



Public Meeting on BOEM's  
Environmental Assessment for the  
Virginia Offshore Wind Technology  
Advancement Project Offshore  
Virginia

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## Environmental Assessment

- Published Notice of Availability (NOA) of EA in the *Federal Register* - December 2, 2014
  - 30 day comment period - closes January 2, 2015
- BOEM will consider public comments on the EA to determine whether to issue
  - a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or
  - conduct additional analysis under NEPA
- BOEM will approve, approve with modifications or disapprove the research activities plan

# Impact Producing Factors and Activities Analyzed

- Wind turbine foundation protection
- Cable protection
- Severe storms
- Vessel collisions and allisions
- Spills of oil or other pollutants
- Lighting
- Bottom disturbance
- Space use conflicts

## Alternatives Analyzed

- Alternative A – Proposed Action
- Alternative B – Alternate Turbine Location (adjacent to the Virginia WEA)
- Alternative C – Alternate Turbine Location (within the Virginia WEA)
- Alternative D – Alternate Export Cable Landfall (Croatan Beach)
- Alternative E – No Action

# Physical and Biological Resources Analyzed

- Physical Resources
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
- Biological Resources
  - Fish and essential fish habitat (EFH)
  - Marine mammals
  - Birds and bats
  - Terrestrial wildlife
  - Sea turtles
  - Benthic resources
  - Coastal habitats

# Socioeconomic Conditions Analyzed

- Commercial and recreational fishing activities
- Cultural resources
- Recreational resources
- Demographic and employment
- Environmental justice
- Land use and coastal infrastructure
- Other uses of the area

## Cumulative Impacts Analyzed

- Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions:
  - Site assessment activities & other fixed structures
  - Wind energy development
  - Geological and geophysical activities
  - Transmission systems
  - Marine minerals use
  - Dredged material disposal
  - Liquefied natural gas terminal
  - Military range complexes and civilian space program Use
  - Shipping and marine transportation

## Environmental Consultations

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

## How to Submit Public Comments

- Electronically: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry titled “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM-2014-0077, then click “search.” Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice
- In written form, delivered by hand or by mail to the following address:
  - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 381 Elden Street, HM 1328, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817
- Comments must be received or postmarked no later than January 2, 2015