

The oil Project of Sèmè was born in 1981, according to the framework of the exploitation of Oil based at Sèmè. The activities relative to this project continued till the end of year 1998. At the end of this project, it was then necessary to set up a structure that must manage the installations at sea put in place by the project. This situation led to the creation in 2004, Oil Operations Office (BOP) which had for mission the management of the aforementioned installations at sea until 2005. With the development of operations, the activities of the Office became so important that the authorities, after many experiences explorations on the management of petroleum industry in other countries, decided to create a National Corporation which would insure the management of hydrocarbons.

Given that activities in this sub-sector require important investments, the limited resources of Benin did not favor the creation of a National company, based on the example of other petroleum exporting countries.

However, the authorities having recognized the necessity to create a structure dedicated to oil resources management, decided in 2006, to establish an Office. It is in this way the Benin Hydrocarbons Office was created in 2006.

The Decree N 2011-837, carrying statutes of the Benin Hydrocarbons Office (OBH) was adopted by the Council of Ministers in its session of December 30th, 2011 at Cotonou.

The Benin Hydrocarbons Corporation (SOBEH) was created by decree N°2013 - 509 of December 24th, 2013 wearing approval of its Statutes. it results from the institutional transformation of the Benin hydrocarbons Office (OBH). SOBEH is under the authority of the Ministry in charge of hydrocarbons.