



## Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Activities Tribal Informational Meeting

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

#### I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened an Atlantic region renewable energy activity Tribal informational meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Participants included ten tribal representatives with the purpose of sharing BOEM Central Atlantic Region’s upcoming plans, activities, and schedules for offshore renewable energy.

The meeting’s stated objectives were to:

- Discuss Tribal concerns and opportunities related to offshore renewable energy in the Central Atlantic Region to enable information sharing between Central Atlantic Tribal Governments and BOEM.
- Discuss Tribal participation in the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force.
- Establish and strengthen relationships between Tribal Governments and BOEM.

The meeting agenda is available in Appendix A.

#### List of Tribal Invitees

Name	Affiliation
Jessica Phillips	Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
Erin Paden	Delaware Nation
Susan Bachor	Delaware Tribe of Indians
Michael Bolt	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Keith Anderson	Nansemond Indian Tribe
Marion Werkheiser	Nansemond Indian Nation
Shaleigh Howells	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Warren Taylor	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Woodie Walker	Rappahannock
Jeremy Dennis	Shinnecock Indian Nation

A full list of meeting participants can be found in Appendix B.

This meeting summary document summarizes input from tribal participants. It focuses on discussion rather than the formal presentations made and is not intended to be a detailed transcript. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West (K&W).

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Meeting Key Outcomes
  - A. BOEM Welcome
  - B. Offshore Wind in the Central Atlantic, Task Force Roles and Responsibilities, and Leasing Process Review
  - C. Listening Session
  - D. Next Steps
- III. Appendices
  - A. Agenda
  - B. Participation List

## II. Meeting Key Outcomes

### A. BOEM Welcome

Jim Bennett, Chief for the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at BOEM, welcomed participants, clarified the directives of BOEM, and reiterated the value of gathering input from meeting attendees as part of the Central Atlantic Offshore Wind Planning activities. Mr. Bennett described the offshore wind energy leasing path as a valuable component in the [renewable energy goals set forth by the Biden/Harris administration](#), while embracing federal commitments to utilize [indigenous traditional ecological knowledge in decision making](#). The Call for information and Nominations is expected to be published in the Federal Register in the second quarter of 2022. Mr. Bennett concluded his welcoming remarks by encouraging participants to remain patient through the process and offer constructive feedback as BOEM engages all stakeholders.

### B. BOEM Informational Presentation – *Offshore Wind in the Central Atlantic, Task Force Roles and Responsibilities, and Leasing Process Review*

Bridgette Duplantis presented on Offshore Wind in the Central Atlantic, Task Force Roles and Responsibilities, and Leasing Process Review. The presentation set the context for renewable energy in the Central Atlantic and described where the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force fits into offshore wind energy leasing. She outlined the BOEM leasing process and provided an overview of the draft planning area. She finished by describing next steps within the process, including the upcoming Task Force meeting in February 2022 and the role of Tribal representatives in the meeting.

A recording of BOEM's PowerPoint presentation on *Offshore Wind in the Central Atlantic, Task Force Roles and Responsibilities, and Leasing Process Review* by Bridgette Duplantis can be found at the following link: [BOEM Central Atlantic Tribal Informational Meeting\\_BOEM Presentation.mp4](#)

### C. Listening Session

During this part of the meeting, Tribal representatives posed clarifying questions to BOEM and shared comments about the offshore wind information shared.

*Question: Will offshore wind development occur in both the shallow and deep-water Planning Areas (PAs)?*

Response: All PAs are currently under consideration; however, there is no intention of developing all areas. Feedback from stakeholders will inform which PAs are moved forward in the planning process.

*Question: All PAs were executed before the tribes in Virginia were federally recognized. Is there a way to amend the PAs such that the seven tribes that were previously unrecognized can be included?*

Response: The Mid-Atlantic PA will expire in 2022. All Virginia tribes will be included in a regional consultation process as part of a three-year amendment. While the North Carolina and South Atlantic PAs are newer, they will undergo the same amendment process when they expire.

