

Overview of the Mid Atlantic Regional Environmental Assessment and Comments

Virginia State Task Force Meeting — August 19, 2011

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Background

On February 9, 2011, BOEMRE published the NOI in the *Federal Register* to prepare the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Identification of wind energy areas (WEAs) offshore NJ, DE, MD and VA.

 Issues identified in comment period framed scope of the analysis.

Summary of the Regional EA:

<u>What it is:</u>

✓ Applying 'Smart from the Start'.

- Creating efficiencies in renewable energy development.
- Focused effort, regional in scope.
- ✓ Addresses lease issuance, site characterization surveys, and site assessment activities (towers and buoys).



<u>What it is NOT:</u> Does NOT include construction/ operations of <u>a commercial wind facility.</u>



Environmental Analysis Summary

Routine & Non-Routine Activities

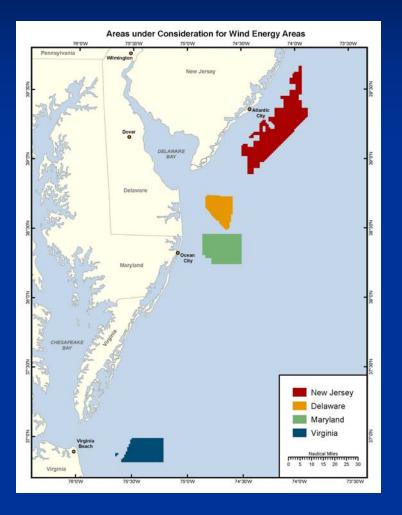
- Routine:
 - Site Characterization Surveys include shallow hazards, geological, geotechnical, archaeological and biological surveys.
 - Site Assessment Activities include the installation of a meteorological towers and/or meteorological buoys.
- Non-routine Activities:
 - Storms, allision, collisions between vessels or marine life.
- Addresses physical, biological, and socioeconomic resources
- Involved outreach to Mid-Atlantic Mariner Groups
 - Port Authorities
 - Local Mariner Groups
 - Mariner's Advisory Councils

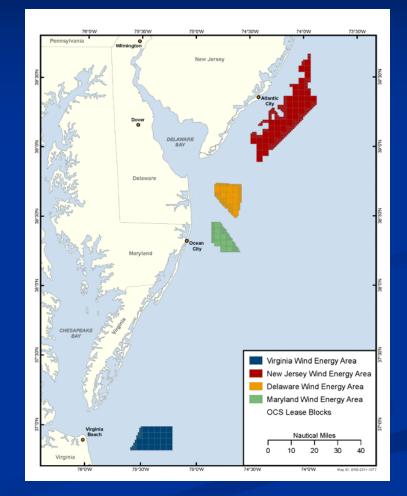






Wind Energy Areas





REFINED WEAs

ORIGINAL WEAs

Alternative D – Seasonal Prohibition to Protect the North Atlantic Right Whale

 Alternative D would limit vessel activity during peak migration periods of right whales to and from the summer feeding ground in New England and winter calving ground offshore Georgia and Florida.



Alternative E – Removal of Inclement Weather Diversion Area Offshore Virginia

12.			6956	6957	6958	6959	6960	6961	6962	6963	6964	6965	6966	6967
		7005	7006	7007	7008	70097	7010	7011	7012	7013	7014	1015	0 7016	7017
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	6154	6155	6156	6157	8158	6159	C 200 2 P	6161	6162	6183	5164	6165	6166	616
	6204	6205	6206	6207	6208	620.9	6210	6211	6212	6213	6214	6215	6216	629
	6254	6255	6256	6257	6258	6259	6260	6261	6262	6263	6264	6265	6266	626
North		6305	6306	6307	6308	6309	6310	6311	6312	6313	6314	6315	6316	631
Fed/State Boundary			0 2 4 6 8 10 12 Nautical Miles									Bathyme -10		
Traffic Separation Scheme Virginia Wind Energy Area	6 8			0	5	10	15	20 Kil	ometers				-20	

Draft EA Comments Received

- Draft complete July 11, 2011.
- Mid-Atlantic Draft Regional EA public comment period closed August 11, 2011.
- BOEMRE held two webinars during public comment period (State Task Forces & interest groups).
- **Total comments:** 57
- VA-related comments: 10

Effects on Call / Next Steps

BOEMRE will analyze comments received.
Vessel traffic and mariner issues are a primary concern based on comments received for Virginia.
Will continue to work closely with USCG on vessel traffic and navigational impacts.
Final analysis will assist in development of the Call area.





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