

Organizational Roles on Offshore Wind and Related Environmental Justice Responsibilities

The chart below outlines the agencies that are directly and indirectly responsible for decisions regarding offshore wind and environmental justice and describes their respective roles and responsibilities. The content below was provided by each agency.

Please note that this is a living document and will be continuously updated with the latest information provided by agencies. New agencies may be added moving forward, as appropriate.

Table 1. Directly Responsible Agencies

Purview*	Agency	Organizational Role in Offshore Wind Energy Development	Responsibilities Related to Environmental Justice	Main Point of Contact
Lead Agency / Permitting Authority	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	BOEM oversees environmentally responsible offshore wind energy development within federal offshore waters for the benefit of the American public. BOEM manages planning and development that includes: 1. Identifying wind energy areas, 2. Holding lease sales, 3. Reviewing offshore wind plans 4. Conducting environmental reviews, 5. Identifying how to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts, 6. Working with and incorporating feedback from ocean users and other stakeholders	As the lead Federal agency on offshore wind projects on the Outer Continental Shelf, BOEM works to embed environmental justice considerations throughout its planning processes. BOEM engages with ocean users and coastal communities to identify impacts on environmental justice communities and potential mitigation measures that are within BOEM's authority. BOEM's obligations around environmental justice are rooted in Executive Orders (EOs) 12898, Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and EO 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.	BOEM Environmental Justice email box: Environmental.justice@boem.gov or Laura Mansfield, BOEM Office of Environmental Programs, Laura.mansfield@boem.gov
Permitting Authority / Cooperating Agency	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)	BSEE is responsible for the development, oversight, and enforcement of safety and environmental regulatory programs for offshore renewable energy operations. BSEE's authorities include: 1. Evaluating and overseeing facility design, fabrication, installation, safety management systems, and oil spill response plans; 2. Enforcing operational safety and environmental protection through data analysis, safety management system oversight and audits, inspections, and incident reporting; 3. Enforcing compliance with laws, regulations, and lease and permit terms and conditions; and 4. Overseeing decommissioning activities.	BSEE conducts compliance verification and enforcement of environmental justice mitigations implemented through BOEM lease stipulations and conditions of activity approvals throughout the project lifecycle. BSEE also supports environmental justice outreach and engagement for offshore wind projects.	Michaela Noble, BSEE Renewable Energy and Regulatory Compliance, michaela.noble@bsee.gov
Permitting Authority / Cooperating Agency	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA provides comments on NEPA documents. EPA serves as a cooperating agency for federal offshore wind projects and in that capacity actively coordinates with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) throughout the entire NEPA process. Additionally, under Clean Air Act section 328 and 40 C.F.R. Part 55, EPA implements an air permitting program for sources of air emissions located on the Outer Continental Shelf that are under the authority of the Department of Interior's BOEM and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). This includes issuing and overseeing air permits for offshore wind farms planned or being built on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and New Jersey.	EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment integrates consideration of environmental justice and equity into all EPA actions. EPA's review authorities under Section 309 of the CAA provides EPA the authority to help ensure that lead agencies fully analyze environmental justice concerns and address those concerns when undertaking proposed actions. EPA reviews the environmental justice analysis conducted in the environmental reviews of offshore wind development projects. EPA also considers environmental justice in evaluating OCS air permit applications to ensure that the permit decision does not result in any "disproportionately high and adverse impacts" on communities with environmental justice concerns and solicits public input through a formal public comment process. EPA also supports environmental justice outreach and engagement for offshore wind projects, including participating in BOEM held EJ Forums.	Mark Austin (austin.mark@epa.gov).



