



Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC
1 Dock 72 Way
Floor 7
Brooklyn, NY 11205
www.atlanticshoreswind.com

January 27, 2023

Annette Ehrhorn
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Renewable Energy Programs
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, Virginia 20166
[submitted via email to: Annette.Ehrhorn@boem.gov]

Re: Revised Semi-Annual Progress Report Submittal for Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS-A 0541.

Dear Ms. Ehrhorn:

Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Bight, LLC – owned by Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC (collectively referred to herein as Atlantic Shores) – is pleased to submit this revised semi-annual progress report and comment responses in accordance with Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf - Lease OCS-A 0541, which became effective May 1, 2022.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed report please contact:

Joshua Gomez, Permitting Lead
Email: Joshua.Gomez@atlanticshoreswind.com
Phone: (914) 924-9559

We thank you in advance for your time. We look forward to continue working with you and your staff on progressing the Atlantic Shores' development efforts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Daniels,
Development Director
Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC

CC: Lucas Feinberg, BOEM

SEMI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



OCS-A 0541

**Reporting Period:
May 1, 2022 - November 1, 2022**

**Date: November 1, 2022
REVISED January 2023**

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1 Introduction

Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Bight, LLC (Atlantic Shores, the Lessee) has secured a Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands (Lease) from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM, the Lessor) within the New York Bight for the development of an offshore wind energy generation project (the Project) within Lease Area OCS-A 0541 (Lease Area). The following progress report fulfills lease requirements as stipulated in Section 3.1 of Addendum C of the Lease, which requires each lessee to submit a progress report every six months from the effective lease date (May 1, 2022) through the approval of the Construction and Operation Plan (COP). This progress report covers the reporting period from May 1, 2022, to November 1, 2022, and documents the overall progress and engagement activities undertaken with Tribes, communities, ocean user groups and the public since the effective date.



Figure 1. Map of all Atlantic Shores current lease areas

2 Overview of Stakeholder Engagement

Atlantic Shores is actively engaged with stakeholders to identify and discuss their interests and concerns regarding offshore wind and the associated potential development of Atlantic Shores Lease OCS-A 0541. For example, in support of the development of our other lease areas, OCS-A 0499 and OCS-A 0549, we extensively engaged stakeholders (including more than 400 meetings with residents and public officials, environmental non-governmental organizations [eNGOs], commercial and recreational boaters, and federal, tribal, state, and local governmental agencies) to understand and address their concerns, as well as to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Based on what we've learned from these stakeholder engagements over the years, we continue to evaluate initiatives that aim to best understand and communicate with our stakeholders for Lease OCS-A 0541.

Atlantic Shores is also committed to working with all parties throughout the project development life cycle. To help fulfill this commitment, we plan and implement the following diverse types of stakeholder engagement:

- Virtual and face-to-face meetings – scheduled presentations, meetings, and/or working sessions that include regularly scheduled outreach and technical/regulatory updates as well as on-request meetings and technical working sessions.
- Open houses and other larger-forum information-sharing events – opportunities for interested parties to visit with our project teams and management at a variety of events. For example, Atlantic Shores hosted an open house with the Atlantic Shores Management Team the week of October 24, 2022.
- Establish communication teams specifically for stakeholder groups – Atlantic Shores has established a Fisheries Communication consisting of a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and Fishing Industry Representatives (FIR).
- Project website – provides an easy access point of entry for project information, communication plans, and contact information for anyone with internet access.
- Online data and document repositories with secure access for agencies, when requested, to transfer technical information.

To evaluate the effectiveness of these types of stakeholder engagement, Atlantic Shores has standardized practices to manage and measure stakeholder engagement outputs and to build feedback loops into ongoing communication and outreach activities, including detailed sign-in sheets, meeting evaluations, meeting minutes, and slide decks, which can be shared with meeting participants.

