



Atlantic Wind Energy: Smart from the Start

New England Fisheries
Management Council

US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management, Regulation and
Enforcement (BOEMRE)

April 2011





Overview

- Offshore renewable energy framework and Secretary Salazar's "Smart from the Start" initiative

Ned Farquhar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior (DOI), Land and Minerals Management

- Intergovernmental Task Forces

Jessica Bradley, DOI/BOEMRE/Office of Alternative Energy Programs (OAEP), Project Coordinator

- The Leasing and Environmental Review Process

Brian Hooker, DOI/BOEMRE/OAEP Environmental Review Branch, Marine Biologist



The Process - 1

- State-level governmental **task forces**: Consider issues, represent concerns, begin screening for possible leasing areas
- Use the **public process** (Request for Interest and/or Call for Information) to
 - gather public comment ,
 - ascertain early developer interest,
 - continue analyzing issues and geography of possible leasing areas, and
 - determine whether competitive or non-competitive.



The Process - 2

- Conduct appropriate **environmental analysis** to decide whether leasing and site assessment can proceed
- Issue **specific leasing proposals** (non-competitive or competitive), with public notice
- Issue **leases**
 - Convey the right to pursue and propose
 - Allow the lessee to present a construction plan
- Proceed to full public review and **environmental evaluation of the proposed project** (COP and EIS)



The Process - Summary

- Involve government
- Involve and inform the public and stakeholders (*e.g.* FMCs)
- Identify possible leasing areas
- Conduct appropriate environmental and public review to support site assessment and leasing
- Propose leasing in a specific area, with public comment
- Lease, allowing developers to pursue and propose development
- Permit development (or not) only after full review of a specific project
- Project development



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement (BOEMRE)

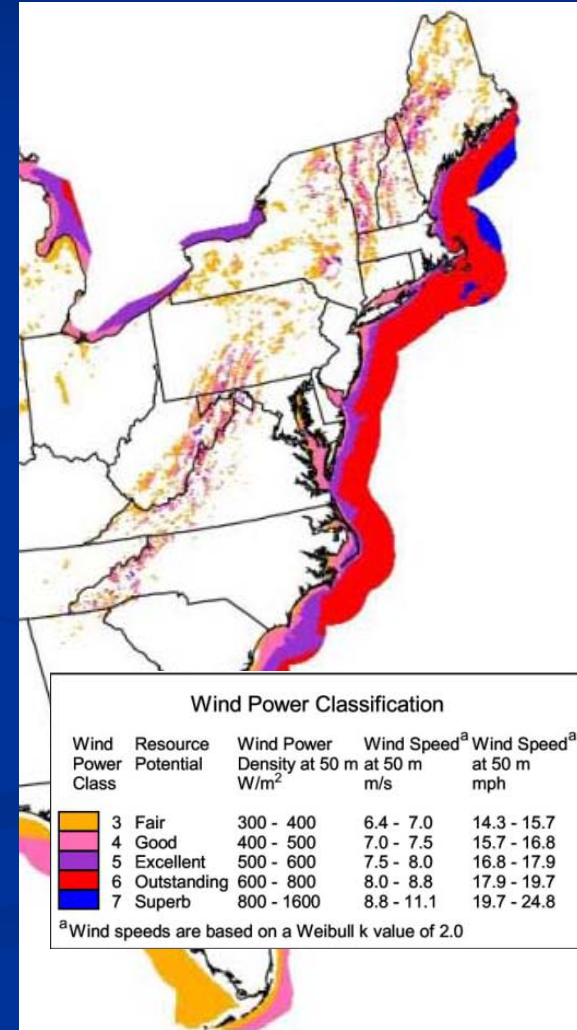
- Ocean energy management in the Federal offshore
- Natural gas, oil, and alternative energy including wind
- Energy Policy Act of 2005: Consideration of “any other use of the sea or seabed, including use for a **fishery**, a sealane ... navigation,”





Atlantic Wind Resources

- A world-class resource – >1200 MW, near load centers
- Consolidated jurisdiction
- State-level Renewable Portfolio Standards and greenhouse gas initiatives
- Governors' interest: Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium