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Permitting Authority / Cooperating Agency	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Offices and programs throughout NOAA work collaboratively both within the agency and with external partners to bring NOAA's unique expertise, data and staff capabilities to bear in advancing responsible offshore wind energy deployment. NOAA has authorization responsibilities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, consults with BOEM and other federal agencies to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act , Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act; and reviews BOEM's NEPA documents. NOAA works with partners to provide: • Coastal and ocean environmental intelligence for understanding and predicting interactions with wildlife, fisheries, habitats and other ocean uses. • Comprehensive and efficient environmental review and permitting, including technical guidance to support applicants and other agencies through the regulatory process. • Meteorological, oceanographic and climate observations and forecasts that inform efficient offshore wind siting, design and safe operations over the lifetime of the project, and help to lower energy costs. • Authoritative bathymetric (water depth) and biological data, models and maps available for use throughout the planning and development process, including in regional-scale data portals and ocean planning dialogues that support the siting phase of offshore wind energy projects. • Social science assessments on community perceptions, opinions and knowledge of offshore wind in coastal communities. • Engagement with maritime and coastal interest groups for community understanding and network building. • Ecosystem-wide spatial planning models that inform offshore wind energy siting by identifying environmental impacts and conflicts with other ocean uses. • Monitoring and mitigation of environmental and ecological impacts.	NOAA is committed to advancing equity and environmental justice, including equal treatment, opportunities, and environmental benefits for all people and communities, while building on continuing efforts and partnerships with underserved and underrepresented communities. For offshore wind specifically, NOAA is providing data and information, as well as analytical support, to BOEM regarding potential impacts of offshore wind on underserved communities. This includes identifying and assessing impacts of offshore wind decisions on underserved groups within fishing communities (e.g., subsistence fishery participants and their dependents, fishing vessel crews, fish processor and distribution workers) as well as fishing-dependent coastal communities with El concerns. NOAA will also continue to engage with BOEM in tribal consultations on both the east and west coasts regarding potential impacts of offshore wind to tribal Nations, and the need to maintain tribal treaty rights. NOAA Fisheries has also developed a draft Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy. This strategy describes the path that we will take to incorporate equity and environmental justice into the vital services we provide to all stakeholders, and to meet the mandates for equity and environmental justice set forth in Executive Orders 13985, 14008, and 12898 as well as other agency action plans.	(Pending feedback)



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Permitting Authority / Cooperating Agency	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE Regulatory reviews offshore wind energy projects under Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act, and Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act 1899. USACE Regulatory jurisdiction extends from the Outer Continental Shelf to the High Tide Line and any waters of the U.S. that may be crossed by the onshore export cable. Under Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899, USACE regulates all structures or work in, over or under navigable waters of the U.S. On the OCS, USACE jurisdiction is over fixed structures. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, USACE regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, all public, private, tribal or other federal entities are required to request permission from USACE to alter, or temporarily occupy or use, any USACE federally authorized Civil Works project. USACE Planning: During the Regulatory review, coordination with Planning is completed to evaluate if the proposed work would impact sand borrow sources, existing Civil Works projects, and/or the formulation and design of future projects.	Environmental Justice effects directly related to regulated impacts of a proposed project are evaluated during the Regulatory public interest review. During the review process, USACE Regulatory provides opportunities for meaningful involvement by impacted communities. The review process seeks to avoid and minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Development of compensatory mitigation to address effects may also be appropriate.	Jared Pritts, NEPA Subject Matter Expert, jared.n.pritts@usace.army.mil
Permitting Authority / Cooperating Agency	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	USFWS works with BOEM in evaluation and compliance required under ESA, FWCA, and MBTA. Additionally, the USFWS is a Cooperating Agency with BOEM as it relates to NEPA.	(Pending feedback)	For New York Field Office: Ian Drew, ian drew@fws.gov For New Jersey Field Office: Eric Schrading, Field Supervisor, eric schrading@fws.gov
Cooperating Agency	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	The Coast Guard's authority regarding offshore wind on the outer continental shelf is to provide safe access routes for the movement of vessel traffic to and from U.S. ports, and regulatory enforcement of lighting, marking, and warning devices on wind turbines and structures supporting offshore renewable energy resource activities. As a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) cooperating agency, the Coast Guard develops information for which it has jurisdiction or special expertise, such as vessel traffic, navigation safety, and Coast Guard missions, to assist the lead agency in conducting environmental reviews.	(Pending feedback)	Mr. Mike Newell, Marine Transportation Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard Office of Navigation Systems, Michael.D.Newell2@uscg.mil.



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Cooperating Agency	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency comprised of 24 statutorily designated members from federal agencies, preservation organizations, Indian tribes, and expert private citizens. It has a staff of 42 employees based in Washington, D.C. who carry out historic preservation case reviews, provide training in historic preservation law and policy, conduct outreach to the American public on the importance of historic sites and community preservation, and much more. A key responsibility of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is to administer the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), a review process that ensures historic properties are considered during the development of any federal project. The ACHP's Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP) coordinates this responsibility and works with federal agencies to improve their historic preservation programs and historic properties stewardship. It also provides technical assistance, guidance, and training to diverse audiences on how to use the Section 106 process.	Historic preservation should be inclusive and equitable, reflecting the experiences of all communities. Engaging diverse cultures helps address historical injustices and promotes a more balanced and fair representation of heritage. Integrating diversity into preservation efforts promotes sustainable development and encourages the use of traditional and Indigenous Knowledge in maintaining and managing cultural resources in environmentally friendly ways. Specifically, preservation has an opportunity to advocate for communities that are facing displacement due to climate change. In the context of the management of historic properties, these policies help agencies consider equity, access, and the involvement of underserved communities in federal stewardship activities and the promotion of equity and diversity in the identification process.	Equity Officer, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (202) 517-0191 cteshome@achp.gov www.achp.gov