3 Native American Tribes Engagement

Atlantic Shores is committed to open and transparent communication with Native American tribes. In recent discussions with BOEM, several Tribes have expressed concerns about the capacity of regular communication with each Bight leaseholder. Atlantic Shores continues to engage with BOEM and other leaseholders to identify a framework for tribal coordination that meets lease requirements and allows for meaningful tribal engagement, while considering the number of New York Bight leases and the unique aspects of each project. Communication between interested Tribes and Atlantic Shores for the Lease Area began with letters of invitation to a pre-survey meeting to discuss the geophysical and geotechnical survey for the Lease Area. The letters of invitation were delivered to all tribal contacts in accordance with Addendum C Section 5.3.3 of the Lease. At this time, there has been tribal feedback on the accessibility to drift whales (dead whales) and the limited access Tribes have to drift whales that can be used for spiritual and cultural purposes. BOEM indicated that they had no authority over the whale remains in the event of an inadvertent strike but committed to interagency meetings with National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS) to discuss their latitude in transferring remains to Tribes. No other specific issues were identified by the Tribal participants during the pre-survey meeting.

Currently, given the early stage of this effort, no potential adverse effects from the proposed project have been identified or discussed, but when such planning efforts are underway, Atlantic Shores intends to conduct outreach with affected Tribes to receive their input and views on proposed design or implementation choices. Additional engagement will also occur under the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and related statutes such as the National Historic Preservation Act, where additional modifications and mitigation measures can be adopted to address any effects that are of concern to affected Tribes. Similarly, given the early stages of project development and the lack of specificity regarding both offshore and onshore design details, Atlantic Shores has yet to conduct tribal outreach regarding transmission planning. Atlantic Shores will continue to develop its plan for tribal outreach on an ongoing basis as further details emerge in the future. In addition, Atlantic Shores will rely upon BOEM guidance under the Native American Tribal Communication Plan (NATCP) once it is finalized, as discussed in Section 3.1.

3.1 Summary of Engagement Activities

Table 3.1 provides a summary of Native American tribal engagement activities during this reporting period.

Table 3.1: Summary of Atlantic Shores’ Native American Tribal Engagement Activities during the Reporting Period

| Project Phase or Activity | Type of Engagement | Participants | Primary Meeting Discussion Points |
|---|---|--|---|
| Marine Site Characterization Survey G&G (Geophysical & Geotechnical) Survey | Tribal Pre-Survey Meeting 7/27/2022 – 2:00pm held virtually | Atlantic Shores Delaware Tribe Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians ¹ | Summarized scope of study, BMPs and environmental protection. Discussion of IHA and rights to drift whales. |

3.2 Anticipated or Scheduled Engagement Activities

Tribal engagement activities within the next reporting period will be determined in response to BOEM Guidance and tribal requests on both pending and future matters.

3.3 Coordinated Engagement

Addendum C, Section 3.1.2.4 of the lease (Coordinated Engagement) states that Atlantic Shores must coordinate the engagement activities for Tribes with other regional lessees to the maximum extent practicable, to decrease the communication and consultation burden on the Tribes. Atlantic Shores is continuing engagement with BOEM and other lessees to develop a framework for tribal coordination. BOEM issued a 120-day Deadline Waiver for the Native American Tribal Communication Plan (NATCP) lease requirement on July 25, 2022. BOEM indicated in a meeting on September 9, 2022, that the Tribes would prefer BOEM be the main point of contact and organize meetings with developers and facilitate a meeting with all the lessees and Tribes to discuss what is happening in the Bight, communication best practices, and the development of the NATCP. This collaboration addresses the coordinated engagement requirement in Addendum C, Section 3.1.2.4 of the Lease. Beyond this collaboration, project details and tribal meetings will be held between the Tribes and the Project due to the confidential nature of the development and solicitation process. A comprehensive list of Tribes and applicable parties is included Appendix A.

¹ **Tribes invited but not in attendance:** Shinnecock Indian Nation, Delaware Nation, Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Nanticock Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, and Shawnee Tribe.

4 Other Stakeholder Engagement

This section addresses the Project-specific engagement activities with governmental agencies, fishing industry representatives, and other parties such as eNGOs, property owners, and community-based organizations.

Atlantic Shores is still in the early development stages of the Project and will continue to identify, add, and refine engagement activities with interested parties. Atlantic Shores will continue to provide updates in the identification process via the bi-annual progress report and Agency Communication Plan as set forth in Addendix C. In particular, Atlantic Shores will continue to identify and work closely with owners/operators of active telecommunication cables, electrical cables, or natural gas pipelines that could intersect with future offshore wind energy project transmission systems. As onshore planning and development continues, Atlantic Shores will proactively identify and engage with affected coastal and underserved communities.

