

# MMS Maryland Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting

## *Introduction to the MMS Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing Process*

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# Overview



- Major Framework Elements
- Phases Under the Rule
- Renewable Energy Leases & Grants
- Competition Requirement
- Initiating the Leasing Process
- Competitive Leasing Process
- Non-Competitive Leasing Process

# Major Framework Elements

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- Coordination (throughout rule)
  - Federal/State/Local Task Forces
- Leasing Process and Issuance (Subpart B)
  - Commercial & Limited Leases
  - Competitive & Noncompetitive Leasing
  - Research Activities
- Payments (Subpart E)
  - Bonding, Payments, Revenue Sharing
- Plans (Subpart F)
  - Site Assessment and Construction & Operations
  - General Activities
- Conduct of Approved Plan Activities (Subpart H)
  - Environmental & Safety Monitoring & Inspections
- Decommissioning (Subpart I)

# Phases Under the Rule

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- Lease & Grant Issuance
  - Competitive or Noncompetitive Process
  - Commercial or Limited Leases
  - Grants
- Plan Submission & Review
  - Site Assessment Plan (SAP)
  - Construction and Operations Plan (COP)
  - General Activities Plan (GAP)

# Renewable Energy Leases and Grants



- Two Leases:
  - Commercial lease
  - Limited lease
- Two Grants:
  - Right-of-Way (ROW)
  - Right-of-Use and Easement (RUE)

# Competition Requirement

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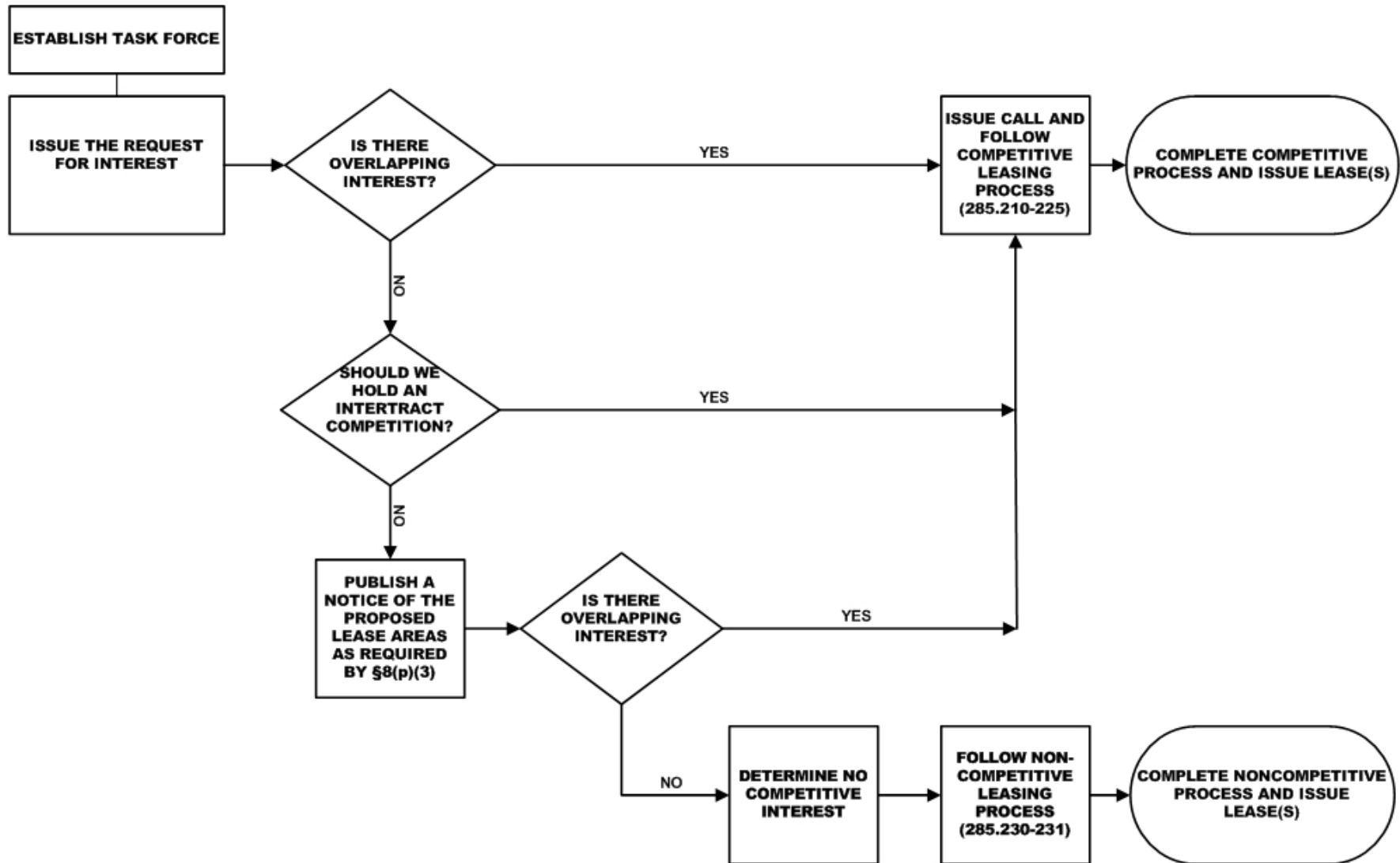
- The Secretary shall issue a lease, easement, or right-of-way on a **competitive basis unless** the Secretary determines **after public notice** of a proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way that there **is no competitive interest**
  - Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 388