Table 2. Agencies with Expertise and/or Jurisdictional Overlap

Purview	Agency	Organizational Role in Offshore Wind Energy Development	Responsibilities Related to Environmental Justice	Main Point of Contact
N/A	Department of Energy Wind Energy Technologies Office (DOE WETO)	The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) invests in energy science research and development (R&D) activities that advance wind energy's ability to contribute to a net-zero energy future, including in: - Technology innovation, to reduce the cost and increase the performance and reliability of wind energy; - Grid integration, to make sure wind contributes to making our future grid not only cleaner but also more reliable and resilient; and - Deployment, to overcome challenges to wind's development, mitigate environmental impacts, and ensure that host communities benefit from wind development.	DOE seeks to ensure that wind energy benefits low-income and underserved communities. WETO aims to address knowledge gaps about the impacts and benefits of offshore wind development through original research, and work with partner agencies in the federal government, state and local governments, tribes, and stakeholders to provide opportunities for communities to gain knowledge and resources that support their engagement in offshore wind.	WETO-CIRO@ee.doe.gov
Transmission and Interconnection	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	FERC regulates the transmission of electricity in interstate commerce. Accordingly, FERC would have oversight as to the interconnection agreements governing the connection of the offshore wind power lines to the interstate grid. FERC would also have jurisdiction over the rates, terms and conditions of transmission for offshore wind and of wholesale power sales of the offshore wind facility's output. FERC has limited siting authority for electric transmission. Unless transmission infrastructure is located within a designated "national interest electric transmission corridor" or NIETC, pursuant to Federal Power Act Section 216, and several other circumstances are met, FERC would not have siting authority over transmission infrastructure for offshore wind.	FERC's environmental justice activity as to offshore wind would largely hinge on whether FERC has siting authority over the transmission infrastructure under Federal Power Act Section 216, which provides for such authority only in narrow and specific circumstances. This area of regulation, including as to engagement with environmental justice communities, is presently subject to a FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Docket RM 22-7, https://www.ferc.gov/media/e-1-rm22-7-000 .	Joseph Rosenthal, Senior Policy Advisor, joseph.rosenthal@ferc.gov
N/A	DOE Office of Energy Justice Policy & Analysis	In accordance with its statutory mandate, the Office of Energy Justice & Equity (EJE) uniquely serves in an advisory capacity within the U.S. Department of Energy in the equitable and just clean energy transition and advises on energy and environmental justice matters relating to DOE's offshore wind research, development, and deployment, and interagency efforts.	The Office of Energy Justice, Policy & Analysis addresses environmental justice concerns throughout the Department of Energy's portfolio in making policy recommendations; conducting research and analysis on pertinent topics; participating in community listening sessions; and integrating equity and justice into DOE's workstreams,	Samuel Herbert, Senior EEJ Policy Advisor, Samuel.herbert@hq.doe.gov



