BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WIND ENERGY AREA IDENTIFICATION

Commercial Wind Energy Leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf in the New York Bight.

March 29, 2021

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has completed the Area Identification process to delineate Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) in the New York Bight, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.211(b). The New York Bight is defined as an offshore area extending generally northeast from Cape May in New Jersey to Montauk Point on the eastern tip of Long Island.

BOEM is announcing these WEAs after conducting more than three years of review and consideration of areas initially proposed by the State of New York. The goal of BOEM's Area Identification process is to identify the offshore locations that appear most suitable for wind energy development taking into consideration coexistence with ocean users. The original areas identified in the Call for Information and Nominations (Call) were winnowed down from over 2,000 nautical square miles and 1,700,000 acres to under 950 nautical square miles and 800,000 acres to account for conflicting uses including, but not limited to: commercial and recreational fishing, maritime navigation, Department of Defense activities, visual impacts, marine protected species, avian species, radar, existing infrastructure and wind resource. The New York Bight consist of 5 distinct WEAs: Fairways North, Fairways South, Hudson North, Central Bight and Hudson South.

This planning effort is in response to regional state interest, unsolicited lease requests, and a desire for additional lease area to develop a pipeline of domestic offshore wind energy projects. BOEM issued a Call in April 2018, and subsequently released Draft Wind Energy Areas in November of 2018. BOEM has consistently engaged with stakeholders through public meetings and the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force on the New York Bight throughout the process.

The next step in the leasing process is for BOEM to identify area(s) within the WEAs which will be offered for leasing and publish a Proposed Sale Notice for public comment which will describe those areas, the proposed terms and conditions of a lease and details of a wind energy auction. Then, upon considering public comments and completing the necessary environmental assessment (EA) and consultations, BOEM may publish a Final Sale Notice that announces the date, time, and specific conditions of the auction.

In BOEM's EA, conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BOEM is only considering the potential environmental consequences of site characterization activities (i.e., biological, archeological, geological, and geophysical surveys and core samples) and site assessment activities (i.e., installation of meteorological buoys) associated with issuing commercial and research wind energy leases in the WEAs, project easements associated with each lease issued, and grants for subsea cable corridors in the New York Bight. The EA will not consider any impacts regarding the construction and operation of a wind energy facility. In the future, should a lease be issued, and a lessee propose to construct a commercial wind energy facility, the lessee will be required to submit a construction and operations plan for BOEM's review and approval. BOEM would then prepare a site-specific NEPA document and conduct necessary consultations before making a final decision to approve the construction of the proposed project. As the process moves forward, BOEM will continue to analyze issues and work with stakeholders before a decision is made to authorize the development of a wind power facility in the New York Bight.

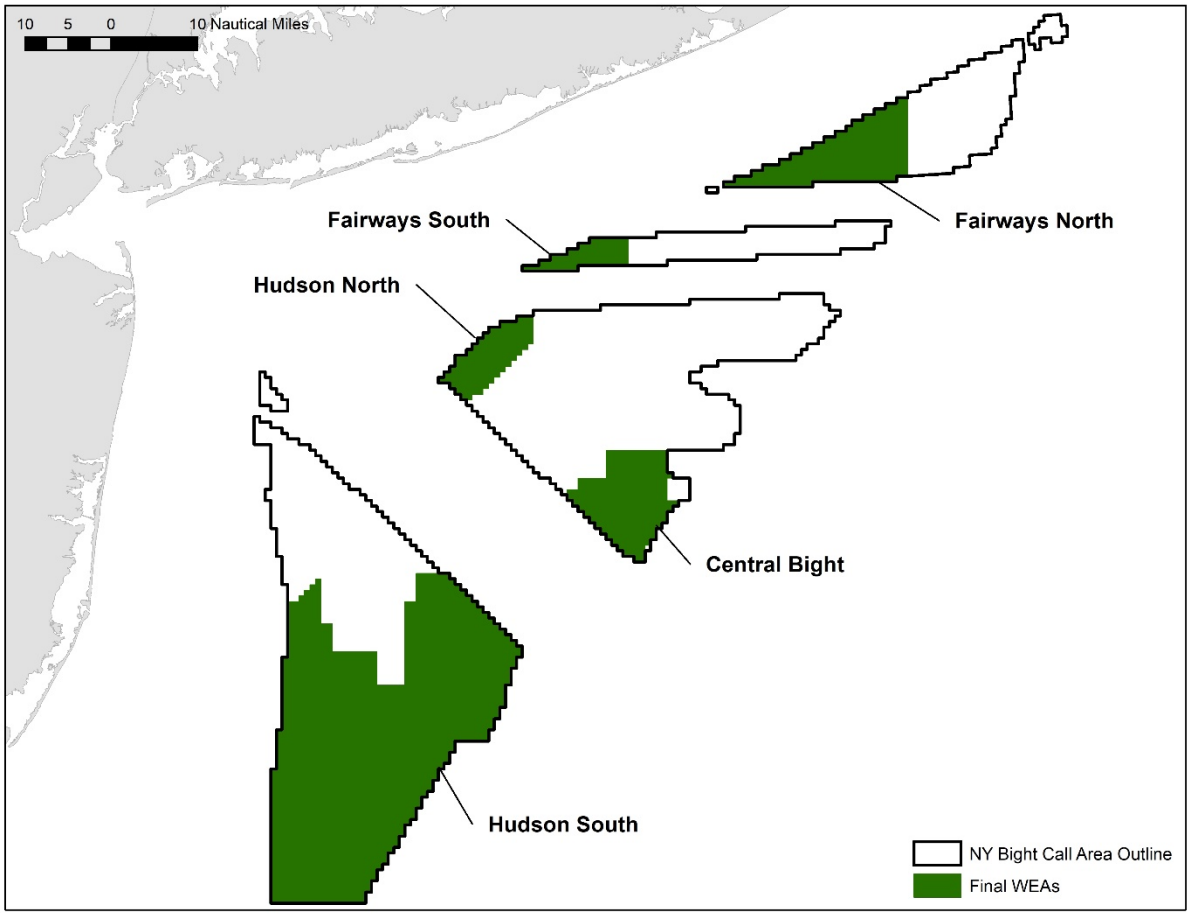

Figure 1: NY Bight WEAs & Descriptive Statistics

	Fairways North WEA	Fairways South WEA	Hudson North WEA	Central Bight WEA	Hudson South WEA	Total
Acres	88,246	23,841	43,056	84,688	567,552	807,383
Installation Capacity (MW)[1]	1,071	289	523	1,028	6,890	9,802
Homes powered[2]	374,975	101,305	182,954	359,857	2,411,644	3,430,734
Power Production (MWh/yr)[3]	3,754,037	1,014,210	1,831,628	3,602,678	24,143,998	34,346,551
Max Depth (meters[m])	56	46	45	61	59	--
Min Depth (m)	42	39	41	52	32	--
Closest distance to NY (nautical mile [nmi])	15	15	21	38	45	--
Closest distance to NJ (nmi)	69	45	36	53	23	--

[1] Megawatts (MW) based upon 3MW/sqkm
[2] Based upon 350 homes per MW
[3] Megawatt hours per year (MWh/yr) Formula = Capacity (MW) * 8760 (hrs/yr) * 0.4 (capacity factor)