



Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Humboldt Wind Energy Area

Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. PT

i. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted public outreach to inform the development of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA), located approximately 20 miles offshore from the City of Eureka in Humboldt County, California. BOEM hosted two virtual meetings during the 45-day public comment period to outline its formal environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to solicit public input on issues to be considered. The first virtual meeting took place on January 25, 2022, and the second on January 26, 2022. The public comment period ended on February 10, 2022.

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, Tribal Nations, and local governments. Public participants represented the fishing industry, developers, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations. A total of 78 people registered for the event and 44 public participants attended the meeting.

The meeting recording and transcript are available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/humboldt-wind-energy-area>

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide information on the Humboldt WEA and Draft EA.
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.
- Solicit public input on the WEA and Draft EA.

This document summarizes key outcomes and next steps from the meeting. It focuses on public comment input received rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West facilitated the meeting.

This summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Meeting Highlights
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 - B. Overview of Humboldt Draft EA
 - C. Clarifying Questions
 - D. Public Comment Opportunity
 - E. Closing and Next Steps
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 - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
 - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
 - E. Poll Results

II. Humboldt Draft EA Meeting Highlights

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

1. Jenna Tourje, Facilitator, Kearns & West

The meeting opened with a welcome to participants, followed by a summary of meeting objectives and guidance on navigating the Zoom webinar. The facilitator presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations and the second identified the number of participants planning to provide oral comment at the meeting (See Appendix E for polling results). The facilitator explained that participants can provide public comments surrounding the content of the Draft EA and explained the process of making a public comment.

2. Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific Office

Mr. Yarde thanked attendees for their involvement and participation in the meeting. He described the Executive Orders that initiated the Humboldt WEA, the process leading up to the Humboldt Draft EA meeting, and where it fits in the NEPA process for the Humboldt EA.

B. Overview of Humboldt Draft EA

This session provided an overview of the Humboldt WEA Draft EA, status updates, and next steps.

Sara Gultinan, Renewable Energy Specialist, BOEM Pacific Office

Ms. Gultinan is acting in the position of CA Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordinator for BOEM's Pacific Office while Jean Thurston-Keller is on military leave. Ms. Gultinan presented an overview of BOEM's planning approach for offshore wind energy, BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process, determination of the current call area, the leasing and environmental review processes, and next steps for offshore wind energy development in Humboldt County. Ms. Gultinan went over opportunities for input from members of the public, the creation of task forces for special interest groups, and the ongoing collaborative processes within BOEM and various agencies. She noted that the final call area has the potential to produce up to 1,605 MW to power 560,000 homes.

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, BOEM Pacific Office

Ms. Gilbane presented the NEPA process, went over the content of the Draft EA, and explained the types of information BOEM is seeking from the public on the Draft EA. Ms. Gilbane highlighted the Tribal and Government to Government consultations during the development of the Draft EA. Ms. Gilbane explained the types of data that inform the resource assessment sections within the Draft EA, focusing on potential impacts related to or on fisheries, fishing communities, noise, environment, vessel traffic, environmental justice, and the economy. She explained that the Final EA will be published in Spring 2022 and will inform the process of the proposed sale notice. All participants were invited to submit comments on the content of the Draft EA and to direct further questions to BOEM subject matter experts or Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov.

C. Clarifying Process Questions

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions and BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered the following topics:

- Wind Energy Area boundaries
- Impacts and analyses on communities (Tribal, local, and environmental justice communities)
- Impacts and assessments on marine life
- Status of alternative sites (Diablo Canyon)
- Data collection

Appendix C contains additional details on public clarifying questions and responses.

D. Public Comment Opportunity

Appendix D contains individual public comments on the Humboldt Draft EA. Ms. Tourje explained that comments were being recorded and that BOEM will not respond to public comments. Commenters were allotted 3 minutes to speak.

A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- **Tribal review timeline:** Tribal consultation may extend past the February 10, 2022, deadline.
- **Alternative sites:** BOEM must exhaust all call area options.
- **Impacts on wildlife:** Expressed concern about the magnetic pull-on mammals in local fisheries and requested another assessment. Expressed appreciation for BOEM's outreach efforts.
- **Environmental Assessment Details:** Questions around whether the Draft EA will cover onshore power cable and substation impacts.

E. Closing and Next Steps

Lisa Gilbane thanked participants for their time and comments, and encouraged them to submit further comments online via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), Docket: BOEM 2021-0085, or by mail. All comments are due by Feb 10, 2022, at 8:59 p.m. PST. Ms. Gilbane referred to BOEM's website: <https://www.boem.gov/HumboldtEA> for detailed public comment information and to view recordings of the meetings.