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N/A	Sea Grant	Sea Grant is successfully applying its core strengths (extension, research, education, communication) and diverse network capacity to contribute to the nation's rapidly evolving pace of offshore wind energy (OWE) development, including as it relates to environmental justice. More than sixteen Sea Grant state programs around the country and the National Sea Grant office are engaging in competently and confidently responding to the technical and information needs of the people they serve, enabling communities to emerge as informed and empowered participants in OWE development decision-making. In addition, Sea Grant is engaging with federal entities to share their "boots on the ground" knowledge and networks to appropriately shape national initiatives, implement collaborative applied research and accelerate the diffusion of science-based information. To address and identify key interactions and potential tradeoffs between fisheries and floating offshore wind energy development, the Liaison team plays a leadership role in the development of the Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) for the Gulf of Maine (FishFIOW IEA) in partnership with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NOAA) and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. The IEA will assist NOAA, other federal agencies, and the fishing and offshore wind industry to both measure and minimize impacts. The Liaison is leading an effort to advance the shared understanding of the impacts and changing behavior of recreational fishers due to the accelerated growth of offshore wind energy and identify strategies to respond to research and monitoring needs. With additional funding from the NOAA-funded Cooperative Institute of the North Atlantic Region (CINAR), the Liaison will communicate current research and monitoring strategies, identify gaps, and strategize mechanisms to fill these gaps, while also fostering new relationships among CINAR consortium investigators, NOAA representatives, and resource users that will spark n	Overall, the Sea Grant network is committed to ensuring that an environmental justice perspective is woven into the breadth of programming; doing so provides opportunity for more voices from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds and capabilities to participate in dialogue concerning critical decisions for coastal and ocean resources, including those of the offshore wind energy arena. For example, some Sea Grant Programs have initiated engagement with tribal communities to respond to issues related to resiliency, including offshore wind energy. In addition, Sea Grant programs have funded research to understand barriers for equity and a just energy transition for diverse communities. Sea Grant continues to builds its capacity on this responsibility through its national Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Community of Practice, a learning network to share resources and strategies that enhance our abilities in this area.	Jennifer McCann, Liaison, National Sea Grant Offshore Wind Energy Initiative imccann@uri.edu Nikola Garber, Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program and National Sea Grant Office kola.garber@noaa.gov



Table 3. State Agencies

Purview*	Agency	Organizational Role in Offshore Wind Energy Development	Responsibilities Related to Environmental Justice	Main Point of Contact
State Cooperating Agency	NJ Department of Environmental Protection	DEP's role in Offshore Wind includes the permitting of all Offshore Wind related infrastructure including the wind farms in federal waters, export cables and substations both on and offshore, and port facilities. DEP's main regulatory jurisdiction falls within the boundaries of the state as well as state waters which extends out to 3 miles off of New Jersey's coast. In addition to activities in state waters, DEP reviews projects in federal waters (beginning 3-miles off the coast) for consistency with New Jersey's "Enforceable Policies" through Federal Consistency pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. In addition, DEP is a cooperating agency in the NEPA process and coordinates with BOEM and other federal partners throughout the environmental review process.	NJDEP is committed to supporting environmental justice across New Jersey and ensuring that EJ is considered into its actions. Through it's Office of Environmental Justice, NJDEP works towards three priorities: 1. Amending DEP's internal work to incorporate environmental justice; 2: Facilitating a council of NJ agencies to amend the way the entire state achieves environmental justice; and 3: Engaging with EJ communities and remove barriers to accessing resources so that communities are better informed and heard.	Katherine Nolan, Environmental Specialist 3, Katherine.Nolan@dep.nj.gov
State Cooperating Agency	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)	NYSDEC is involved in many aspects of offshore wind including the planning and siting of projects in New York State (NYS) and federal waters. NYSDEC participates in multiple NYS interagency working groups, several technical working groups (TWGs), and participates as a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for projects that have a connected action in NYS. During the review and siting of offshore wind transmission cables and port infrastructure projects, NYSDEC reviews all project elements in NYS both onshore and offshore out to 3 nautical miles, ensuring that impacts to environmental and natural resources are avoided and minimized to the greatest extent possible. All project activities must be consistent with the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and its implementing regulations in Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR). A single offshore wind project can have many components that impact numerous resources. The NYSDEC Division of Environmental Permits works to coordinate the review of these projects into a representative voice for NYSDEC to ensure agency concerns are addressed in the siting of these projects. Specific to offshore wind transmission cables located in NYS waters, NYSDEC is a statutory party to Public Service Law Article VII which requires the review and assessment of the environmental impact of the siting, design, construction, and operation of major electric transmission facilities in New York State. NYSDEC's key role in the Article VII process is to advise the Public Service Commission with respect to conditions that should be included in in the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (CECPN) in order to comply with the ECL, 6 NYCRR and to avoid and minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The CECPN needs to be obtained prior to commencement of construction activities. While the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) makes the final decision regarding all applications, Article VII establishes	NYSDEC's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) works to address environmental issues and concerns that affect primarily low income and minority communities through grant opportunities, enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, consultation, guidance, and enhanced public participation. This mission is primarily accomplished through NYSDEC's Commissioner Policy 29 (CP-29) which provides guidance for incorporating environmental justice concerns into NYSDEC environmental permit review process and the NYSDEC application of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). CP-29 amends the regular NYSDEC permitting process by: identifying potential environmental justice areas, providing information on environmental justice to applicants with proposed projects in those communities, enhancing public participation requirements for proposed projects requiring permits in those communities, enhancing public participation requirements for proposed projects requiring permits in those communities, enhancing public participation and providing alternative dispute resolution opportunities to allow communities and project sponsors to resolve issues of concern to potentially impacted communities.	Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Alanah.keddell-tuckey@dec.ny.gov.



