, 2023

Steven Welch
Agency Records Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Steven Welch,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) report dated August 31, 2023, regarding the unauthorized disposition of federal records from the BOEM Pacific Region.

Your report indicates that BOEM's investigation into this matter revealed two boxes containing 23 nine-track tape reels of geophysical data were lost when the Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources regional office in Camarillo, CA shipped 35 boxes of tape reels via the United Parcel Service (UPS) to a vendor for digitization. The lost geophysical data contained Western Magnetic Field information from 1983 and was covered by disposition authority N1-589-12-3B, Interpretations of Shallow Seismic Data.

NARA acknowledges that the last known whereabouts of the two boxes were with UPS, who could not determine what happened to the missing boxes. Additionally, there is no known alternate physical or electronic repository of information that can be used to reconstruct the contents of the lost records. To prevent further loss of records the Office of Strategic Resources has implemented new standard operating procedures and internal controls to improve tracking shipped records.

Based on the information provided, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met and this matter is now closed. Thank you for your commitment to improving your records management practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'V'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government