III. Appendices

A. Agenda

AGENDA

BOEM California Humboldt Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting

Registration Information

https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U8JbLe9TVGJ7AZba4WAGw

January 26th, 2022

Meeting: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. PT

Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Solicit public input on the WEA and Draft EA.
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
5:00 – 5:05 p.m.	Webinar Instructions and Guidance	Kearns & West Facilitator
5:05 – 5:30 p.m.	Overview of Humboldt Draft EA	Sara Gultinan, BOEM Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
5:30 – 6:15 p.m.	Clarifying Questions on Draft EA	Kearns & West Facilitator
6:15 – 7:50 p.m.	Public Comment	
7:50 – 8:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
8:00 p.m.	Adjourn Meeting	

B. Public Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Affiliated Group
Waldo	Wakefield	Oregon State University	Academia
Jim	Zoellick	Schatz Energy Research Center	Academia
Andrew	Cavinta	California State University, Maritime Academy	Academia
Bohdan	Buchynsky	Diamond Generating Corporation	Business/Industry
Eric	Hawkinson		Business/Industry
Jake	Coleman		Business/Industry
Craig	Tucker	Lost Coast Wind	Business/Industry
Nico	Turpin-Invernon		Business/Industry
Kiva	VanDerGeest	EDR	Business/Industry
Robert	Collier	Cierco	Business/Industry
Chris	Rein	Environmental Design and Research, DPC	Business/Industry
Emily	Lee	Sumitomo Corporation of Americas	Business/Industry
Yue	Shen	Estolano Advisors	Business/Industry
Kyle	Kowalski		Business/Industry
Jan	Shruti-Mehta	Atlas Copco Specialty Rental LLC	Business/Industry
Jack	Haynie	Baird & Associates	Business/Industry
Rick	Robins	RWE	Business/Industry
Cory	Barringhaus		Business/Industry
Markian	Melnyk	Three Rivers Energy Development LLC	Business/Industry
Tyler	Studds		Business/Industry
E.B.	Jensen	Mott MacDonald	Business/Industry
James	Smith	Millwrights	Community-Based Organization
Robin	Gray-Stewart	Sierra Club	Community-Based Organization
Gerry	Bemis	CEC	Government
Kourtney	Vaccaro	California Energy Commission	Government
Neil	Raffan	CPUC	Government
Kori	Cordero	Yurok Tribe	Government
Jason	Gerdes	U.S. EPA Region 9	Government
Kerry	Griffin	Pacific Fishery Mgt Council	Government
Ciara	Emery	Rep. Jared Huffman	Government
Robin	Holmlund	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	Government
J. Lilah Ise	Ise	NOAA NMFS WCR	Government
Richard	Charter	Coastal Coordination Program, The Ocean Foundation	Non-governmental organization

Emma	Stokes	Humboldt Area Foundation CORE Hub	Non-governmental organization
Sarah	Friedman	BWG	Non-governmental organization
Amy	Jester	Redwood Region CORE Hub	Non-governmental organization
Terry	Supahan	LCW	Other
Briana	Moseley	Kearns & West	Other
Kermit	Thobaben		Other
Caraline	Johnson	SeaJay Environmental	Other
Guatam	Swami		Other
Nick	Edwards	SPMC	Other
Jana	Ganion	Blue Lake Rancheria	Tribal/Indigenous
Melanie	McCavour	Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	Tribal/Indigenous

C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participants asked clarifying questions in the Zoom Q&A box after both presentations. Detailed descriptions of questions and responses are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

- **Question:** How is the call area divided up spatially if there are three awards?
 - **Response:** There are several factors that go into the division of the call area. These factors include but are not limited to wind patterns, seafloor depth, turbine anchor conditions. The proposed sale notice will describe in greater detail on how the call area is divided up. BOEM also added that there will be up to three awards, not definitively three.

- **Question:** Could you please expand on Tribal impacts? Without disclosing confidential info, what they generally are and how they've been evaluated?
 - **Response:** In addition to a view scape review, Section 106 assesses possible Tribal impacts. Under Section 106, each federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions. Tribes have also raised concern to the impacts on species with cultural significance.

- **Question:** What type of noise mitigation processes have been considered so far to safeguard marine life?
 - **Response:** There are not many high-level impacts of noise toward marine life. The largest impact is marine vessel traffic. Mitigation for marine vessel traffic is to minimize speed and set speed limits for marine vessels.

- **Question:** Will the Diablo Canyon area proceed at a later date?
 - **Response:** Currently, there are no plans at this moment. BOEM is focusing efforts on the Morro Bay and Humboldt Wind Energy Areas.

- **Question:** Environmental Justice was noted as one of the assessment areas of focus, can you please share what Environmental Justice processes went into the EA?
 - **Response:** Environmental Justice communities were determined via census data analyzing the dispersion of minority groups and income populations. Additionally, the Environmental Justice analysis looked at the three areas within a three-mile radius near the harbor. Humboldt County comprises 83% white population and 12% Hispanic. They found no Environmental Justice issues in their analysis. Air pollution activity 20 miles offshore could impact all community members if it were to reach the shore.

- **Question:** What was the cutoff year for accumulating information/data used to create the site description?
 - **Response:** BOEM does not have a cut off year for accumulating information. BOEM uses data from various sources. BOEM actively stays up to date with information and funds new data.