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State Cooperating Agency	NYSERDA	 Buyer in long-term revenue contracts with projects Energy policy and strategy development Stakeholder engagement Supply chain and workforce development Research and data development Regulatory activities related to offshore energy development 	To address historic inequities and exclusion from decision-making processes, New York is prioritizing climate justice by ensuring that historically marginalized communities directly participate in, and benefit from, the State's climate actions and the transition to a clean energy economy. Specifically, the Climate Act requires the State to invest or direct resources to ensure that Disadvantaged Communities receive at least 35 percent, with the goal of 40 percent, of overall benefits of spending on clean energy and energy efficiency programs.	Jessica Dealy, Senior Advisor, Offshore Wind, Jessica.dealy@nyserda.ny.gov
N/A	New York Economic Development Corporation	NYCEDC is an instrumentality of the City of New York that is leading municipal inclusive industry development efforts for offshore wind. NYCEDC is implementing the City's 15-year OSW Vision Plan that outlines three strategies to develop best-in-class waterfront infrastructure to enable the construction of OSW farms, develop local workforce and supply chain to enable New Yorkers to secure family-sustaining jobs and business contract opportunities in the emerging industry, and to lead the development of innovative technology solutions to lower the levelized cost of OSW energy by leveraging city's assets, expertise in maritime infrastructure development, world-class talent, and capacity for innovation. In Sunset Park, Brooklyn, NYCEDC and Equinor, supported by a diverse range of public and private partners are collaborating to activate and redevelop the South Brooklyn Marine terminal (SBMT) into a world-class OSW port. Through investing in workforce entities, NYCEDC is preparing local workers and businesses to participate in the opportunities that will be created by OSW. NYCEDC is also partnering with entities like the OSW Innovation Hub to attract premiere OSW startups to ensure new OSW technologies and approaches are created in New York City.	As this new industry is created, NYCEDC aims to equitably develop the OSW industry and work, in alignment with New York State climate policy goals, that 35-40% of the benefits of offshore wind investments go to disadvantaged communities (as defined by New York State) which include environmental justice communities.	Sam Jung, sjung@edc.nyc
State Cooperating Agency	New York State Department of State (NYSDOS)	 New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) works collaboratively to responsibly plan for and develop offshore wind energy in a number of ways: Administers the New York Coastal Management Program and undertakes federal consistency reviews, as applicable, for renewable energy leasing and project reviews; Collaborates to advance offshore policy and planning initiatives and guide shared regional ocean priorities, including promoting Blue Carbon and a sustainable Blue Economy; Provides technical support in federal NEPA reviews and State transmission planning and siting; Helps ensure that consumer concerns are considered in energy rate cases and policy matter; Provides support and technical assistance to local governments & community organizations through flagship programs like Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs, Smart Growth, and Downtown Revitalization Initiative; and Employs informed engagement approaches, such as traumainformed planning, to enhance engagement in communities that are over-burdened by various stressors and under-resourced. 	NYSDOS is committed to making New York State a more welcoming, equitable, and prosperous place. By intentionally integrating the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, accessibility, and belonging (DEIJAB), the Department enhances access and promotes resilience measures to reduce barriers to community planning and revitalization efforts. For example, NYSDOS's Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program provides a collaborative approach to redeveloping strategic sites and leveraging investments for area-wide improvement, especially in historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities. This also includes supporting communities that are or may host renewable energy and supply chain facilities to understand and identify ways to advance their development goals and promote community benefits. Since 2022, NYSDOS has shifted to a broader definition of, and approach to, climate adaptation that focuses on community engagement and outreach in distressed communities, taking into consideration the intersectional layers of trauma and stressors, both short- and long-term, in those communities, including—food insecurity, brownfield and other contamination, poverty in general, COVID, minority health disparities, and severe weather events.	Nicole Jean Christian Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer New York State Department of State 99 Washington Ave, Suite 1050 Albany, NY 12231 O: 518.474.3070 diversityandinclusion@dos.ny.gov

^{*} Table may not be comprehensive of all organizations or permitting authorities with roles in offshore wind development. If your agency or office should be included, please email environmental.justice@boem.gov with the appropriate descriptions to include.