New York Bight History, Process Overview, and Draft Environmental Assessment

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Draft Environmental Assessment Public Meetings
August 25 & 26, 2021
Overview

- Background on Leasing Process
- Wind Energy Areas
- Proposed Lease Areas
- Draft Environmental Assessment
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
- Auction

[ Leasing ]
- Lease Granted
- Pre-Survey Meetings/Plan

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

[ Construction & Operations ]
- BOEM Deems COP Complete & Sufficient
- BOEM Approves COP
- BOEM Environmental & Technical Reviews
- Installation

Submit SAP
- 0
- 1
- <5
- 0
- 2
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

Final Sale Notice

Proposed Sale Notice

Potential Task Force Meetings / Webinars

Request for Interest
Call
Area Identification

45 days
45 days
0 ~ 1/2
60 days

Public Comment
Public Comment
Public Comment
Public Comment

YOU ARE HERE

Auction
December 2020

*Existing Commercial Wind Lease areas Previously Assessed as Site-Specific Stipulations

BOEM
Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management
Overview of the Draft Environmental Assessment

• Purpose and Need for Action
• Proposed Action and Alternatives
• Routine Activities and Impact-Producing Factors
• Environmental Consequences
• Notice to Stakeholders and Comment Period
• Next Steps
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

[ Site Assessment ]

Pre-Survey Meetings/Plan

Site Assessment & Surveys
(maximum timeframe)

Submit COP
(with Project Design Envelope – optional)

[ Construction & Operations ]

BOEM Deems COP Complete & Sufficient

BOEM Approves COP

BOEM Environmental & Technical Reviews

Installation

Submit Design & Installation Plans

BOEM Reviews & Approves SAP
NEPA and Offshore Wind

Environmental Assessment — Site Characterization and Assessment Activities

Environmental Impact Statement — Construction and Operation Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

- **Geographic scope** based on the March 29, 2021, Area ID Memorandum for WEAs on the NY Bight
  - Scoping Comment Period ended April 28, 2021
  - Docket No. BOEM-2021-0021

- **Proposed Action:** issuance of leases and grants within the WEAs and rights-of-way and rights-of-use and easement

- **Purpose of EA:** determine if the Proposed Action would lead to reasonably foreseeable significant impacts on the environment
  - Builds upon prior EAs completed in the Region
## NY Bight Wind Energy Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Fairways North WEA</th>
<th>Fairways South WEA</th>
<th>Hudson North WEA</th>
<th>Central Bight WEA</th>
<th>Hudson South WEA</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>88,246</td>
<td>23,841</td>
<td>43,056</td>
<td>84,688</td>
<td>567,552</td>
<td>807,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum depth (m)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum depth (m)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest distance to New York (nm)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest distance to New Jersey (nm)</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Purpose and Need for Action

Issuance of leases and grants:

• Confers exclusive right to submit plans to BOEM for potential development
• Determines suitability for commercial offshore wind production and/or transmission through site characterization and assessment
• Ensures the site characterization and assessment activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner

Scope of Analysis:

• Up to 10 leases that may cover the entirety of the WEAs
• Potential easements and grants for subsea cable corridors and offshore collector/converter platforms
Routine Activities Analyzed in the Draft EA

**Site Assessment**
Temporary placement of meteorological buoys and oceanographic devices

**Site Characterization**
Geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys, biological surveys, and archeological surveys
Non-Routine Events Analyzed in the Draft EA

- Storms
- Collisions and allisions
- Spills
- Recovery of lost survey equipment
Alternatives

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative B: Preferred Alternative
Impact-Producing Factors (IPFs)

IPFs Associated With the Proposed Action

- Noise
- Lighting
- Vessel traffic
- Air emissions
- Routine vessel discharges
- Bottom disturbance
- Habitat degradation
- Entanglement
- Marine faunal mortality

Classification Scheme for Potential Impacts

- Negligible
- Minor
- Moderate
- Major
Resources Eliminated from Consideration

These resources are anticipated to have negligible or less impacts:

- Bats
- Bathymetry, geology, and sediments
- Birds
- Coastal habitats
- Coastal infrastructure
- Demographics and employment
- Environmental justice
- Visual resources
- Water quality
## Potential Environmental Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Routine Activities</th>
<th>Non-Routine Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Assessment</td>
<td>Site Characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benthic Resources</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial and Recreational Fishing</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Mammals</td>
<td>Negligible (except for ESA-listed marine mammals, which are Minor to Moderate)</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor (except for ESA-listed marine mammals, which are Minor to Moderate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Use and Navigation/Vessel Traffic</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Tourism</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Turtles</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible to Minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standard Operating Conditions (SOCs)

- **Reduce of eliminate potential risks to, or conflicts with, some resources**
  - Lessees required to comply through lease stipulations and/or as conditions of site assessment plan
  - Ensures the site characterization and assessment activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner

- **Mitigation Strategies:**
  - Avoidance
  - Survey shutdowns
  - Visual monitoring
Consultations

- **Endangered Species Act**
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
  - National Marine Fisheries Service

- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**
  - National Marine Fisheries Service

- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
  - National Marine Fisheries Service

- **Coastal Zone Management Act**
  - States of New York and New Jersey

- **Government-to-Government Consultations with Federally Recognized Tribes**
  - Nine Native American Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the NY Bight area

- **National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)**
  - NY, NJ, and RI State Historic Preservation Offices
  - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
  - Federally recognized Native American Tribes
  - Certified local governments, historical preservation societies, museums, and state-recognized Tribes
## Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Published Draft EA</td>
<td>August 10, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Day Comment Period</td>
<td>Ends September 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, if applicable</td>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish Final Sale Notice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 30-Day Waiting Period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale Date</td>
<td>Late 2021 or Early 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Providing Public Comments

Public comment period ends September 9, 2021

Helpful Types of Comments:
- Accuracy of information
- Adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
- New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
- Where clarification is needed

How to Submit Comments:
- Via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under docket ID BOEM-2021-0054
- Through oral testimony at virtual public meetings
- In writing to:
  “Comments on New York Bight EA”
  Office of Renewable Energy Programs (VAM-OREP)
  Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
  45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166