- **Question:** Has an assessment been done on magnetic migration of mammals and fish?
 - **Response:** BOEM does not anticipate a change in the magnetic field impacting mammals and fish. However, BOEM anticipates additional cables to change in the local magnetic field. BOEM looked at data and research back in 2011, looking at the electromagnetic impacts on specific species and the impact of AC and DC cables impact on Chinook salmon and green sturgeon. They did not find any level of impact that would be detectable from the AC/DC cables. There might be a slight change in behavior when crossing the DC cable. Additional studies were analyzed in Europe and along the Atlantic coast. More impacts will be revealed at the time of the construction phase of the project.

- **Question:** What is the geography used to identify Environmental Justice impacts and was displacement considered?
 - **Response:** The Humboldt area may experience an influx of 10-20 workers. The Environmental Justice analysis focused on Humboldt County. Additionally, they considered three miles around Arcata, Schneider Dock, and Fields Landing and found no issues.

D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments were received during the meeting. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

Jana Ganion, Sustainability and Government Affairs Director, Rancheria and Launch Lead for the Redwood Regional Climate and Community Resilience, and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation.

- **Comment:** Expressed appreciation for BOEM’s outreach efforts. Asked if there are ways to submit comments of general Environmental Justice and equity concerns surrounding the project. Flagged that Tribal consultations may go past the February 10, 2022, deadline. The Tribal community will submit comments concerning migratory bird impacts.

Robin Gray-Stewart, Marine Chair, Northwood Group Sierra Club.

- **Comment:** Expressed appreciation to BOEM and all involved staff for opportunities to convene. On behalf of the Sierra Club, urged BOEM to research alternative sites to ensure identification of the best area for the call area.

Tribal Elder (used the Zoom Account of Melanie McCavour, THPO of Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria).

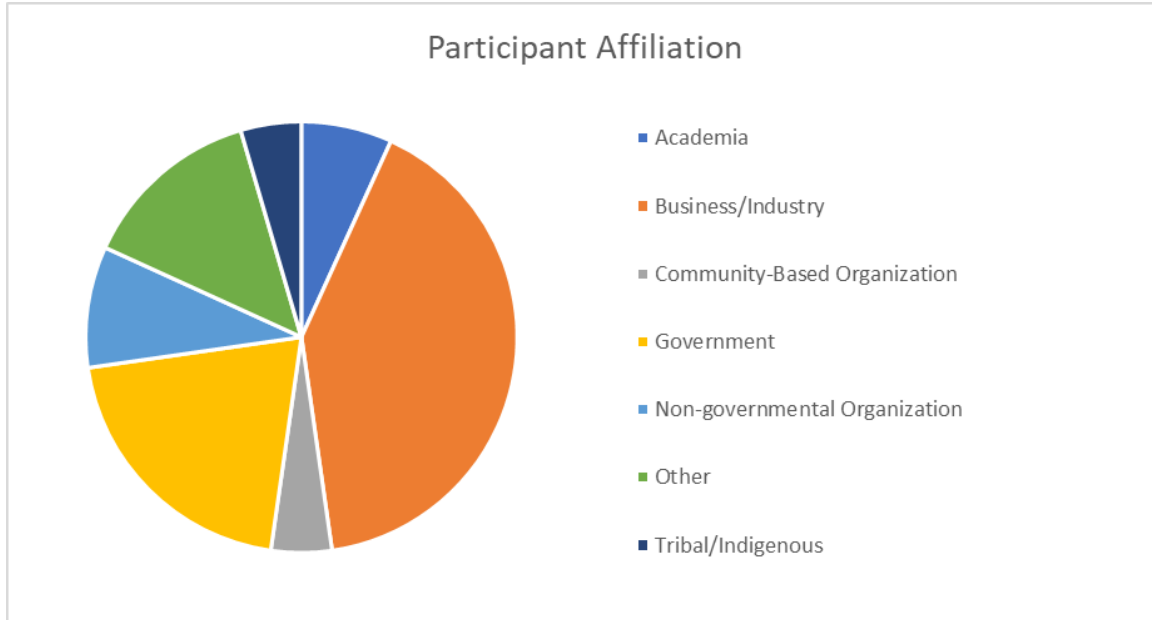
- **Comment:** Expressed concern about the magnetic pull on mammals in local fisheries and requested another assessment. Expressed appreciation for BOEM’s outreach efforts.

Gautam Swami, Manager, Low Carbon Technologies at NOV Inc. (Houston, TX)

- **Comment:** Asked whether the Draft EA would cover the onshore power cable and substation impacts.

E. Poll Results

Participant Affiliation Pie Chart



Participant Affiliation Table

Affiliated Group	Number
Academia	3
Business/Industry	18
Community-Based Organization	2
Government	9
Non-governmental Organization	4
Other	6
Tribal/Indigenous	2
Total	44