

**BOEM Rhode Island
Renewable Energy Task Force
Webinar**

March 1, 2012

1:00 PM

Agenda

- Introductions & Opening Remarks
 - Jessica Bradley, Project Coordinator
 - Jean Thurston, Environmental Review Coordinator
- Background
- Request for Competitive Interest
- Task Force Member Comments
- Proposed Revisions
- Next Steps

Background

- BOEM received an unsolicited request for a Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant on the OCS offshore Rhode Island on November 30, 2011
 - Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission System, LLC
 - Proposal to construct and install a bi-directional submerged transmission cable for the transmission of electricity produced from renewable energy sources between Block Island and mainland Rhode Island

Background

- BOEM undertook a qualifications review and found the applicant legally, technically, and financially qualified
- Next step – public notice of the proposed ROW Grant Area and Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)

Request for Competitive Interest

- Notice published in *Federal Register* for public comment to:
 - Describe Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission System (BITS) proposal
 - Solicit submissions of indications of competitive interest for a ROW grant for renewable energy purposes
 - Solicit public input regarding the proposal, its potential environmental consequences and other uses within the area

Request for Competitive Interest

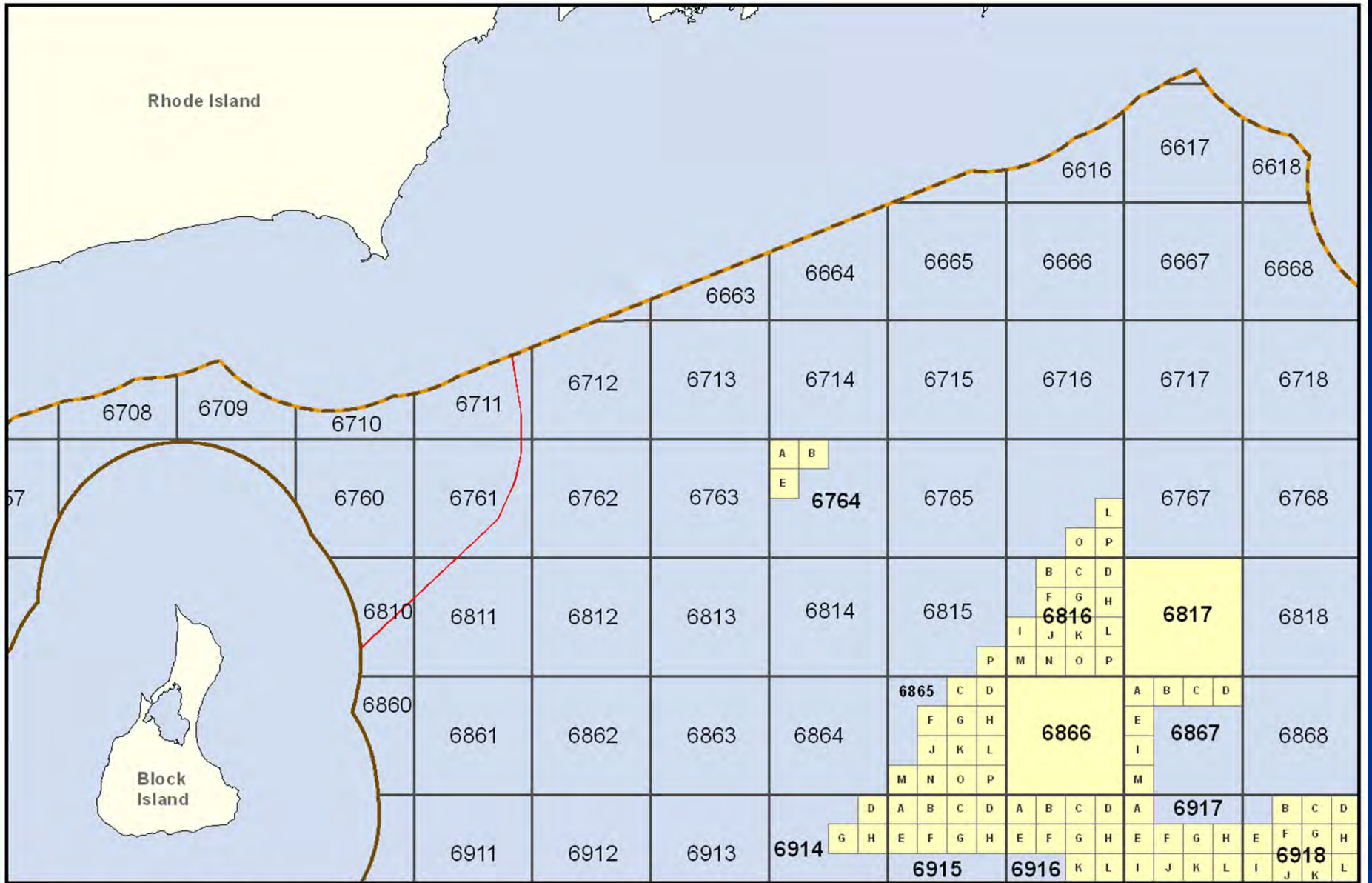
- Agency, Action, Summary, Dates, Submission Procedures, Contact Information
- Supplementary Information
 - Purpose of the RFCI
 - Background Information (EPA Act, EO 13547, Task Force)
 - Determination of Competitive Interest & Granting Process
 - Description (Proposal, grant area, map)
 - Required Indication of Interest Information
 - Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties
 - Protection of Privileged or Confidential Information (FOIA, NHPA)

