Renewable Energy Planning & Leasing: Next Steps for the Gulf of Maine

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Zach Jylkka, Project Coordinator

May 19, 2022
Presentation Topics

- Task Force Structure, Purpose, and 2019 Meeting
- State of Maine Research Lease Application
- BOEM Commercial Planning & Leasing Process
- Gulf of Maine Leasing Timeline
- RFI Development Framework – Preview
- Task Force Questions
Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

Gulf of Maine Task Force

Requested by Governor Sununu in 2019, and last met in December 2019.

• **Who is on it?**
  
  o Members include federal officials and elected officers of state, local, and Tribal governments.
  
  o Members of the public can attend meetings, and there is always an opportunity to provide input.

• **What is it?**
  
  o Mechanism for coordination and information exchange with governmental partners. Not a decision-making nor approval body.
What are the goals of the Task Force?

1. **educate** members about the renewable energy program, processes, and requirements;
2. **exchange** data and information;
3. **discuss** issues of concern; and
4. **assist government decision-making** within the established BOEM regulatory framework regarding renewable energy activity on the OCS in the Gulf of Maine

What did we cover in 2019?

- Task Force Structure/Purpose
- Renewable Energy Leasing Process
- State perspectives
- Jurisdictional Authorities (DoD, USCG, NMFS)
- Data, Information Sources, Ocean Users
  - BOEM, NROC, NEFMC, RODA, DOE
- Public Input/Concerns

State of Maine’s Research Lease Application

State of Maine Research Array

Maine submitted a research lease application (Oct. 2021) for a floating research array in Federal Waters

- ~25 nmi from the mainland; 15 Square Miles (~10,000 acres)
- ≤ 12 Floating Turbines (up to 144 MW)
- BOEM currently reviewing and processing application

BOEM Process: Unsolicited Lease Request

- Qualifications (Legal, Technical, Financial)
- Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)
  - Publication expected early summer (2022)
  - 30-day comment period
- Competitive Interest → Competitive Leasing Process
- No Competitive Interest → Suitability Analysis, Environmental Assessment, Lease Negotiation

BOEM Website: State of Maine Research Lease Application
Our path forward will help achieve the first ever national offshore wind goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, which would create nearly 80,000 jobs.

Renewable Energy Process: From RFI/Call to Operation

[Planning & Analysis]  [Leasing]  [Site Assessment]  [Construction & Operations]

Initiate Leasing Process (RFI/Call)

Lease Granted

Submit SAP

BOEM Deems COP Complete & Sufficient

BOEM Approves COP

Area Identification
Wind Energy Areas

Publish Leasing Notices

Pre-survey Meetings/Plan

Site Assessment & Surveys
(maximum timeframe)

BOEM Environmental & Technical Reviews

Installation

NEPA/Environmental Reviews

Auction

BOEM Reviews & Approves SAP

Submit COP
(with Project Design Envelope – optional)

Submit Design & Installation Plans

Maximum timeframes:

- 0 - 1/2
- 0 - <1 1/2
- 0 - <5
- 0 - 2
Request for Interest to Lease Sale

- Request for Interest
- Call for Information and Nominations
- Area Identification
- Leasing Document Development
- Auction

Potential Task Force Meetings / Webinars

- Request for Interest
- Call
- Area Identification
- Proposed Sale Notice
- Final Sale Notice

- Public Comment
- Environmental Assessment Process & Public Involvement
- Auction

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Planning Area

- BOEM's first step in establishing the boundaries for an area (or areas) that will be considered for leasing.
- BOEM avoids overlap between Planning Areas (e.g., Gulf of Maine, MA/RI, New York Bight, etc.)
Request for Interest (RFI) Area

• Collect information to determine the level of interest in offshore wind leasing
• Shed more light on suitability of area for wind development
Call for Information and Nominations - Area

Request comments on:

- Areas for special consideration and analysis
- Conditions in the Call Area
- Areas to be considered for leasing
Wind Energy Area

- A portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) identified by BOEM for NEPA analysis (Environmental Assessment)
- The basis for a Lease Area
Lease Areas

- Wind Energy Areas have the potential for further division into Lease Areas
Pre-Lease Sale Process: Proposed Sale Notice

What is in a PSN?

