

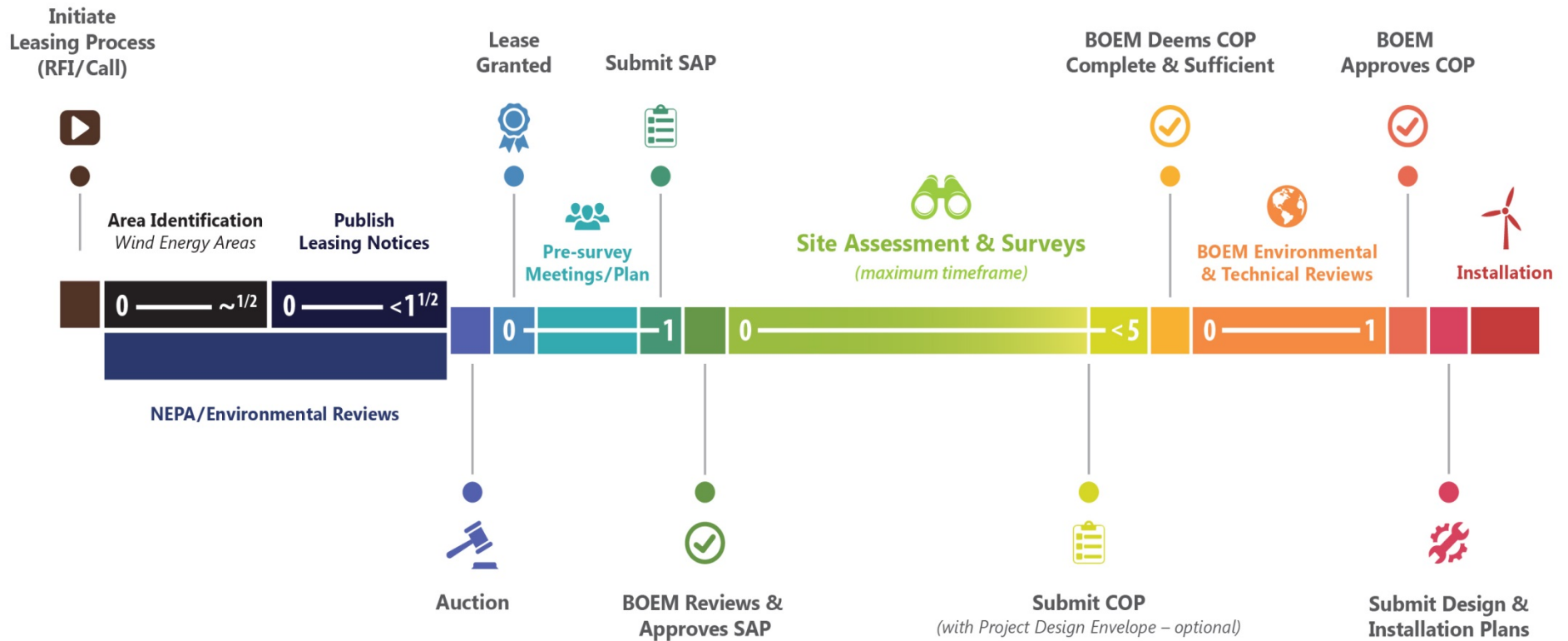
January 31, 2018

# Draft Guidance on the Use of Project Design Envelopes

For Construction and Operations Plans

**BOEM**  
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

# Offshore Wind Development Process



## Project Design Envelope (PDE)

- Standard approach for considering offshore wind facilities in Europe
- Reasonable range of project designs
- Flexibility for developers
- Allowance for advancements in technology between approval and construction
- Tool to present phased development

## PDE Example Parameters

- **Turbine:** range of number and sizes (e.g., 8 – 9.5 MW)
- **Schedule:** construction in one or multiple phases (e.g., one 900 MW phase or two 450 MW increments)
- **Foundation:** multiple types (e.g., all monopile and/or combination of gravity-based); range of disturbed area; possible scour protection
- **Transmission:** potential locations of landfall and cable route
- **Vessels:** range of vessel types
- **Ports:** list of potential ports

## Development of Guidance

- Result of long standing request by industry
- BOEM completed a one-year study (August 2017), which included input from lessees and European regulators
- Additional review of European policies, guidelines, and other documents and discussions with our regulatory counterparts (particularly United Kingdom and Denmark)
- Coordination with DOI's Office of the Solicitor and other federal agencies through the Offshore Wind Permitting Subgroup

**[www.boem.gov/Draft-Design-Envelope-Guidance/](http://www.boem.gov/Draft-Design-Envelope-Guidance/)**

## Environmental Review of a PDE

- Examines maximum impacting parameters by environmental resource
- Avoids pausing or restarting environmental review due to project changes
- Reduces or eliminates the need for subsequent environmental reviews as project is refined/revised after approval
- If lessee's Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report deviate substantially, a revision to the lessee's COP and additional environmental review and consultations may be required.

## Compliance with Regulations and Recent Orders

- PDE approach is not a new concept
- Council on Environmental Quality and BOEM regulations do not preclude (or require) the use of the PDE
- Environmental streamlining efforts (e.g., *Executive Order 13807* and *Secretarial Order 3355*)

## Additional Considerations

- Requires developers coordinate early with BOEM and other agencies
- Adds complexity to environmental review and consultation process
- Needs to be:
  - Detailed (clear bounds)
  - Realistic rather than overly broad (cumulative impacts)
- Impacts timing of surveys
- Affects public/stakeholder perception



## Next Steps

- Review draft guidance at: [www.boem.gov/Draft-Design-Envelope-Guidance/](http://www.boem.gov/Draft-Design-Envelope-Guidance/)
- Provide comments via email to [Algene.Byrum@boem.gov](mailto:Algene.Byrum@boem.gov) by March 1, 2018
- BOEM will:
  - Address comments in final Design Envelope Guidance
  - Finalize guidance later this year
  - Update guidance as needed

## Questions and Comments?

### **Algene Byrum**

Environmental Coordinator

(703) 787-1329

[algene.byrum@boem.gov](mailto:algene.byrum@boem.gov)

### **Michelle Morin**

Chief of Environment Branch for Renewable Energy

[michelle.morin@boem.gov](mailto:michelle.morin@boem.gov)

(703) 787-1722