Carolina Long Bay Task Force
Renewable Energy Leasing Overview

July 21, 2021
Casey Reeves, Project Coordinator
Office Of Renewable Energy Programs
Agenda

• BOEM Leasing Process

• Leasing Strategy

• PSN
  o Areas in the PSN
  o Environmental Considerations
  o Auction Elements
Renewable Energy Process: From RFI/Call to Operation

[Planning & Analysis]
- Initiate Leasing Process (RFI/Call)
- Area Identification (Wind Energy Areas)
- Publish Leasing Notices
- NEPA/Environmental Reviews

[Leasing]
- Lease Granted
- Submit SAP
- Pre-survey Meetings/Plan
- Site Assessment & Surveys (maximum timeframe)
- BOEM Deems COP Complete & Sufficient
- BOEM Approves COP

[Site Assessment]
- BOEM Reviews & Approves SAP
- Submit COP (with Project Design Envelope – optional)

[Construction & Operations]
- Submit Design & Installation Plans
- Installation

BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Call for Information and Nominations

- 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
Stakeholder Outreach in the Carolina Long Bay

- 11 Task Force Meetings
  - 6 North Carolina
  - 5 South Carolina
    - First meeting July 2012
    - Joint meetings began in April 2016
- 3 Public Meetings
  - Informational, Public Scoping, Environmental Assessment meetings
- Engagement with Stakeholder Groups
- Last Task Force Meeting: May 17, 2016
This route is under review by USCG and BOEM and only impacts ~12 aliquots of the Wilmington East Lease Area.
Background NARWCH Expansion 2016

- This designation impacts ~16 aliquots of the Wilmington East Lease area.
The 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, and the 169th Fighter Wing, a unit of the South Carolina Air National Guard, stationed at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, currently conducts combat aerial combat sorties and defensive countermeasures (i.e., chaff and flares) training in overwater warning areas W177A/B.
During BOEM’s offshore wind planning process, the need for accurate representations of offshore wind turbines to help evaluate potential visual impacts became apparent.

The simulations included:

- 2015 Visual simulation open houses to inform stakeholders
- 234 offshore wind turbine simulations were created.
- 18 different locations (from Corolla Lighthouse to Sunset Beach);
- Four lighting conditions (morning, afternoon, starlit night and misty nights)

[Link](http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/State-Activities/NC/Offshore-North-Carolina-Visualization-Study.aspx)
## OREP Proposed Sale Notice Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Area Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>MW</th>
<th>Closest Distance to Shore (nmi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina WEA - Wilmington East</td>
<td>133,59</td>
<td>1,622</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Map of Wilmington East WEA](image)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area ID</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td>ATLW-9 • OCS-A 0545 (WE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Assessment</td>
<td>Review underway</td>
<td>Updates In Process</td>
<td>Review EA concurrent w/ consultations and updates to lease conditions in Addendum C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Sale Notice</td>
<td>Draft PSN/RFI to Task Force</td>
<td>July 8, 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TF Meeting</td>
<td>July 21, 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review and incorporate</td>
<td>August-September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comments and new information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>received from TF into PSN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publish PSN</td>
<td>NLT October 31, 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-Day Comment Period</td>
<td>October - December 2021</td>
<td>Public auction seminar, process qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Sale Notice</td>
<td>Publish FSN</td>
<td>NLT March 31, 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum 30-Day Waiting Period</td>
<td>April 2022</td>
<td>Receive bidder financial forms, bid deposits, non-monetary packages, hold mock auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(45 days recommended)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease Sale</td>
<td>Sale Date</td>
<td>NLT May 15, 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lease Execution</td>
<td>NLT June 30, 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
Proposed Sale Notice

- The leasing phase results in the issuance of a commercial wind energy lease. OCS-A 0545

- Leases may be issued either through a competitive or noncompetitive process.

- A commercial lease gives the lessee the exclusive right to subsequently seek BOEM approval for the development of the leasehold.

- The lease does not grant the lessee the right to construct any facilities; rather, the lease grants the right to use the lease area to develop its plans, which must be approved by BOEM before the lessee can move on to the next stage of the process.
Proposed Sale Notice

- Identifies proposed sale area
- Announces Lease OCS-A 0545 and Addenda
- Identifies proposed auction methodology
- Invites potential bidders to qualify
  - Legal, financial, technical requirements
- Initiates 60-day comment period for stakeholder input
Proposed Sale Notice

• BOEM published the Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore North Carolina - Revised Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2015


  o Considered the environmental impacts of lease issuance, associated site characterization surveys and approving site assessment plans (e.g., construction and operation of meteorological towers and/or buoys) within the Kitty Hawk, Wilmington East and West WEAs

  o BOEM's preferred alternative included the leasing of all three WEAs, but BOEM only moved forward with the Kitty Hawk WEA
Proposed Sale Notice

• BOEM is currently evaluating the adequacy of the 2015 EA
  
  o Evaluating new information such as new studies, newly-listed species, and the designation of NARW Critical Habitat
  
  o The impacts mostly align with the previous EA, but BOEM may need to supplement with additional NEPA analysis
Proposed Sale Notice

• Consultations
  - During the previous NEPA analysis, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was covered by a biological opinion (BO) which was issued in 2013 and valid until 2020.
  - The BO considered site characterization and site assessment activities that may occur as a result of:
    - 1. BOEM’s own planning analysis;
    - 2. Unsolicited lease application to actualize plans for a renewable energy facility;
    - 3. Request for approval of a Site Assessment Plan to construct a meteorological tower or install meteorological buoys;
    - 4. Request for approval of a Construction and Operations Plan;
    - 5. Request for approval of a General Activities Plan;
Proposed Sale Notice

• Consultations

  o Before the BO expired in 2020, BOEM requested a new consultation in 2018, with completion expected this summer.

  o The new BO includes project design criteria (PDCs) and best management practices (BMPs) that reduce the potential for adverse effects to discountable levels. These PDCs can be found in Appendix A of the biological assessment (https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/OREP-Data-Collection-BA-Final.pdf).

  o While the BO will include coverage of lease issuance and site assessment activities, it does not cover fishery surveys, which may require further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service.
Proposed Sale Notice

- PSN highlights and seeks input on several provisions:
  - Project Labor Agreements
  - Commercial fishing engagement
  - Tribal nations consultations
  - Auction and leasing procedures
- Supports Implementation of EO 13985 & EO 14008
• Bidding Credit for Underserved Communities

  o BOEM is considering including a 125 percent bidding credit for developers committing up to $5 million for underserved communities.

  o A bidder would earn a maximum bidding credit of $6.25 million for its winning bid.

  o The payment of the bidding credit can be deferred until the developer’s submission of the lease’s first Facility Design Report (FDR).
Renewable Energy Leasing Process

- Federal Register publication of PSN is the last formal public comment period prior to an FSN