- Area for leasing
- Fiscal terms
- Auction details and format
- Proposed lease terms
- Last opportunity to submit company qualification materials
  - Legal
  - Technical
  - Financial
- Nonmonetary factors

Auction Seminar for potential bidders
Final Sale Notice

- Bid deposit required to participate in auction
- List of qualified bidders

Mock Auction

Auction
April 2018

Planning Stage | Acres
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Call | 1,735,154

- Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- Call Areas

**BOEM Lease Areas**
- Bay State Wind LLC: OCS-A 0500
- Vineyard Wind LLC: OCS-A 0501
- Equinor Wind US LLC: OCS-A 0520
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC: OCS-A 0521
- Vineyard Wind LLC: OCS-A 0522
- Equinor Wind US LLC: OCS-A 0512
- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.: OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC: OCS-A 0488
BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

November 2018

Federal/State Boundary
BOEM OCS Blocks
Call Areas Outline
Draft Wind Energy Areas
BOEM Lease Areas

- Bay State Wind LLC: OCS-A 0500
- Vineyard Wind LLC: OCS-A 0501
- Equinor Wind US LLC: OCS-A 0520
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC: OCS-A 0521
- Vineyard Wind LLC: OCS-A 0522
- Equinor Wind US LLC: OCS-A 0512
- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.: OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC: OCS-A 0498
Request for Interest to Lease Sale

- Request for Interest
- Call for Information and Nominations
- Area Identification
  - Wind Energy Areas
- Leasing Document Development
  - Environmental Assessment Process & Public Involvement
  - Proposed Sale Notice
  - Final Sale Notice

Potential Task Force Meetings / Webinars

45 days

Auction
Assemble the best available science and data, including Traditional Knowledge

- Robust Public Engagement + Transparency on Process & Decision-Making
- BOEM Environmental Studies Program
- Northeast Ocean Data Portal / BOEM Marine Cadastre
- RFI Comment Period, Call for Information & Nominations, etc.
- Exploring additional spatial modeling approaches
Environmental Assessment

Assesses Environmental Effects Associated with Leasing

- Site Characterization Activities
  - biological, geological, geotechnical, and archaeological surveys

- Site Assessment Activities
  - meteorological and oceanographic buoy deployment

Leasing Document Development

- auction

- public comment

- environmental assessment process & public involvement

- proposed sale notice

- final sale notice

- 60 days

- proposed sale notice

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Assesses Environmental Effects Associated with Leasing

- Site Characterization Activities
  - biological, geological, geotechnical, and archaeological surveys
- Site Assessment Activities
  - meteorological and oceanographic buoy deployment
## Gulf of Maine Commercial Leasing Milestones

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<tr>
<th>Milestone*</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Target Date**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task Force Meeting</td>
<td>Hold virtual meeting</td>
<td>May 19, 2022</td>
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| Publish Request for Interest | Publish RFI  
45-Day Comment Period | Q3 2022 |
| Publish Call for Information & Nominations | Publish Call  
45-Day Comment Period | Q1 2023 |
| Area Identification | Designate Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) | Q3 2023 |
| Lease Sale | Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) | Q4 2023 |
| | Final Sale Notice (FSN) | Q2 2024 |
| | Hold auction | Q3 2024 |

* Task Forces are incredibly valuable tools in the leasing process and **several meetings** can be expected, likely to be scheduled around significant process milestones.

** Dates of planning/leasing milestones are all tentative.
RFI Development Framework

Request for Interest (RFI) Development Framework

• Approach to developing DRAFT RFI.
• Focus of our afternoon discussion & breakout groups
• Starting at the earliest point in the process
  • Maximize engagement opportunities
  • Gauge commercial interest
  • Collect additional data
Fisheries Mitigation Guidance

- Request for Information (RFI) on Reducing or Avoiding Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy on Fisheries
  - Published November 23, 2021, Comment Period closed January 7, 2022
  - 7 workshops held in December 2021

- Next Steps:
  - Publication of **DRAFT Guidance**: Spring 2022
    - 60-day comment period
    - 3 Regional Public Virtual Meetings: Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific
    - Updates to Fishery Working Groups, Individual State Meetings, etc.
    - Meeting with Developers
  - Publication of **FINAL Guidance**: Summer 2022