Determination of Competitive Interest and Granting Process

- Evaluate responses received for completeness and qualifications
- Determine whether competitive interest exists
- If competitive – competitive granting process outlined in 30 CFR 585.308
- If noncompetitive – noncompetitive granting process outlined in 30 CFR 585.306(b)
 - Notice of Determination of No Competitive Interest
 - General Activities Plan submittal by applicant

Description of the Proposal

- Deepwater Wind proposes to construct and install a 34.5 kilovolt (kV) alternating current bi-directional submerged transmission cable between Block Island and the Rhode Island mainland to:
 - Export excess power from a proposed 30 MW offshore wind energy project located in Rhode Island state waters
 - Supply electrical power from existing transmission grid on Rhode Island mainland to Block Island



- █ Proposed Deepwater BITS ROW
- RI / MA Wind Energy Area
- Fed/State Boundary
- OCS Lease Blocks
- Official Protraction Diagram



Required Indication of Interest Information

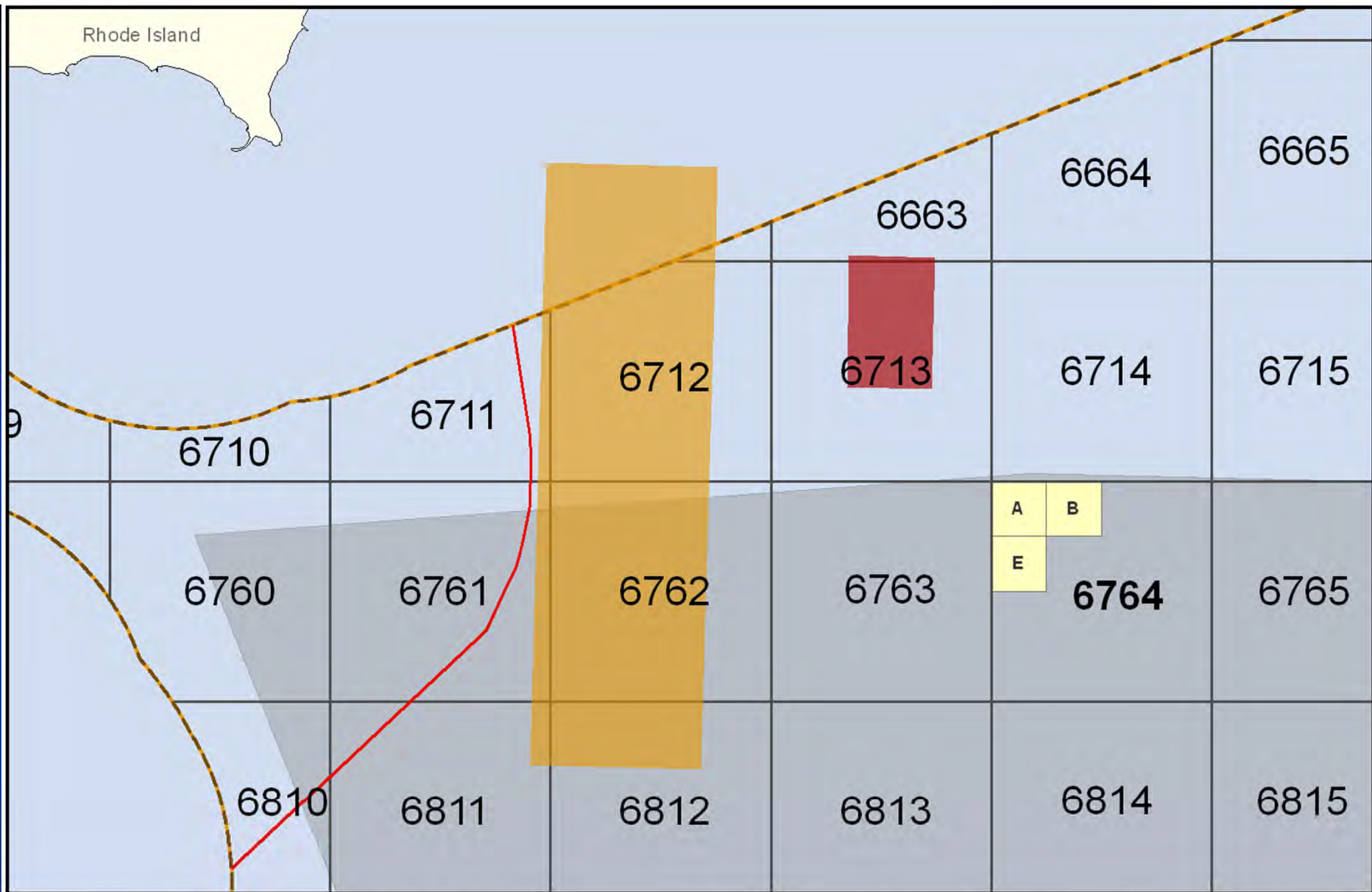
- Documentation to establish legal, technical and financial qualifications
- Statement to acquire a renewable energy ROW grant for the proposed grant area and description of how proposal would interfere with, or suffer interference from proposed project
- Description of objectives
- Schedule of proposed activities
- Available and pertinent data and information concerning environmental conditions in the area

Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties

- Geological and geophysical conditions
- Known archaeological, historic, and/or cultural resource sites on the seabed
- Multiple uses of the area
