

Virginia Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting Casey Reeves Bureau of Ocean Energy Management September 22, 2016

## Overview

- BOEM Program Overview
- State Task Force Engagement and Development
- Commercial Lease Status





## Program Authority and Philosophy

### Energy Policy Act of 2005

- ➤ Amends Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to authorize DOI to act as "lead" agency for certain alternative energy and marine-related uses on the OCS
- ➤ DOI delegated OCSLA authority to then MMS (now BOEM)
- ➤ Requires development of regulatory regime that:
  - ➤ Ensures consultation with States, Local government and other stakeholders.
  - ➤ Grants leases, easements, or rights-of ways.
  - Enforces regulatory compliance.
  - ➤ Requires financial surety.
  - > Provides fair return to the Nation.

The program's philosophy is centered on engagement of stakeholders, transparency, and providing opportunities for public input through formal and informal processes.



# **BOEM Virginia Task Force**

**BOEM & State** Lead Point of Contacts (POC) Federal **BOEM** Agencies **Elected Local** · NOAA, NASA, Officials\* NPS, FWS, DOD, DHS, USCG, ACOE, EPA, etc. VA Task Force Elected State **Elected Tribal** Officials\* Officials\* · State Offshore Wind Task Force · State Agencies

- Established BOEM Virginia Renewable Energy Task Force in 2009
- Introduced VA Charter
- Gathered input and new data sources on existing OCS uses to inform planning process
- Updated charter and portal
- Held Task Force meetings:
  - 2012 Task Force Meeting (June 5, 2012)
  - 2011 Task Force Meeting (August 17, 2011)
  - 2010 Task Force Meeting (April 27, 2010)
  - 2009 Task Force Meeting (December 8, 2009)
- Maintain information gathering Engagement and Outreach



## **Enhanced Government Efficiencies**

- > By engaging in BOEM's leasing process, Task Forces:
  - Provide a regional perspective to the leasing process;
  - > Engage federal, state, and other entities in long-term resource planning;
  - Facilitate site selection through stakeholder coordination;
  - Promote issue identification and mitigation of potential impacts;
  - > Collaborate on the use of scientific research and information;
  - > Enhance environmental monitoring and mitigation strategies



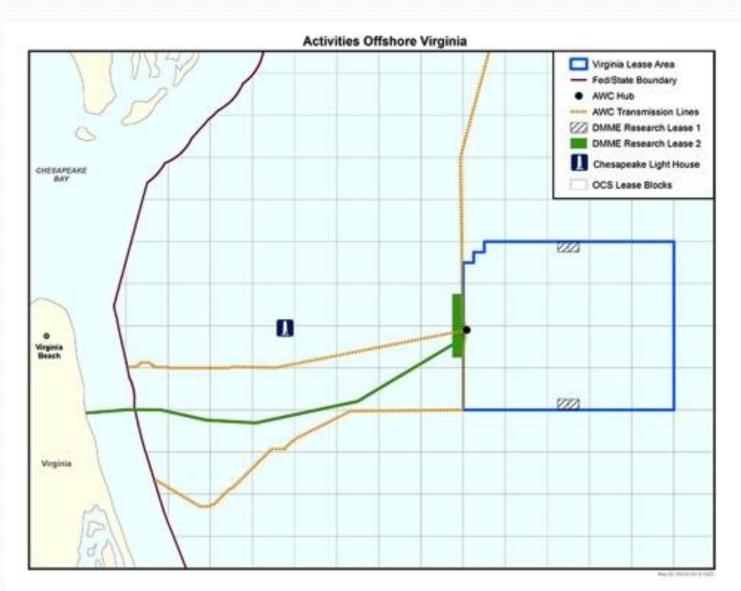
# Applicable Laws and Executive Orders(partial list)

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Protection, Research, & Sanctuaries
   Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act
- Marking of Obstructions

- Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- Federal Power Act
- E.O. 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
- E.O. 13186 (Migratory Birds)
- E.O. 13547 (Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts& the Great Lakes)
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- Energy Policy Act

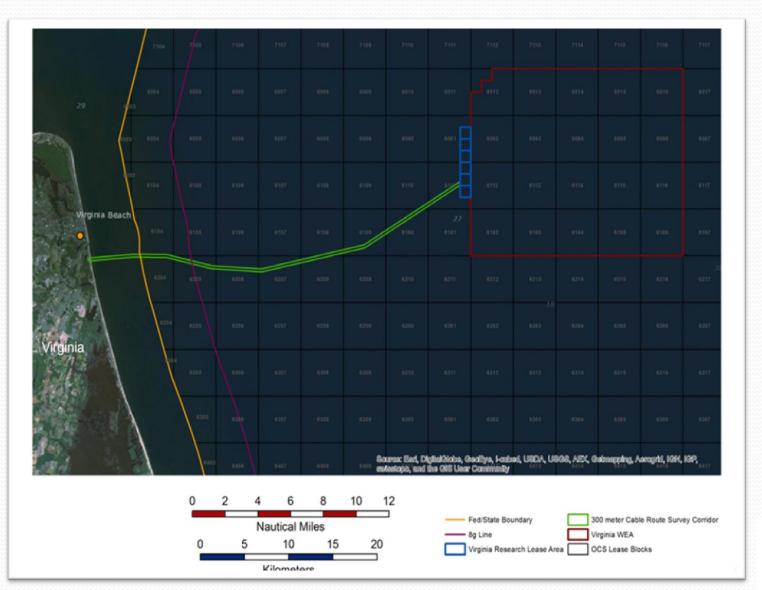


## **Historic Activities**





## **Current Activities**





# Virginia Commercial Lease



Effective: November 1, 2013

Size: 112,799 acres

Awarded competitively to: Virginia Electric and Power Company (dba Dominion Virginia Power) for \$1.6 million as the high bid



