A BOUNDARY DELINEATION SYSTEM FOR THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

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Federal government mapping of the offshore areas of the United States in support of the development of oil and gas resources began in 1954. The first system utilized a network of rectangular blocks defined by state plane coordinates which was later revised to utilize the Universal Transverse Mercator Grid. Marine boundaries such as the Submerged Lands Act boundary were mathematically determined using computer programs that performed the required computations inside mapping routines. BOEM is revising these antiquated methods using GIS technology which will provide the required accuracy and produce the mapping products needed for leasing on the outer continental shelf.