



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Scoping for Oregon Environmental Assessment

Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oregon



Comment Period: February 14 - March 15, 2024

Outline

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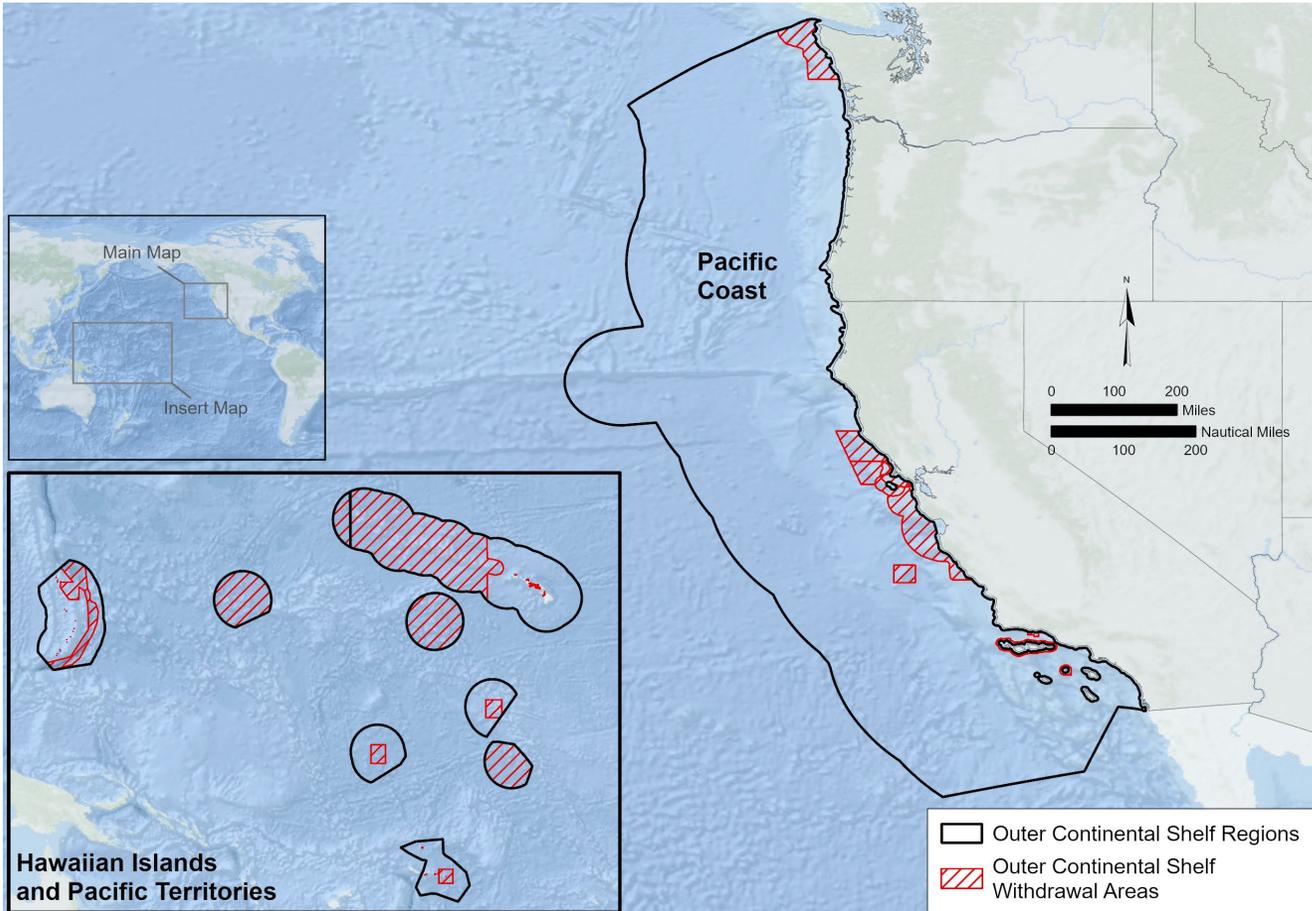
[How to provide Scoping Comments](#)

www.boem.gov/oregonea



BOEM Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)



Mission: Manage the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way

Jurisdiction on the U.S. West Coast

- OCS generally extends from 3 to 200 nautical miles off the coast of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and Pacific Territories
- Excludes National Marine Sanctuaries