# Offshore Wind Authorization Process for the Virginia Commercial Lease

- 1 Planning and Analysis
  - 2 Leasing
  - 3 Site Assessment
- 4 Construction and Operations



# BOEM's Staged Offshore Wind Authorization Process

### Planning and Analysis

- BOEM publishes Call for Information and Nominations
- •BOEM identifies priority Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) offshore. WEAs are locations that appear most suitable for wind energy development, or
- Processes unsolicited application for lease
- BOEM may prepare an Environmental Assessment for Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities

#### Leasing

- BOEM determines whether Competitive Interest exists
- •If Competitive Interest exists, BOEM notifies the public and developers of its intent to lease through Sale Notices before holding a lease sale
- •If Competitive Interest does not Exist, BOEM negotiates a lease (note: issuance may be combined with plan approval)

### Site Assessment

- Lessee conducts site characterization studies
- Lessee submits Site Assessment Plan (SAP)
- BOEM conducts
   environmental and
   technical reviews of
   SAP, eventually
   deciding to approve,
   approve with
   modification, or
   disapprove the SAP
- If approved, Lessee assesses site (usually with meteorological tower(s) and/or buoy(s)

### Construction and Operations

- Lessee may conduct additional site characterization
- Lessee submits Construction and Operations Plan (COP)
- BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews of COP, eventually deciding to approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the COP
- •If approved, Lessee builds wind facility

Intergovernmental Task Force Engagement

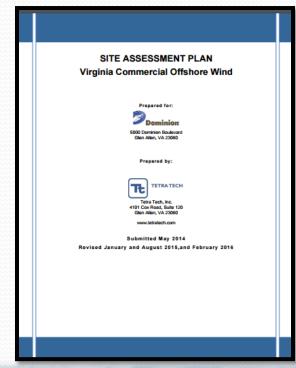


## Commercial Site Assessment Plan

- A complete Site Assessment Plan was submitted by Dominion Virginia Power to BOEM for meteorological evaluations and site assessment on March 2, 2016.
- ➤ The plan details the methods and procedures Dominion will use to collect and analyze meteorological data and information on the conditions of the marine environment within the Commercial Lease. Collection of this data will be performed using a WindSentinel<sup>™</sup>, a floating light detection and ranging (LiDAR) buoy. The plan also details the installation and operation of the WindSentinel<sup>™</sup>.

#### Site Assessment Plan

- Appendix A Agency Correspondence
- Appendix B Health and Safety Plan
- Appendix D WindSentinel Buoy Technical Details
- Appendix F Vessel Specifications
- Appendix G Incident Report: Protected Species Injury or Mortality
- Appendix H Air Emission Calculations.
- ➤ A bond determination is being completed prior to final decision.





## Next Steps...

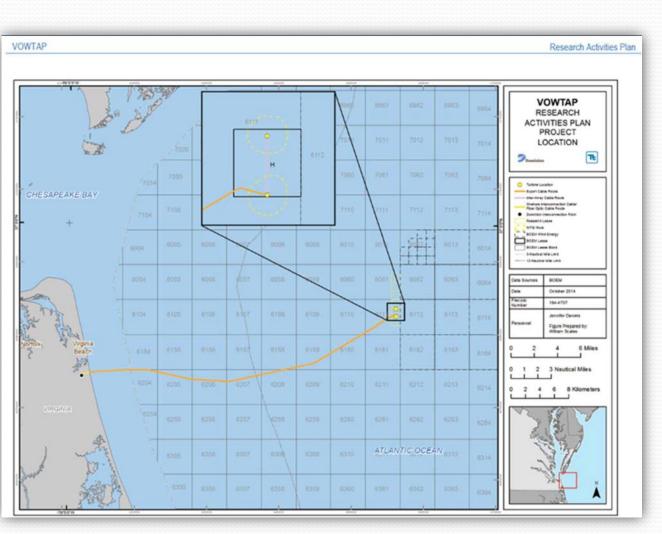
- Review Commercial Site Assessment Plan
- Continue stakeholder outreach and data gathering
- Continue transparent process and intergovernmental review of Plans and activities



Questions?