*Comment/Question: There is interest in the projects near Kittyhawk due to the cables coming ashore in ancestral territory near Virginia Beach. This may be an area of interest for Virginia tribes. Furthermore, concern is rising over the indigenous paleo landscapes on the sea floor. Is there any information captured during the leasing process on how offshore wind energy development may impact cultural areas, or is that information gathered when a developer has submitted plans?*

Response: At the lease stage, there are activities that could impact historic sites on the sea floor due to survey work being done (e.g., buoy installation, deployment of survey equipment, etc.). BOEM is aware of these impactful actions and has a thorough understanding of their effects. Furthermore, any areas to be avoided are brought through the site assessment plan stage so that it's already flagged at the construction and operation plan stage. Activities that may impact cultural areas have been identified, however, a few are exempt from Section 106. During the lease stage areas of interest and detrimental activities will be avoided.

*Question: How can tribal nations participate as members of the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force?*

Response: Task Force meeting invitations will be sent to federally recognized tribes.

*Comment/Question: Onshore energy infrastructure is underdeveloped to meet the needs of proposed offshore wind developments. Tribes are concerned about what kind of processes developers will have to undertake to avoid impacts to onshore cultural sites when power comes ashore and as the capacity of onshore energy infrastructure is expanded.*

Response: The developer will conduct survey work to determine where and how power should be brought ashore, and then plans will be submitted to BOEM to be reviewed for approval. There are finite points along the shore where power can be connected to the grid, and the capacity of these connection points may have to be increased. The process of amending onshore energy infrastructure is not within BOEM's domain, but BOEM is working to convene the relevant federal, state, and utility stakeholders to understand if and where new construction will need to take place.

*Question: Would the onshore effects of offshore wind energy development be taken into consideration in BOEM's cumulative effects analysis?*

Response: When construction plans are submitted, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be conducted that will investigate how proposed offshore energy development will sync with onshore infrastructure.

*Comment: It's difficult for tribes to track cumulative impacts from offshore wind energy development when engagement is structured to focus on one-off meetings that examine certain PAs. It would be useful to look at the development areas collectively to better envision the big picture.*

Response: It is important to look at the incremental and cumulative impact of proposed projects. This will be a key area of emphasis in future phases.

*Comment: The technical information provided to tribes is new and at times overwhelming. It can be difficult to make sense of information shared on underwater archeology or data visualization, for example. Furthermore, many tribal representatives who attend the meetings have multiple responsibilities in their roles, and it can be difficult to parse out important information and know what to bring back to tribes for consideration.*

Response: This is a common theme that BOEM is hearing. A key resource that BOEM has offered to other tribes is a 3-day training with the wind industry to build understanding on how wind energy areas are developed. The potential also exists to work with 3rd party contractors to help analyze marine archaeology, terrestrial archaeology, and visual effects assessments. Furthermore, BOEM is considering offering consultation meetings with experts to review the Marine Archaeological Resources Assessment Plan, Terrestrial Archaeological Resources Assessment Plan, and Historic Resources Visual Effects Assessment so that stakeholders can better digest the information found in the documents.

*BOEM Question: It would be useful to identify historic and cultural landscapes before a section 106 review takes place, given the short timeframes of the reviews. Is there any interest from the tribes participating in this meeting in funding and completing a preliminary assessment?*

Delaware Tribe of Indians Response: Given the Delaware Tribe's removal from their ancestral grounds there is a significant gap in knowledge that makes it hard to accurately determine what features of interest may be under water without robust testing of the seafloor's topography.

The Nansemond Indian Nation Response: It would be beneficial if BOEM could frontload its studies so that Tribes are not trying to digest them in the section 106 timeframe of 12 months.

The Pamunkey Tribe Response: We are currently conducting site assessments with a timeline of at least a year.

The Chickahominy Indian Tribe Response: The Tribe was federally recognized in 2018. A lot of culture, history, and significant lands have been lost, which the tribe has just begun examining. So while there is not much information to be shared from the Chickahominy now, there is hope that the Tribe can be more vocal in the future.

The Delaware Nation Response: We will need more time to understand the location of underwater sites of cultural significance. To reprise an earlier topic, it would be very helpful to have assistance in digesting the long technical reports that come out of the leasing and development process.