BOEM's Staged Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process



Planning & Analysis

~ 2 YEARS

- Intergovernmental Task Force
- Request for Information or Call for Information and Nominations
- Area Identification
- Environmental Reviews

Leasing

~ 1-2 YEARS

- Publish Leasing Notices
- Conduct Auction or Negotiate Lease Terms
- Issue Lease(s)

Site Assessment

UP TO 5 YEARS

- Site Characterization
- Site Assessment Plan

Construction & Operations

~ 3 YEARS (+25)

- Construction & Operations Plan
- Facility Design Report and Fabrication & Installation Report
- Decommissioning
- Environmental and Technical Reviews

BOEM coordinates and consults with affected Tribal, State, and local governments and other Federal agencies
Multiple opportunities for public input





Renewable Energy Process: Call, Wind Energy Areas, and Lease Areas

Call for Information and Nominations (Call)

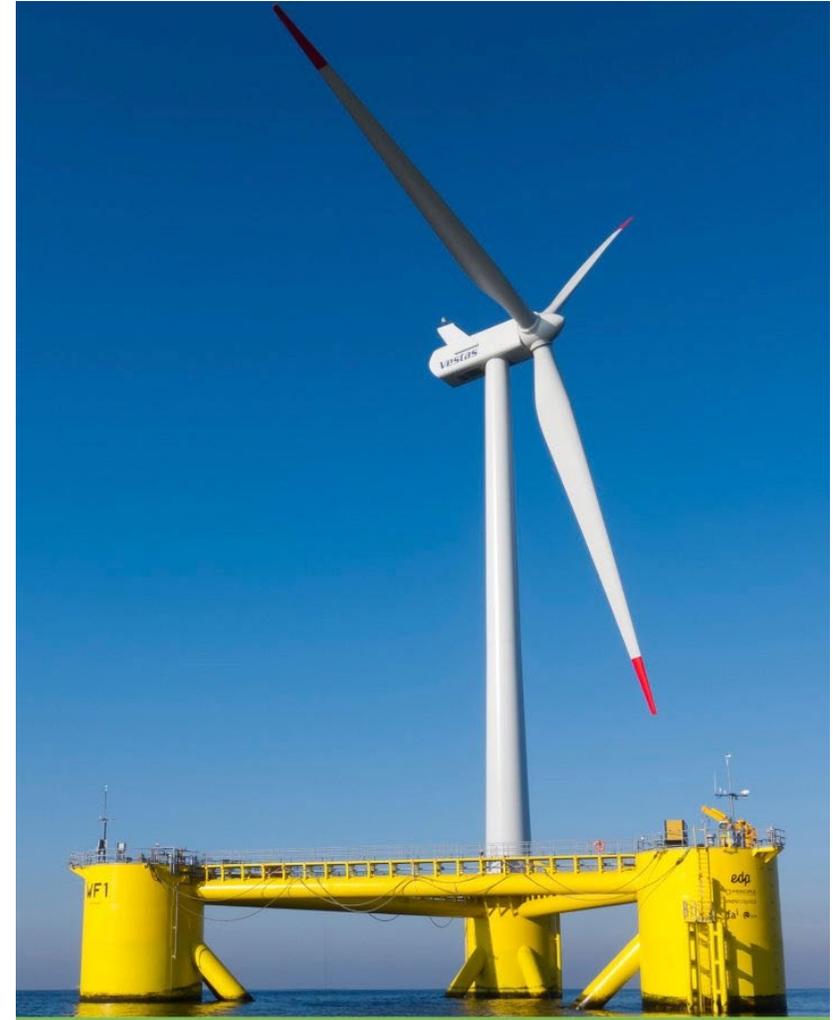
- Calls for formal public comment about the area, uses, and concerns
- Requests nominations of interest for development

Wind Energy Area (WEA)

- An area within a Call Area identified by BOEM for environmental review
- Basis for a lease area(s)

Lease Area

- Areas BOEM would offer for lease during a Lease Sale



Aguçadoura WindFloat Prototype
October 2011 - 4KM Offshore of Aguçadoura, Portugal