# Virginia Research Lease



Effective Date: April 1, 2015

Lessee: Commonwealth Of

Virginia, DMME

Operator: Virginia Electric and Power Company (dba Dominion Virginia Power)

Size: 2,135 acres

Research Term: 30 years



# Virginia Research Lease

- In 2012 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced funding awards for "Offshore Wind Demonstration Projects." One of awards was given to Dominion Resources, Inc., which partnered with DMME and others to establish the Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project.
- ➤ These initiatives to date have subsidized the funding and development of publicly available documents, methodologies, data collection, and planned development to meet BOEM's regulations under 30 CFR part 585
- > 30 CFR Part 585. 238, limits the entities able to hold research leases (i.e., state and federal entities).
- ➤ The Commonwealth of Virginia its business and industry partners have provided substantial benefits not only to the offshore industry in Virginia but as a whole.
- The information collected on a research lease is made available to the public and may help support future development.



# Offshore Wind Authorization Process for Research Leases

- 1 Unsolicited Request
- 2 Determination of Competitive Interests
- 3 Lease negotiation/execution
- 4 Site Assessment
- 5 Construction and Operations



# Virginia Research Lease

- ➤ BOEM Issues First Wind Energy Research Lease in Federal Offshore Waters (03/26/2015)
- ➤ BOEM Approves Virginia's Offshore Wind Research Activities Plan (03/24/2016)
  - ➤ Including the approval of a Certified Verification Agent; and,
  - ➤ Approval of the first project easement for a submarine transmission cable from a federal renewable energy lease to shore.



### Research Activities Plan Approval (03/24/2016)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Conditions of Research Activities Plan Approval Lease Number OCS-A 0497

The Lessee's rights to conduct activities under the approved Research Activities Plan (RAP) are subject to the following conditions. The Lessor reserves the right to impose additional conditions incident to any future approval of any modifications to the RAP.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### Section:

- 1) APPLICABLE REGULA TIONS AND LEASE TERMS
- 2) TECHNICAL CONDITIONS
- 3) CONDITIONS FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION
- 4) CONDITIONS FOR A VIAN AND BAT PROTECTION
- 5) CONDITIONS RELATING TO MARINE PROTECTED SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
- 6) CONDITIONS ON HIGH RESOLUTION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS
- 7) CONDITIONS ON PILE DRIVING OF WIND TURBINE GENERATOR (WTG) INWARD BATTERED GUIDE STRUCTURE (IBGS) FOUNDATIONS
- 8) CONDITIONS FOR DYNAMIC POSITIONING (DP) THRUSTER USE
- 9) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINE PROTECTED SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
- ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS FOR ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT REPORTING AND CONSERVATION
- 11) CONDITIONS RELATED TO NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY
- condition related to electromagnetic emissions
- MODIFICATIONS

#### Attachments:

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS FOR PROTECTED SPECIES OBSERVER
REPORTS

BOL M

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

INCIDENT REPORT: PROTECTED SPECIES INJURY OR MORTALITY

# Examples of Coordination with Cooperating Agencies (CONDITIONS RELATED TO NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY)

#### 11 CONDITIONS RELATED TO NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY

- 11.1 Pre-Construction Briefing. The Lessee, by itself or through its designated operator, must provide the Lessor and the USCG a pre-construction briefing at least 120 calendar days prior to the commencement of any construction or installation activities. The briefing must include, at a minimum:
- 11.1.1 Weekly Schedule. A detailed weekly schedule on construction and installation activities from commencement to project operations;
- 11.1.2 Communication Capabilities. Capabilities to be maintained by the Lessee or its designated operator to communicate with the Lessor, USCG, and mariners in the vicinity of the WTGs;
- 11.1.3 Installation Monitoring. Capabilities to be maintained by the Lessee or its designated operator to continuously monitor its transportation, construction, installation and maintenance vessels, project related facilities as necessary, and the local marine traffic in the vicinity of the leased area; and
- 11.1.4 Mitigation. All planned mitigations to minimize any adverse impact to navigation while construction is ongoing.
- 11.2 Private Aids to Navigation. The Lessee, by itself or through its designated operator, must file an application with the commander of the USCG Fifth District to establish private aids to navigation for each WTG, and must provide the approved private aid to navigation to the Lessor prior to the construction or installation of any facilities. The information submitted in the application must include, at a minimum, details for sound signals, RACON, and/or Automatic Identification System (AIS).
- 11.3 Maintenance Schedule. The Lessee, by itself or through its designated operator, must submit to the Lessor and USCG a WTG maintenance schedule 30 days after construction is completed and on an annual basis thereafter. Modifications to the schedule must be provided to the Lessor and the USCG three weeks prior to implementing the changes.
- 11.4 Monthly Report. During construction, the Lessee, by itself or through its designated operator, must provide the Lessor and the USCG a monthly report, which includes at a minimum:
- 11.4.1 Complaints. Any complaints (either written or oral) received from boaters, fishers, commercial vessel operators,



## Next Steps...

- > Receive an updated Schedule and Site Assessment Plan
- Continue State coordination and stakeholder outreach and data gathering
- Maintain visibility and continue to track dynamic changes in other offshore developments that have the potential to affect approvals
- Continue transparent process and intergovernmental review of Plans and activities

