

BOEM's Renewable Energy Program

In 2009, Department of the Interior (DOI) announced the final regulations for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA). These regulations provide a framework for issuing leases, easements and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas. DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters. Since the regulations were enacted, BOEM has worked diligently to oversee responsible renewable energy development.

Commercial Leasing

A commercial lease gives the lessee the exclusive right to seek BOEM approval for the development of a leasehold. It does not grant the right to construct any facilities. Since 2009, BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) has issued thirteen commercial wind energy leases offshore, including those issued to the following companies:

- *Cape Wind Associates, LLC*, for an area totaling 29,425 acres offshore Massachusetts (2010)
- *Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC*, for an area totaling 96,430 acres offshore Delaware (2012) that was later assigned to *Garden State Offshore Energy (GSOE I, LLC)* (2016).
- *Deepwater Wind New England, LLC*, for two lease areas totaling 164,750 acres offshore Rhode Island/Massachusetts (2013).
- *Virginia Electric and Power Company* (Dominion Energy), for an area totaling 112,799 acres offshore Virginia (2013).
- *US Wind Inc.*, for two lease areas totaling 79,707 acres offshore Maryland (2014), and another lease area totaling 183,353 acres offshore New Jersey (2016).
- *Offshore MW LLC* for an area totaling 166,886 acres offshore Massachusetts (2015). *Offshore MW LLC* has changed its name to *Vineyard Wind LLC*. (2017).
- *RES America Developments, Inc.* for an area totaling 187,523 acres offshore Massachusetts that was later assigned to *Bay State Wind LLC* (2015), and another area totaling 160,480 acres offshore New Jersey that was later assigned to *Ocean Wind LLC* (2016).
- *Statoil Wind US LLC*. for an area totaling 79,350 acres offshore New York (2017).
- *Avangrid Renewables, LLC*. for an area totaling 122,405 acres offshore North Carolina (2017).



BOEM is also in the planning stages for additional areas offshore New York, Massachusetts, South Carolina, California, and Hawaii.

Limited and Research Leasing

In addition to the leases above, BOEM received the following unsolicited research lease applications:

- Two research lease requests from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). In response to both requests, BOEM determined there was no competitive interest. One of the research leases, associated with the proposed Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project, was executed in March 2015.
- A research lease request for a wave energy test site in Federal waters offshore Oregon was submitted to BOEM by Oregon State University. BOEM determined there was no competitive interest and continues to process the research lease request.

Right-of-Way Grants

BOEM has the authority to issue right-of-way grants that allow developers to build electricity transmission lines that connect renewable energy installations to the onshore electrical grid. BOEM executed a right-of-way grant in 2014 for a cable project that supports the Block Island Wind Farm, a wind project located in Rhode Island state waters.

For More Information: Check out the following link to find out what is going on in each of our coastal states: <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-State-Activities/>.