

The Proposed Action and Alternatives

Alternative	Description	Reason for Alternative	
A	PROPOSED ACTION	The construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of an up-to-800-MW wind energy facility on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore Massachusetts within the proposed Project area and associated export cables would occur within the range of design parameters outlined in the Vineyard Wind Construction and Operation Plan (COP), subject to applicable mitigation measures.	Analysis of the project proposed by Vineyard Wind LLC.
B	Covell's Beach Cable Landfall	Same as the Proposed Action except the New Hampshire Avenue landfall location option presented in the COP would not be used, and the cable landfall would be limited to Covell's Beach.	Potentially reduce impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources, particularly impacts on Lewis Bay.
C	No Surface Occupancy in the Northernmost Portion of the Project Area	Same as the Proposed Action except no surface occupancy would occur in the northernmost portion of the proposed Project area.	Potentially reduce the visual impacts of the proposed Project and potential conflicts with existing ocean uses, such as marine navigation and commercial fishing.
D1	One Nautical Mile Wind Turbine Spacing	Same as the Proposed Action except the wind turbine generators (WTGs) would have a minimum spacing of 1 nautical mile between them and the lanes between turbines would also be a minimum of 1 nautical mile.	Potentially reduce conflicts with existing ocean uses, such as commercial fishing and marine navigation.
D2	East-West and One Nautical Mile Wind Turbine Layout	Same as the Proposed Action except the wind turbine layout would be arranged in an east-west orientation and all WTGs in the east-west direction would have a minimum spacing of 1 nautical mile between them to allow for vessels to travel in an unobstructed path between rows of turbines in an east-west direction.	Potentially reduce conflicts with existing ocean uses, such as commercial fishing, by facilitating the established practice of mobile and fixed-gear fishing practices and vessels fishing in an east-west direction.
E	Reduced Project Size	Same as the Proposed Action, except the proposed Project would consist of no more than 84 WTGs.	Potentially reduce impacts on existing ocean uses and environmental resources.
F	Vessel Transit Lane	A vessel transit lane through the Wind Development Area (WDA) would be established in which no surface occupancy would occur. WTG locations displaced by the transit lane would not be eliminated from consideration but are assumed to move the proposed Project south of the WDA.	The lane included in this alternative could potentially facilitate transit of vessels through the project area from southern New England ports — primarily New Bedford — to fishing areas on Georges Bank.
G	No Action	Proposed Project and associated activities as described in the Vineyard Wind COP would not be approved and the proposed construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning activities would not occur. Any potential environmental and socioeconomic costs and benefits associated with the proposed Project as described under Alternative A, the Proposed Action, would not occur.	The alternative of no action is required to be analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act. Under the no action, impacts from the proposed Project would not occur as proposed; however, impacts from past, present, future non-offshore wind, and future offshore wind activities would still occur.



For more information on the Proposed Action and Alternatives, see Chapter 2 of the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.