#### D. Next Steps

BOEM staff outlined the following next steps in the Central Atlantic Draft Offshore Wind Planning process:

- The meeting summary and recording of BOEM's informational presentation will be shared with participants in the weeks following the meeting.
- Any feedback on the draft Planning Areas should be shared with Bridgette Duplantis (Bridgette.duplantis@boem.gov) by December 31, 2021.
- The Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting is scheduled to take place on February 16, 2022. BOEM will transmit calendar invitations and meeting materials to interested tribes in advance of the meeting.

### III. Appendices

#### A. Agenda

## Agenda

### Virtual Tribal Informational Meeting on Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Activities December 9, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

#### Webinar Information: Zoom

URL: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/88573579225?pwd=OXFYOUQxOkpZT0RuQWFvUzBHaGo5dz09>

Call-In Information: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 885 7357 9225

Passcode: 420289

#### Informational Meeting Purpose and Objectives

- Share Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Central Atlantic Region’s upcoming plans, activities, and schedules for offshore renewable energy.
- Discuss Tribal concerns and opportunities related to offshore renewable energy in the Central Atlantic Region to enable information sharing between Central Atlantic Tribal Governments and BOEM.
- Discuss Tribal participation in the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force.
- Establish and strengthen relationships between Tribal Governments and BOEM.

*Note: This meeting is primarily informational and is not intended to be a formal government to government consultation*

#### Anticipated Participants

Name	Affiliation
Jessica Phillips	Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
Erin Paden	Delaware Nation
Susan Bachor	Delaware Tribe of Indians
Michael Bolt	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Keith Anderson	Nansemond Indian Tribe
Marion Werkheiser	Nansemond Indian Nation
Shaleigh Howells	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Warren Taylor	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Woodie Walker	Rappahannock
Jeremy Dennis	Shinnecock Indian Nation
Jim Bennett	BOEM
Idrissa Boube	BOEM
Bridgette Duplantis	BOEM
Annette Ehrhorn	BOEM
Anna Hazlett	BOEM
Doug Jones	BOEM
David MacDuffee	BOEM
Laura Mansfield	BOEM
Tershara Matthews	BOEM

Hillary Renick	BOEM
Helen Rucker	BOEM
Sarah Stokely	BOEM
Stephen Vorkoper	DOI
Eric Holmes	Kearns & West
Eric Poncelet	Kearns & West
Sam Ramsey	Kearns & West

### Agenda

Time (ET)	Item	
8:55 a.m.	<b>Join the Webinar</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Invitation for Tribal Invocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal Governments</li> </ul>
	<b>Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Bennett, Chief – Office of Renewable Energy Programs, BOEM</li> <li>• Tribal Governments</li> </ul>
	<b>Webinar Instructions &amp; Agenda Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, Kearns &amp; West</li> </ul>
	<b>Offshore Wind in the Central Atlantic, Task Force Roles and Responsibilities, and Leasing Process Review</b> <i>With questions and discussion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgette Duplantis, Central Atlantic Team Lead, BOEM</li> <li>• Sarah Stokely, Section 106 Team Lead – Office of Renewable Energy Programs, BOEM</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>
	<b>Listening Session</b> <i>An opportunity for Tribal representatives to share concerns, ask questions, and receive additional information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal Governments</li> </ul>
	<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator</li> <li>• Jim Bennett, BOEM</li> </ul>
	<b>Invitation for Closing Benediction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal Governments</li> </ul>
12:00 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>	

\*A break will be taken when appropriate.

B. Participation List

Name	Affiliation
Jessica Phillips	Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
Erin Paden	Delaware Nation
Susan Bachor	Delaware Tribe of Indians
Michael Bolt	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Marion Werkheiser	Nansemond Indian Nation
Shaleigh Howells	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Warren Taylor	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Jeremy Dennis	Shinnecock Indian Nation
Jim Bennett	BOEM
Bridgette Duplantis	BOEM
Annette Ehrhorn	BOEM
John Filostrat	BOEM
Anna Hazlett	BOEM
Doug Jones	BOEM
David MacDuffee	BOEM
Laura Mansfield	BOEM
Tershara Matthews	BOEM
Hillary Renick	BOEM
Helen Rucker	BOEM
Sarah Stokely	BOEM
Stephen Vorkoper	DOI
Eric Holmes	Kearns & West (facilitation team)
Eric Poncelet	Kearns & West (facilitation team)
Sam Ramsey	Kearns & West (facilitation team)