

**Mariners' Advisory  
Committee**  
for the Bay & River Delaware

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12/24/10

Captain Stephen Roberts, Chairman  
Captain H. Hickman Rowland Jr., Secretary

Organized 1964



Captain Rick Iuliucci, Treasurer  
Captain Joseph F. Bradley, Honorary Chairman

December 24, 2010

Captain Stephen A. Roberts, Chairman  
Mariners Advisory Committee  
28 Cripple Creek Run  
Milton, DE 19968  
mac.chair@comcast.net

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation  
and Enforcement, Office of Offshore  
Alternative Energy Programs  
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4090  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Offshore Maryland  
Request for Interest (RFI)

Docket No. BOEM-2010-0038

Dear Sirs:

I am a maritime pilot whose working area includes the sea lane approaches to the Delaware Bay and River. I am also the chairman of the Mariners Advisory Committee (MAC), the harbor safety committee for the ports on the Delaware River. The MAC is made up of pilots, captains, vessel owners and operators and other port related professionals. We work very closely with the United States Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA in setting navigation safety standards for vessels transiting the Delaware River Basin.

The Port of Philadelphia is the nation's largest freshwater port, the largest oil port on the East Coast and third largest oil port in the country. As such, approximately 2500 deep-draft vessels transit the Delaware annually. Many are amongst the largest ships to arrive in any port in the United States with the majority approaching the area from the south using the Delaware to Cape Henlopen Traffic Lane.

240 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 925 1524  
Administrative Assistant Scott Anderson [marinersadvisory@yahoo.com](mailto:marinersadvisory@yahoo.com)  
or visit our website [www.macdelriv.org](http://www.macdelriv.org)

While the MAC is not opposed to wind farm lease blocks safely located adjacent to navigation fairways, we absolutely cannot accept a proposal that will situate a wind farm that lies completely astride of the main ship traffic entrance to the Delaware Bay. It also affects plans for future coastwise two way traffic lanes connecting to the Chesapeake Bay. The only lease blocks that do not interfere with vessel traffic are 6623, 6624, 6673, 6674, 6723, 6724, 6773 and 6774. Any other block must not be considered or offered as available for leasing.

The very offer to lease seafloor areas for wind energy projects located directly off the primary deepwater entrance to Delaware Bay suggests a great disconnect between the BOEMRE, the maritime industry who rely on our sea lanes and the concerns of our port complex. At the recommendation of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Sector Delaware Bay a working committee is being formed to address wind farms being located near navigational fairways in our port region. It will be composed of navigators, maritime industry representatives and other interested parties. I would ask that the BOEMRE be represented and that they would encourage the participation of representatives from the wind energy industry. The mission of the working group will be to provide a forum for all interested parties to gain an understanding of each other's expectations and concerns. You may contact me with your interest at [mac.chair@comcast.net](mailto:mac.chair@comcast.net).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Roberts", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Captain Stephen A. Roberts  
Chairman