4.1 Summary of Engagement Process

Table 4.1 provides a summary of other stakeholder engagement activities during the Reporting Period. Agency and fishing industry stakeholder engagement activities are guided by project-specific communication plans, which are provided as website links in Appendices C and D, respectively, to this progress report.

Table 4.1 – Summary of Atlantic Shores’ Stakeholder Engagement Activities during the Reporting Period.

| Project Phase or Activity | Type of Engagement | Participants | Primary Meeting Discussion Points |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Lease kickoff Meeting | Meeting 6/29/2022 – 3:00pm held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Clearing 3 areas for 1 or 2 floating lidar buoys Monthly BOEM Meeting |
| August Status Meeting | Meeting 8/3/2022- 3:30pm held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | G&G survey update, communication plans and PEIS ACP elected to collect industry input on PEIS |
| Agency Communication Plan Meeting | Meeting 8/23/2022 – 9:30am held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM, USACE, USCG, NJBPU, NJDEP, NJDOT, NYSDEC, NYSDPS, NYSDOS, NYSOGS, NYSDOT | ACP posted August 2022 Decided on quarterly interagency meetings |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| September Status Meeting | Meeting: 9/7/2022 – 3:30pm held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Cannot combine progress reports for all three lease areas. PEIS could affect usable acreage |
| October Status Meeting | Meeting 10/5/2022 – 3:30pm held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Discussion on 1-nautical mile buffer and lines of orientation. Must have follow up discussion w/USCG and BOEM. |
| Lines of Orientation – PDE Planning | Meeting: 10/14/2022 – held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Discussion of 1-nautical mile buffer requirement the Lease, neighboring lease areas and lines of orientation, and topside/airspace encroachment into navigational fairways. |
| Quarterly Interagency Coordination Meeting | Meeting: 10/26/2022 – 9:30am held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM, USFWS, USACE, USCG, EPA, NYSDEC, NYSDPS, NYSOGS, NYSDOT, NYSDOS, NJDOT, NJDEP | Project updates and review of schedule for 0541. Clarification of necessary air permits |

4.2 Anticipated or Scheduled Engagement Activities

Table 4.2: Summary of Upcoming Atlantic Shores’ Stakeholder Engagement

| Project Phase | Type of Engagement | Participants | Summary of Engagement Activities |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| November Status Meeting | Meeting: 11/02/2022 – 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meetings allow Atlantic Shores to provide updates on project progress. Discuss problems, questions and changes regarding reporting requirements, SAP and COP filings, surveys, agency communication, etc. with BOEM. |
| December Status Meeting | Meeting: 12/07/2022 - 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meeting - intent same as above. |
| Aerial Digital Survey Plans + PEIS | TBD, Anticipated Q4 2022 | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Discuss Aerial survey data as it pertains to PEIS data gaps across Bight lease areas. |
| January Status Meeting | Meeting: 1/04/2022 – 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meeting - intent same as above. |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| February Status Meeting | Meeting: 2/01/2022 – 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meeting intent same as above. |
| March Status Meeting | Meeting: 3/01/2022 – 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meeting intent same as above. |
| April Status Meeting | Meeting: 4/05/2022 – 3:30 pm will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores BOEM | Status meeting intent same as above. |
| Q1 Interagency Coordination Meeting | Date and Time TBD, Q1 2023; will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores and all agencies listed in ACP | Update agencies on status of the project. Solicit feedback from agencies. |
| Q2 Interagency Coordination Meeting | Date and Time TBD Anticipated Q2 2023; will be held virtually | Atlantic Shores and all agencies listed in ACP | Update agencies on status of the project. Solicit feedback from agencies. |

4.3 Coordinated Engagement

Atlantic Shores had begun coordination with its neighboring lease holder (i.e., Lease Area OCS-A 0542 held by Invenergy/Leading Light Offshore Wind) and continues to discuss survey plans and Lease requirements related to wind turbine lines of orientation. Atlantic Shores has also been engaging with Invenergy to review the possibility of collaborating on certain wildlife characterization surveys for lease areas OCS-A 0541 and OCS-A 0542.