Secretary Salazar's *Smart from the Start* Atlantic Wind Initiative

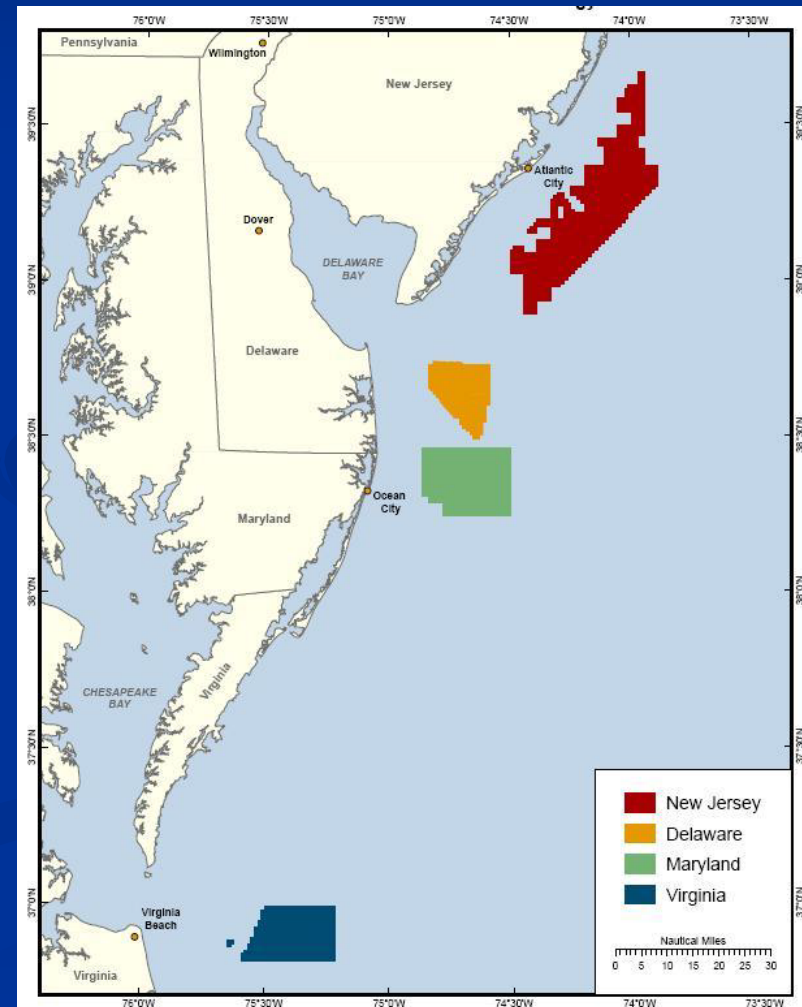
- Earlier actions: FERC agreement, new regulatory framework, Cape Wind decision making, Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (AOWEC)
- Comprehensive analysis and appropriate leasing
- Early cooperation among federal, state, Tribal, and local governments (FACA)
- Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)





Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)

- Target analysis: Lowest probable conflict, highest wind potential
- February 2010: WEAs off New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia suitable for further consideration as sites for future offshore wind development





Agreements With Federal Agencies

- BOEMRE is working with interested federal agencies to establish agreements facilitating coordination on OCS renewable energy development:
 - MOU with Department of Energy (DOE)
 - MOU with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Proceeding with Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Intergovernmental Task Forces and Project Coordination



Intergovernmental Task Forces

Affected **State, local, & tribal governments**
and **Federal agencies** participate

Does not replace consultation under existing Federal laws
and regulations

Forum to:

- Educate** each other about permitting and statutory responsibilities, and stakeholders' issues
- Exchange data** about biological, cultural, and physical resources, uses, and priorities
- Continue dialogue** about renewable energy activities throughout the leasing process

BOEMRE considers task force input in our
renewable energy leasing decisions



Intergovernmental Task Forces

Goal: Promote efficient and effective decision-making by:

Increasing understanding of regulatory processes

Bringing together all interested and affected governmental parties to facilitate information sharing

Providing the venue to discuss concerns, issues, and options for solutions **early in the leasing process**

Reducing multiple-use conflicts and identifying information gaps and needs

*Participation enables interested and affected parties to **proactively** provide input into the leasing process rather than react to BOEMRE announcements and actions*



Intergovernmental Task Forces



Task Force States:

Maine,
Massachusetts, Rhode
Island, New York, New
Jersey, Delaware,
Maryland, Virginia, North
Carolina, Oregon

On the Horizon: Florida,
Hawaii, South Carolina



In the Northeast: Maine

**Held task force meetings on September 14, 2010 and
November 16, 2010**

**Working in consultation with the Governor's office and the
Task Force to identify a Wind Energy Area (WEA)**

Next Steps:

**Identify WEA in consultation with Task Force
Develop Notice for Publication in the Federal Register**

**BOEMRE Point of Contact: Ms. Aditi Mirani
(703)-787-1752 or aditi.mirani@boemre.gov**



In the Northeast: Massachusetts

Held task force meetings: November 19, 2009, January 27, 2010, September 8, 2010, October 15, 2010

Published Request for Interest (RFI) on December 29, 2010; comment period extended to April 18, 2011

Next steps:

Inform Task Force membership of RFI comments and responses

Identify WEA in consultation with Task Force and develop Call for Information and Nominations for Publication in the Federal Register

**BOEMRE Point of Contact: Ms. Jessica Bradley
(703)-787-1730 or jessica.bradley@boemre.gov**



In the Northeast: Rhode Island

Held first Task Force meeting on November 17, 2009.

Governors of Rhode Island and Massachusetts signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) July 26, 2010, establishing an Area of Mutual Interest (AMI).