Offshore Wind Energy Planning in Oregon



Offshore Wind Energy Planning in Oregon

- BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force established in 2011 to coordinate federal, state, local and tribal governments and provide input to BOEM renewable energy leasing decisions
 - 2011-2014: 6 meetings, 2019-2022: 4 meetings
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and BOEM developed [OroWindMap](#) planning tool to provide a transparent publicly accessible data platform
- [Call for Information and Nominations](#) (Call) published in April 2022 identified two call areas offshore southern Oregon (1,159,298 acres) for public comment
- Based on comments received during the Call, BOEM partnered with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) to use suitability modeling to identify the least conflicted areas within the Call Areas
- [Coos Bay and Brookings Draft Wind Energy Areas \(WEA\)](#) and [draft NCCOS report](#) published August 2023 (219,568 acres)
- [Final WEAs](#) (195,012 acres), [Final NCCOS report](#) and [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment announced February 2024
- [Stakeholder Outreach](#) ongoing to Tribes, fishing community, and other affected communities throughout planning process



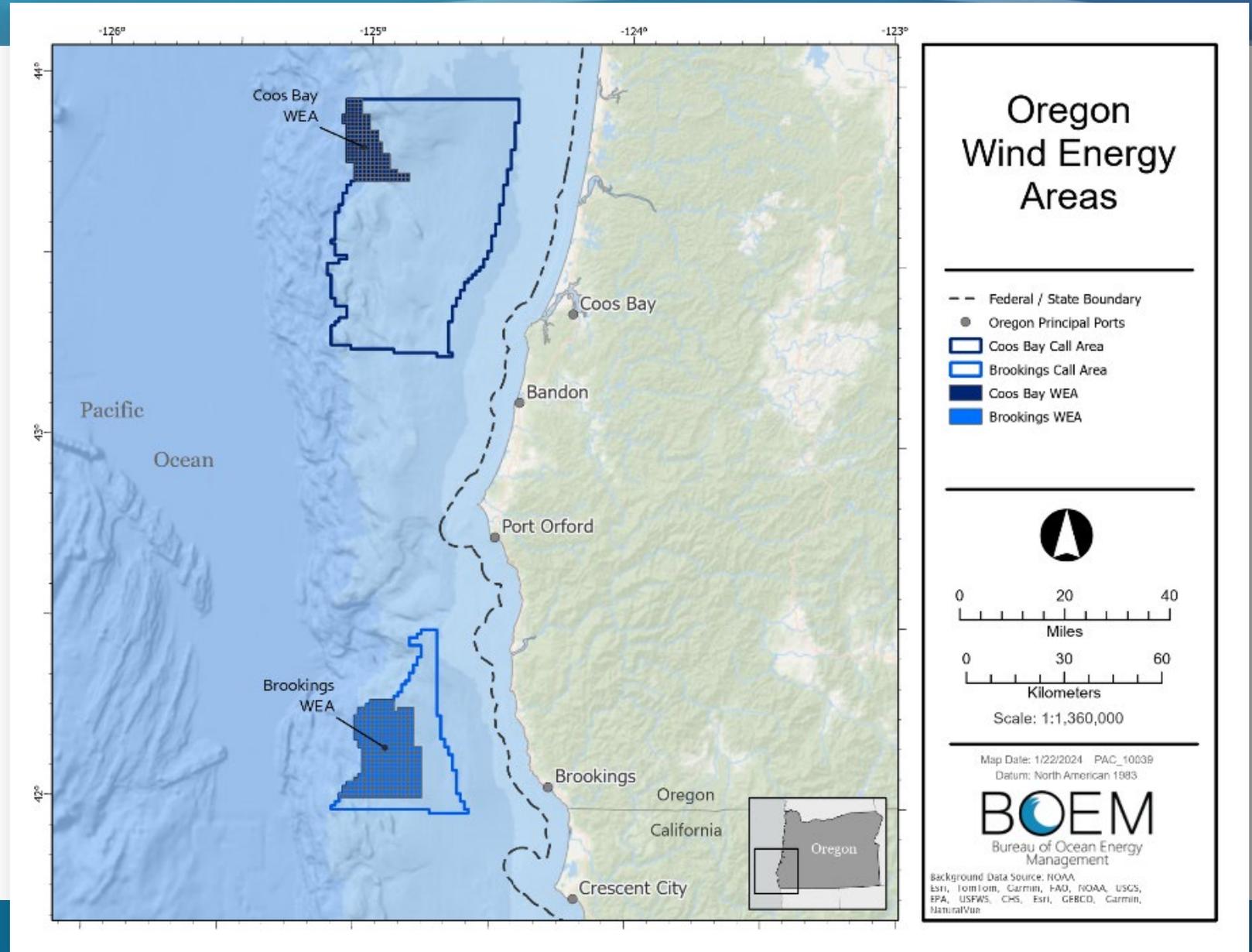
Oregon Wind Energy Areas

Coos Bay WEA

- 61,204 acres
- 32 miles from shore

Brookings WEA

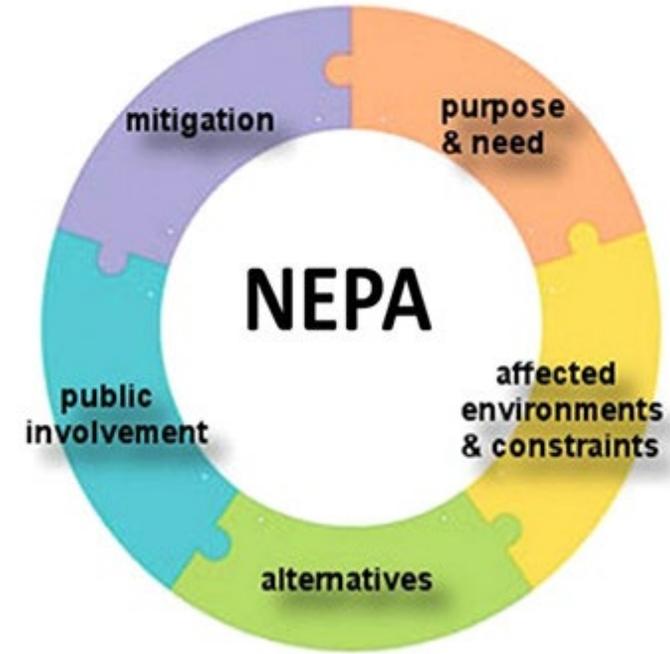
- 133,808 acres
- 19 miles from shore



What is an Environmental Assessment?

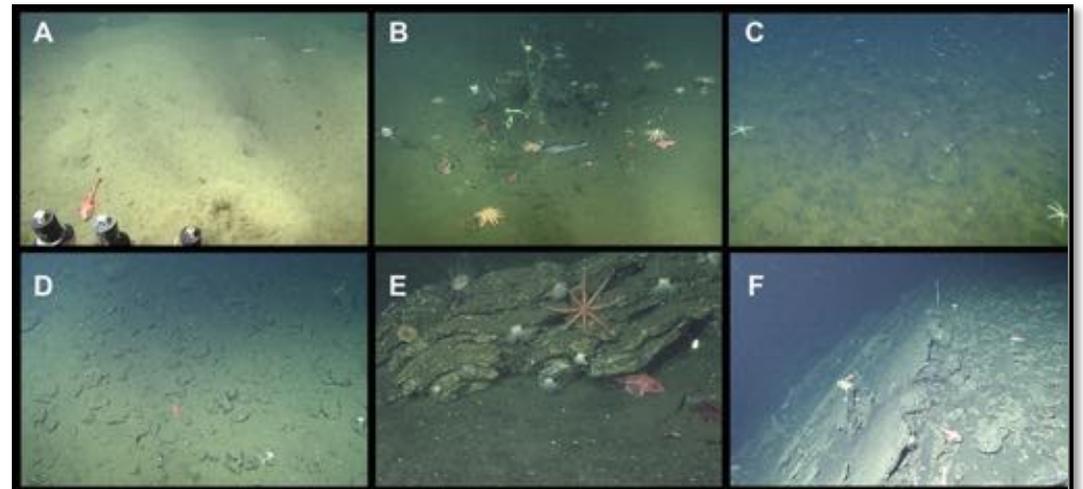
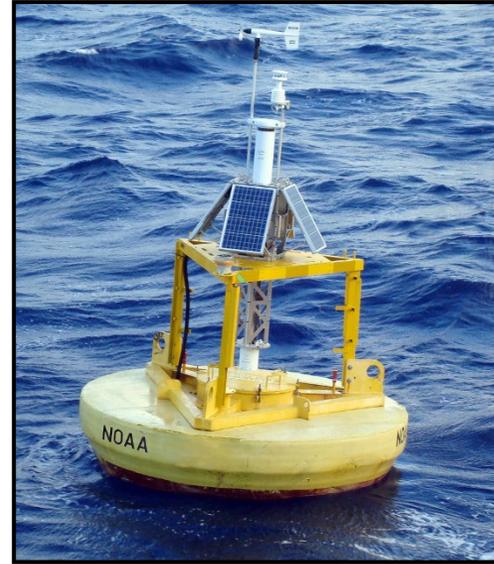
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Background