- Potential impacts to existing communications cables
- Department of Defense operational, training and testing activities (surface and subsurface)
- Impacts to potential future uses of the area
- Advisable setback distance for other offshore structures, including cables
- Potential risk posed by anchors, and burial depths to mitigate such risks
- Other relevant environmental and socioeconomic information

Task Force Member Comments

- Naval Undersea Warfare Center - Division Newport
 - Ensure the proposed ROW Grant does not interfere with existing Naval Operating Areas
- NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Services
 - Requests RFCI include specific resource information regarding marine fisheries and habitats within the area
 - Requests additional information on the environmental review process



- Proposed Deepwater BITS ROW
- Restricted Area 334.78
- Torpedo Range
- Narragansett Bay Op Area
- Fed/State Boundary
- RI / MA Wind Energy Area
- OCS Lease Blocks
- Official Protraction Diagram



Proposed Revisions

- Page 8: Environmental review process section
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be lead agency
 - BOEM will be cooperating agency
 - Joint consultations (CZMA, ESA, etc.)
- Page 10: Issues discussed with the BOEM Rhode Island Renewable Energy Task Force
 - Naval Operating Areas
 - Recreational and commercial fishing

Next Steps

- BOEM will consider all comments received from Task Force members
- BOEM internal review/approval process
- Publication in the *Federal Register* for public comment
- Next webinar to present/discuss responses: Summer 2012

Questions?

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