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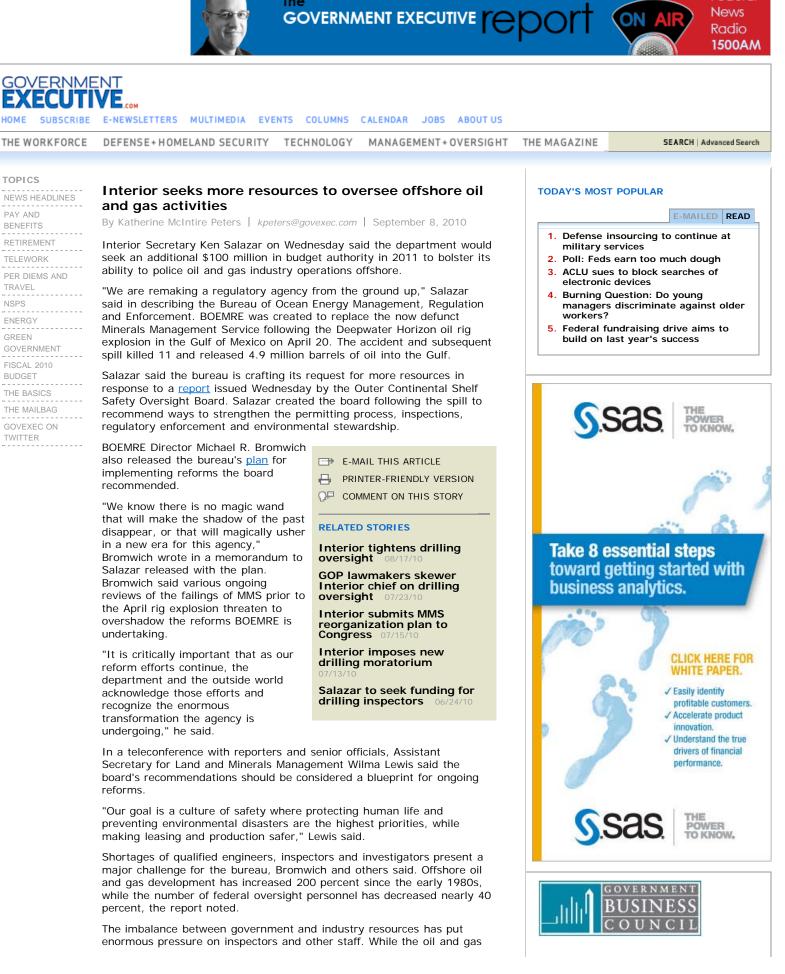
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industry works around-the-clock, BOEMRE district offices in the Gulf of Mexico task a single engineer with handling industry requests after business hours, and those engineers are handicapped because they cannot access government databases outside their offices for security reasons. In addition, a lack of standardization among districts leads energy operators to sometimes "shop around" for regulatory approval, the report said.

The report found that 90 percent of inspectors surveyed said more unannounced inspections of industry operations were required, yet they were rarely performed. In some cases, Coast Guard security restrictions inhibit surprise inspections. In other cases, the board found documentation indicating "special notification arrangements" between BOEMRE and certain companies.

In total, the board made 59 recommendations for improving oversight.

"I embrace the recommendations and we'll move forward with every ounce of energy we have to implement them," Salazar said.

# COMMENTS

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And lets watch the fracting going on within our borders, as well! Tom | Posted September 9, 2010 | 8:25 AM

Yep, let's throw some money at it! And while were at it, we'll make some new laws for the Interior to do the job. However washington WON'T provide enough funding for the Interior to effectively monitor the new program. End result: more contamination in the gulf and "big government" is to blame and takes a hit for being ineffective. sign me: "Set up for failure'again" OI' Fed | Posted September 9, 2010 | 7:22 AM

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