BOEMRE received two separate unsolicited applications within the AMI in October and November 2010.

Held joint meeting of the BOEMRE/RI and BOEMRE/MA Task Forces on December 10, 2010.

Next joint meeting scheduled May 2, 2011.

Next Steps:

Joint Task Force meeting on May 2, 2011 to discuss draft Call for Information and Nominations

Publish Call for Information and Nominations in Federal Register

**BOEMRE Point of Contact: Ms. Jessica Bradley
(703)-787-1730 or jessica.bradley@boemre.gov**



In the Northeast: New York

Held first task force meeting November 18, 2010.

BOEMRE is working with the Governor's office to identify next steps in the planning process

**BOEMRE Point of Contact: Ms. Jessica Bradley
(703)-787-1730 or jessica.bradley@boemre.gov**



The Leasing and Environmental Review Process



3 Stages of Renewable Energy Leasing and Development

- Lease issuance
 - Exclusive right to submit plans
 - Does not authorize construction
 - Only reasonably foreseeable activity is surveyed
- Site Assessment
 - Up to 5 year period
 - Submit site assessment plans (SAP) – Bottom-founded data collection facilities (i.e., meteorological towers and buoys)
- Commercial Activities
 - Approximately 25 year period
 - Submit construction and operations plan (COP)



Starting the Leasing Process

- Leasing process may be started by a **developer** submitting an unsolicited request **or by BOEMRE as in Smart from the Start.**
- In either case BOEMRE will issue public notices to determine whether competitive interest exists
- After publishing a Request for Interest (**RFI**) or Call for Information and Nominations (**Call**) and considering results, BOEMRE will decide whether to proceed **competitively** or **noncompetitively**



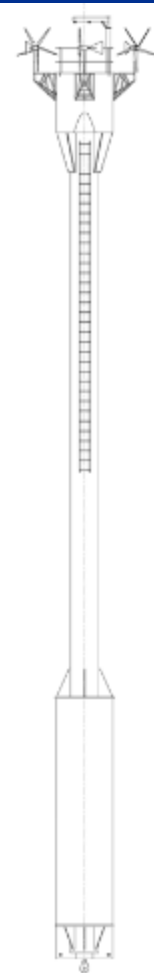
Environmental Review/Consultations for Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities

- **Jurisdictional Activities**
 - Wind resource assessment
 - Construction of a meteorological tower or installation of a LIDAR buoy(s)
- **Non-Jurisdictional Activities (foreseeable actions)**
 - High Resolution Geophysical Survey (HRG)
 - Biological Resource Survey
 - Cultural Resource Survey
 - Sub-bottom Reconnaissance



Wind Resource Assessment

- Meteorological towers
- Meteorological LIDAR buoys
- Considerations include sediment scour, lighting, vessel traffic, etc.





Site Characterization

- High Resolution Geophysical Survey (HRG)
 - Includes subsurface seismic profiling, extent/intensity determined by the area being considered for development (currently limited only to high to mid frequency sonar arrays (i.e., no airguns))
- Biological Resource Survey
 - Presence/absence of threatened and endangered species
 - Presence/absence of sensitive biological resources/habitats
- Cultural Resource Survey
 - Magnetometer
- Sub-bottom Reconnaissance
 - Vibracores, CPTs, sediment borings



Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Multiple Use Conflicts
- Fisheries & Fishing
- Socioeconomics
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Birds and Bats
- Seafloor Habitats
- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Cultural Resources





SAP Consult Statutes

- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Magnuson-Steven Act (EFH)
- Migratory Bird Treat Act (HMBTA)
- Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Clean Water and Clean Air Acts
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)



Research and Studies Efforts

- Environmental Studies Program
<http://www.boemre.gov/eppd/sciences/esp/RenewableEnergyResearch.htm>
- Technology Assessment and Research
www.boemre.gov/tarprojectcategories/RenewableEnergy.htm
- International Energy Agency (IEA) Annex
- Partners include National Oceanic Partnership Program, DOE, FERC, industry, academia, Marine Board, and BOEMRE Scientific Advisory Committee
- Use results to inform leasing, plan review, and program decisions



General Summary of Fishery-Related Comments for New England

- Approximately 270 responses received regarding the Massachusetts RFI. Comments received from:
 - NEFMC
 - NMFS
 - Commercial fishing interests
 - Recreational fishing interests
 - Others
- All comments will be posted on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)



Opportunities for Public Input

- BOEMRE/State Task Force Meeting Public Q&A Session
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Request for Information published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- Call for Information and Nominations published in the Federal Register, assuming competitive interest, (45 days)
- Proposed Sale Notice (assuming competitive interest) published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (60-90 day scoping)
- Notice of Availability of a draft environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (60 days, public hearings in the vicinity of the proposed lease)
- Notice of Availability of a final environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (30 days public review)
- There are also opportunities for stakeholder input in the NEPA process (scoping, draft EIS public hearings, etc.) and possibly CZM.



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Thank you!