

THE NEWS ROOM

FOR RELEASE:
August 01, 2011

THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT,
REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Office of Public Affairs

BOEMRE Initiates Study on Regulating Worker Safety in Offshore Renewable Energy Operations

WASHINGTON, DC — The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) today announced it has contracted with the National Research Council's Marine Board to conduct a study on regulating worker safety in connection with the development of offshore renewable energy on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The project will be important in establishing worker safety requirements for offshore renewable energy operations. The study is expected to be completed by July 31, 2012.

"We are committed to ensuring that offshore energy development is conducted safely," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "The results of this study will enhance and enlarge our understanding of the potential risks faced by workers during construction and operation of renewable energy facilities on the OCS."

The study will identify workplace risks involved in renewable energy operations, such as work performed in proximity to high-power electrical devices on offshore substations; use of elevators for wind turbines in highly corrosive environments; accessing turbine blades for repair; crane and diving operations during construction; and the use of carbon dioxide fire suppression systems in potentially manned areas. The study will identify gaps in current regulations and make recommendations on additional areas of workplace safety regulation that are deemed necessary.

The Marine Board will solicit input from experts in the areas of worker safety regulation, offshore oil and gas operations and maintenance, offshore construction, wind turbine/plant design, operations and maintenance, and high-power electrical operations and maintenance.

BOEMRE is the federal bureau responsible for overseeing the safe and environmentally responsible development of energy and mineral resources on the OCS. It conducts and sponsors scientific research to inform decision making regarding ocean energy and marine minerals management. For more information on BOEMRE's Technology Assessment & Research Program, go to: <http://www.boemre.gov/tarphome/index.htm>.

Contact: [BOEMRE Public Affairs](#)