



Overview of BOEM OCS Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework and Leasing Process

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Key Stages of Renewable Energy Program*

Planning and Analysis

Lease or Grant

Site Assessment

Commercial Development

* Engage intergovernmental task forces, stakeholders and public throughout

Planning and Analysis Stage

- Engage intergovernmental task force, stakeholders and public
- Publish planning notices
 - Request for Interest (RFI)
 - Call for Information and Nominations (Call)
- Announce Area Identification
- Conduct environmental compliance and consultation

Lease or Grant Stage

- Engage intergovernmental task force, stakeholders and public
- Publish notices
 - Determination of No Competitive Interest (Noncompetitive)
 - Proposed and Final Sale Notices (Competitive)
- Issue leases or grants
 - Negotiate lease or grant (noncompetitive)
 - Hold lease or grant auction (competitive)

Renewable Energy Leases and Grants



- Three types of Leases:
 - **Commercial** lease
 - **Limited** lease
 - **Research** lease
- Two Types of Grants:
 - Right-of-Way (**ROW**)
 - Right-of-Use and Easement (**RUE**)

Starting the Lease or Grant Process

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 states:

... The Secretary shall issue a lease, easement, or right-of-way on a competitive basis unless the Secretary determines after public notice of a proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way that there is no competitive interest.

Starting the Lease or Grant Process

- Research lease may be requested by Governor or Federal Agency
- May be started by a developer submitting an unsolicited request or by BOEM
- In either case, BOEM will issue public notices to determine whether competitive interest exists
- After publishing an RFI or Call and considering results, BOEM will decide whether to proceed competitively or noncompetitively

Lease Site Assessment Stage

- Lease provides a 5-year period to collect site-specific data:
 - Informs preparation of the lessee's construction and operations plan (COP)
 - May include archaeological, biological, geophysical, geotechnical, and shallow hazard surveys
- BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews of the lessee's site assessment plan (SAP)
 - Submitted for planned bottom-founded data collection facilities (e.g., meteorological towers or met buoys)

Lease Construction and Operations Stage

- Lease provides a 25-year period to construct and generate electricity
- Lessee submits construction and operations plan (COP) that describes
 - Overall site investigation results
 - Offshore and onshore support
 - Any proposed mitigation and monitoring and lease stipulation compliance
 - Design, fabrication, installation and operations concepts
 - Decommissioning and site clearance concepts
- BOEM prepares an EIS, conducts environmental & consultation and technical reviews
- After 25 years of operation, lease expiration occurs, and decommissioning is required unless a renewal is granted

Opportunity to Provide Comment

All stages provide for public comment:

- Stakeholder meetings
- BOEM intergovernmental task force meetings followed by public Q&A session
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EA or EIS
- Scoping meetings for EISs
- Hearings and comment periods for draft EISs

More Information...



On the Web at:

<http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/index.aspx>

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