

# HAWAII – AW Hawaii Wind, LLC Unsolicited Lease Requests

## What is an unsolicited lease request?

Receipt of an unsolicited lease request by BOEM is the **earliest step** in a process that includes environmental analysis and stakeholder engagement.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 granted BOEM authority to issue leases for renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), which begins 3 nautical miles offshore the islands of Hawaii. An unsolicited lease request is a submission received by BOEM that is not in response to a [Call for Information and Nominations](#) issued by BOEM. The first step in reviewing an unsolicited lease request is for BOEM to review the applicant's legal, technical, and financial qualifications to hold an OCS renewable energy lease. On February 26, 2015, BOEM made the determination that AW Hawaii Wind, LLC (AWH) is legally, financially, and technically qualified to hold an OCS lease.

## What are AWH's unsolicited lease requests proposing?

AWH has submitted two lease requests: the Oahu South Project and the Oahu Northwest Project. Each project proposes an offshore wind facility with a capacity of 408 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generated by 51 floating 8 MW wind turbines. The energy generated by the projects would be transmitted to Oahu by undersea cable.

The Oahu South Project is proposed to be located approximately 17 miles south of Diamond Head in water depths of approximately 300-700 meters (984-2,296 feet). The proposed lease area is 12,099 acres (4,896 hectares).

The Oahu Northwest Project is proposed to be located 12 miles northwest of Kaena Point in water depths of approximately 700-1,000 meters (2,296-3,280 feet). The proposed lease area is 11,387 acres (4,608 hectares).

## What happens next?

BOEM and the State of Hawaii will convene the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to coordinate and consult with state, local, and other federal entities. After the task force meeting, the next step in BOEM's process is to determine whether there is competitive interest in the areas requested for lease by AWH. To do this, BOEM will publish a Request for Interest (RFI) in the *Federal Register* to provide public notice of the proposed lease areas and to invite submissions of interest from other parties for wind projects in the same areas. The RFI will also request that the public and interested stakeholders comment and provide information about site conditions and other uses of the requested areas that would be relevant to the proposed projects or their potential impacts.

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### How will BOEM use the information received in response to the RFI?

BOEM will use the information and expressions of interest received during the comment period to determine whether there is competitive interest in the requested lease areas. If BOEM determines there is competitive interest, BOEM will initiate the competitive leasing process. If no expressions of interest are received, BOEM will proceed with the noncompetitive leasing process. Responses to the RFI will also be used by BOEM to inform decision making about the proposed projects and to identify potential issues for future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

### For More Information

For a more detailed overview of BOEM's leasing process, please visit the [Wind Energy Commercial Leasing Process Fact Sheet](#).

For more information on BOEM's Renewable Energy Program in Hawaii, please visit the [BOEM Hawaii Activities](#) website.

To be added to BOEM's Hawaii Stakeholders distribution list, please send an email with your contact information and a valid email address to [pacificrenewables@boem.gov](mailto:pacificrenewables@boem.gov).

**For further questions, contact:**

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