

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Regulation, and Enforcement

Overview of BOEM Environmental Review Process

Jennifer Kilanski, Environmental Protection Specialist

August 2010

The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- Disclose Plans
- Involve Public
- Identify and Evaluate Alternatives
- Avoid & Mitigate Negative Effects
- Integrate Environmental Analyses

Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

REGULATIONS
For Implementing The Procedural Provisions Of The
NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT



Reprint
40 CFR Parts 1500-1508
(as of July 1, 1986)

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA)

Sections

- I Purpose and Need for Action
- II Alternatives Including the Proposed Action
- III Affected Environment
- IV Environmental Consequences
 - Cumulative Effects

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Steps:

- Public Scoping Meetings and Comment Period
- Draft EIS
- Public Hearings and Comment Period
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision



Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Marine and Coastal Birds
- Bats
- Seafloor Habitats



- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Socioeconomics
- Cultural Resources
- Fisheries
- Multiple Use Conflicts

Impact Producing Factors

- Visual and aesthetic interference
- Vessel traffic
- Air emissions
- Bottom disturbance
- Discharges
- Infrastructure (emplacement and presence)
- Noise
- Lighting



Major Federal Agencies Involved in OCS Activities

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Coast Guard



Environmental Protection Agency



Fish and Wildlife Service



National Marine Fisheries Service



Army Corps of Engineers



Federal Aviation Administration

U.S. Geological Survey



State & Local Stakeholders Involved in OCS Activities

- Tribal Governments
- State Historic Preservation Offices
- Coastal Commissions
- Departments of Fish and Wildlife
- Air Resources Boards
- Departments of Water Resources
- Departments of Environment and Natural Resources
- Departments of Environmental Regulations
- Departments of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

Other Environmental Processes: Required by Other Federal Agencies or Responsibility of Applicant

- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- USCG Ports and Waterways Safety Act, Maritime Transportation Act
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting under Section 404, Clean Water Act, Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act
- EPA NPDES/VGP Permitting
- FERC Licensing and Coordination
- DOD Coordination

**BOEM Environmental
Review Process
for OCS Wind Energy
Offshore**



When will the NEPA Process begin?

- NEPA begins when there is to be a major Federal action that might significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- A “major Federal action” can be:
 - Decision to hold a lease sale (competitive)
 - Decision to approve a plan (noncompetitive)

More Information...

Jennifer Kilanski

Offshore Renewable Energy Office

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and
Enforcement (BOEM)

Herndon, VA

Ph. 703-787-1311

jennifer.kilanski@boemre.gov