



Frequently Asked Questions

OREGON - WindFloat Pacific Request for Interest (RFI)

What is the WindFloat Pacific Project?

The WindFloat Pacific Project is a proposed floating offshore wind demonstration project roughly 16 nautical miles west of Coos Bay, Oregon in water depths approximately 1,400 feet. The project is designed to generate 30 megawatts (MW) of electricity from five floating 'WindFloat' units, each equipped with a 6-MW offshore wind turbine. The five turbines would be connected to each other by an electrical cable, and would have a single transmission cable exporting the electricity produced to the mainland. The project would extend through both federal and state waters. Principle Power Inc. received \$4 million in Department of Energy (DOE) funding for their project and submitted a lease request to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in May 2013.

What is a Request for Interest (RFI) and Why is BOEM publishing a RFI?

BOEM has authority to issue leases on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for offshore renewable energy projects, such as the one proposed by Principle Power, Inc. The Request for Information (RFI) provides public notice for the proposed lease area requested and invites submissions of indications of interest from other parties for the same area. The RFI also requests that the public and interested stakeholders comment and provide information about site conditions and other uses of the area requested that would be relevant to the proposed WindFloat Pacific project or its impacts. BOEM is publishing the RFI to determine if competitive interest exists in the area requested by Principle Power Inc. for their proposed project.

Why should I comment on the RFI?

Public comments give BOEM valuable insight into existing uses of an area and may also help in identifying issues regarding the proposed project or the proposed project area.

How will BOEM use the information it receives in response to the RFI?

BOEM will use the information it receives during the comment period to inform its decision making about the proposed project and to identify potential issues for future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

(more)

What if BOEM determines no competitive interest exists after the comment period closes?

If no competitive interest exists in the identified area, BOEM will publish a Determination of No Competitive Interest (DNCI) in the *Federal Register*. A DNCI announces that BOEM will follow the noncompetitive leasing process outlined in its renewable energy regulations (30 CFR 585). Under the noncompetitive process, the applicant would submit plans to BOEM that describe the proposed development of the lease. These plans would be reviewed by BOEM and a NEPA analysis would be completed before any activities could take place.

What if BOEM determines there is competitive interest in the area?

If BOEM determines there is competitive interest in the area, BOEM would follow the competitive leasing process outlined in our renewable energy regulations (30 CFR 585). The competitive process includes:

- Call for Information and Nominations (CALL): This is the next step in the planning and leasing process if there is competitive interest.
- Area Identification and environmental compliance reviews
- Proposed Sale Notice (PSN): A notice BOEM publishes in the *Federal Register* that describes the proposed area to be offered for leasing and the proposed conditions of a lease sale. This notice would not be published until after a NEPA review has been completed.
- Final Sale Notice (FSN): A notice BOEM publishes in the *Federal Register* that describes the final areas to be offered and that describes the final conditions of a lease sale.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by standard mail.

- **Comments through Regulations.gov** – In the entry entitled, “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM-2013-0050 and then click ‘search’. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for the notice which includes a map of the proposed lease area and a copy of the lease request submitted to BOEM by Principle Power.
- **Comments by standard mail:**
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Region
Office of Strategic Resources
770 Paseo Camarillo, Second Floor, Camarillo, California 93010.

For additional information, contact:

Jean Thurston, Renewable Energy Program Specialist, Jean.Thurston@boem.gov, 805-384-4704