United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

NOV -6 2014

Mr. Alfonso Toto, President US Wind Inc. 155 Federal Street, Suite 700 Boston, Massachusetts 02110

DearMr. Toto:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOHM) acknowledges receipt of US Wind Inc.'s letter dated November 5, 2014, requesting a departure from BOHM's renewable energy regulations at 30 C.F.R. \$585.503(a)(1), d a 10-day extension of the November 7, 20[4, de e to make the first year's rent payment for leases OCS-A 0489 and OCS-A 0490. The regulatory provision, revised by BOEM's Final Rule published on April 17, 2014, requires payment of the initial 12-month's rent to ONRR 45 days after you receive the lease copies from BOHM for execution (79 FR 21617). Initial rent payments must be paid electronically through Pay.gov and must be drawn on a U.S. bank account As explained in your request, this extension is neGessary to resolve technical issues that have prevented the timely transfer of funds to US Wind Inc.'s bank account in the United States:

After consideration of your request, OREP has determined this departure meets the criteria set forth at 30 C.F.R. §585.103. A departure would facilitate BOEM's issuance of the subjet leases, which would in turn facilitate the authorized activities on each lease. A dep re would also be consistent with subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and protect the environment and public health and safety to the same degree as if there was no approved departure from the regulations. Lastly, a departure would not impair the rights of third parties. Accordingly, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. §585.103, BOHM approves the departure request. The deadline for paying the first 12-months' rent for leases OCS-A 0489 and OCS-A 0490 is extended to November 24, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Gina Best at (703) 787-1341 or <u>gina.best@boem.gov</u>. You may also contact Ms. Erin Trager at (703) 787-1713 or <u>erin.trager@boem.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Acting Program Manager Office of Renewable Energy Programs