- **NEPA** is a procedural law intended to ensure that Federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions in the decision-making process.
- **Environmental assessment** is the process in which BOEM evaluates the potential impacts of proposed actions on the environment and suggests alternatives or mitigations that may reduce or eliminate these impacts.
- This **Environmental Assessment** (EA) is a comprehensive review of potential impacts associated with **lease issuance**, including **site assessment and site characterization activities**.
- Construction and Operation potential impacts of a project are not being considered in the EA. These impacts are evaluated once a project plan is submitted.



Proposed Action in the EA

- Issuance of commercial wind energy lease(s), which includes areas within federal waters that might be used for energy production, collection, and transmission
- **Site Characterization Activities** – biological, geotechnical, geophysical, and archaeological surveys
- **Site Assessment Activities** – deployment of one or more buoys to gather oceanographic and meteorological data



Topics to be Covered in the Environmental Assessment

Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Benthic (seafloor) Resources
- Coastal Habitats
- Birds and Bats
- Fish



Socioeconomic

- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Navigation and Vessel Traffic
- Airport, Military, and Scientific Uses
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Recreation and Tourism
- Demographics and Employment
- Visual Resources
- Tribal Values

Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality



BOEM Consultation with Agencies

- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, Section 106)**
 - Requires that BOEM consider the effects of undertakings on historic properties
 - Draft Programmatic Agreement is in final review with the State Preservation Officer. We invite those interested to be consulting parties on Section 106.
- **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)**
 - Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Consistency Determination
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA Section 7)**
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)**
 - NOAA NMFS

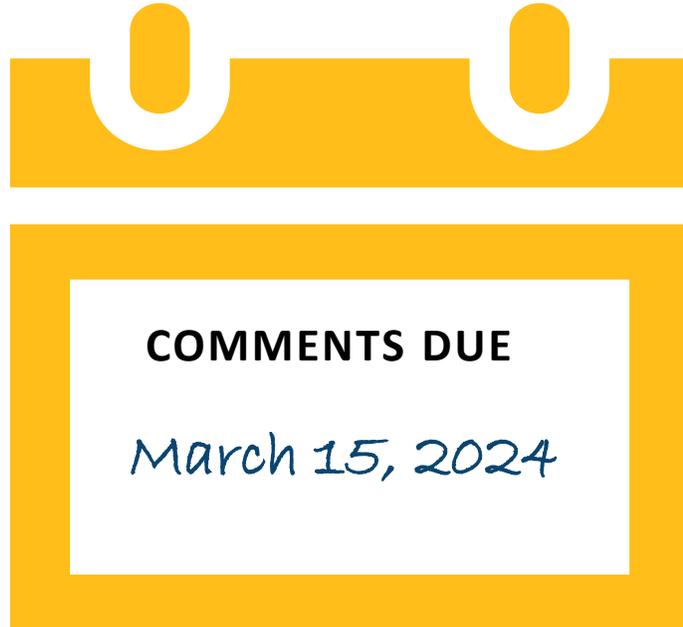


What is Scoping?

Scoping Comments

Key element of NEPA

Environmental analysis guided by local expertise and perspectives = more informed decisions



Types of information BOEM is looking for:

- Substantive **issues** to be analyzed in the EA
- **Sources** of information to include in the EA
- Data **gaps** and information needs
- Input into the **alternatives**



Environmental Assessment Schedule



How to Provide Scoping Comments

How to Comment

Public Scoping Comment Period Open Until March 15, 2024 **8:59 PM Pacific** / 11:59 PM Eastern

For more information visit www.boem.gov/oregonea

In writing to:

OREGON EA, Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Office of Environment, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102, Camarillo, California 93010



Online at www.regulations.gov: Search for Docket No. BOEM-2023-0065

Click on the “Comment” button. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit Comment.”



Preferred

Comments submitted through traditional mail will be entered into the official docket on Regulations.gov

BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

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