5 Survey Plans

5.1 Survey Plan Activities

Atlantic Shore has initiated survey efforts within the lease area and associated permitting to gather geophysical and geotechnical (G&G) data in addition to data on benthic resources and categorization:

- In April 2022, Atlantic Shores submitted an application to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for 2022-2023 for survey activities. The approved permit was received August 15, 2022.
- On May 11, 2022, Atlantic Shores submitted a Survey Plan to BOEM for G&G activities. BOEM provided approval of the plan via email on August 10, 2022.
 - Please see Section (3.1) to view the details of the pre-G&G survey engagement.
- Atlantic Shores had two survey vessels operating in the Lease Area beginning in August 2022, including offshore geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic surveys.
- Geophysical and benthic data for three metocean buoy locations was collected following SAP guidelines² and the Survey Plan.
- COP-level geophysical surveying has begun, with approximately 1,500 line-kilometers completed to date.
- A total of 15 reconnaissance geotechnical seabed cone penetration tests (CPTs) have been completed in the reporting timeframe.
- G&G surveys within the Lease Area are proceeding as planned, though poor weather conditions have limited the number of operational days.

5.2 Anticipated Survey Plans

Atlantic Shores anticipates developing the next iteration of a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) for submittal to BOEM as early as Q1 2023.

Atlantic Shores will also begin planning for COP-level survey activities in accordance with 30 CFR 585.626 and associated applicable guidelines during the next reporting period. Surveys will be designed in accordance with COP guidelines, and Atlantic Shores will coordinate survey planning with BOEM, federal and state agencies, and Tribes, as applicable.

² Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. "Guidelines for Information Requirements for a Renewable Energy Site Assessment Plan (SAP)." United States Department of the Interior, June 2019.
<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/renewable-energy-program/BOEM-Renewable-SAP-Guidelines.pdf>

Appendix A: Tribes and Parties Applicable to Project

| PARTY | PARTY TYPE |
|---|-------------------|
| Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Fishing Interests | CFish |
| Atlantic sea scallops Fishing Interests | CFish |
| Rutgers University | ERI |
| Stockton University | ERI |
| Ocean County College | ERI |
| Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma | FTribe |
| Delaware Tribe of Indians | FTribe |
| Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation | FTribe |
| Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe | FTribe |
| Shawnee Tribe | FTribe |
| Mohican Nation Stockbridge-Munsee Band | FTribe |
| Stockbridge Munsee Community, New York | FTribe |
| The Delaware Nation | FTribe |
| The Narragansett Indian Tribe | FTribe |
| The Shinnecock Indian Nation | FTribe |
| Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) | FTribe |
| Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation | STribe |
| Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation, New Jersey | STribe |
| Powhatan Renape Nation | STribe |
| Unkechaug Indian Nation | STribe |
| Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware | STribe |
| Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) | FA |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries/National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS) | FA |

| PARTY | PARTY TYPE |
|--|------------|
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) | FA |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | FA |
| U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) | FA |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | FA |
| New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) | SA |
| New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) | SA |
| New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) | SA |
| New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) | SA |
| New York State Office of General Services (NYSOGS) | SA |
| New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSHPO) | SA |
| New York City Department of City Planning (NYCDCP) | SA |
| New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) | SA |
| New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) | SA |
| New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) | SA |
| New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) | SWG |
| NYSERDA Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) | SWG |
| NYSERDA Maritime Technical Working Group (M-TWG) | SWG |
| NYSERDA Jobs and Supply Chain Technical Working Group (JSC-TWG) | SWG |

Party types:

CC = Coastal Community

CFish = Commercial Fishery Industry

RFish = Recreational Fishery Industry

ERI = Educational and Research Institutions

NGO = Environmental and Public Interest Non-Governmental Organizations

FA = Federal Agency

SA = State Agency

SWG = State Working Group

LA = Local Agency

FTribe = Federally Recognized Tribe
STribe = State Recognized Tribe
M = Maritime Industry/Mariners
SCO = Submarine Cable Operators
UC = Underserved Community
OU = Other Ocean Users

Appendix B: Native American Tribes Communication Plan

Placeholder for future progress reports

Appendix C: Agency Communication Plan

Most recent Agency Communication Plan: https://www.atlanticshoreswind.com/wp-content/uploads/2022-8-25_AS-Bight-0541_Agency-Comm-Plan.pdf

Appendix D: Fisheries Communication Plan

Most recent Fisheries Communication Plan: [https://www.atlanticshoreswind.com/wp-content/uploads/20220826 ASOW FCP OCSA 0541 Version 1.0.pdf](https://www.atlanticshoreswind.com/wp-content/uploads/20220826_ASOW_FCP_OCSA_0541_Version_1.0.pdf)