# Initiating the Leasing Process

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- MMS establishes an **intergovernmental task force** in response to a **requesting State** or the receipt of an **unsolicited application**
- MMS, after consulting the task force, develops a **Request for Interest (RFI)** to gauge level of interest and determine competitive interest
  - MMS determines competitive interest and proceeds with the **competitive leasing process**
  - MMS determines no competitive interest and proceeds with the **noncompetitive leasing process**

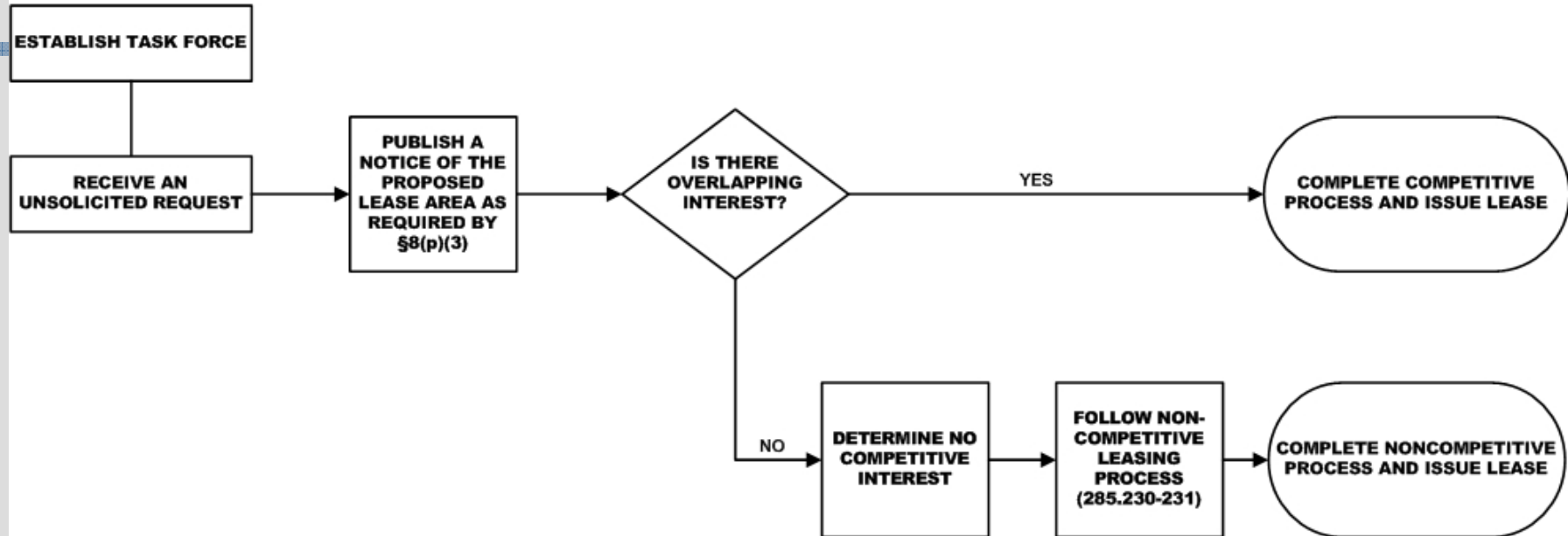
## STARTING THE COMMERCIAL WIND LEASE PROCESS WITH A REQUEST FOR INTEREST\*



\*Depending on responses submitted by developers and determinations made by MMS, it is possible that the leasing process could be exclusively competitive, exclusively noncompetitive, or a mixture (competitive for some nominations and noncompetitive for others).



## STARTING THE COMMERCIAL WIND LEASE PROCESS WITH AN UNSOLICITED REQUEST

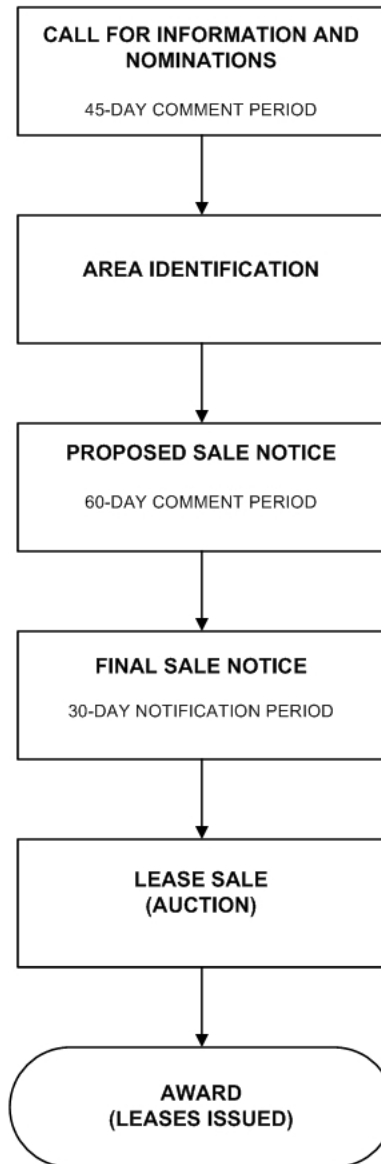


# Competitive Leasing Process

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- Determination of competitive interest
- Call for Information and Nominations
- Proposed/Final Sale Notice
- Lease auction & award: Requires NEPA review
- Site Assessment Plan (SAP): Approval requires NEPA review
- Construction and Operations Plan (COP): Approval requires NEPA review
- Facilities Design Report (FDR) and Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR)
- Decommissioning Plan

**PROCESS FOLLOWING MMS DETERMINATION OF COMPETITIVE INTEREST IN  
COMMERCIAL WIND LEASING AND DECISION TO HOLD A SALE**

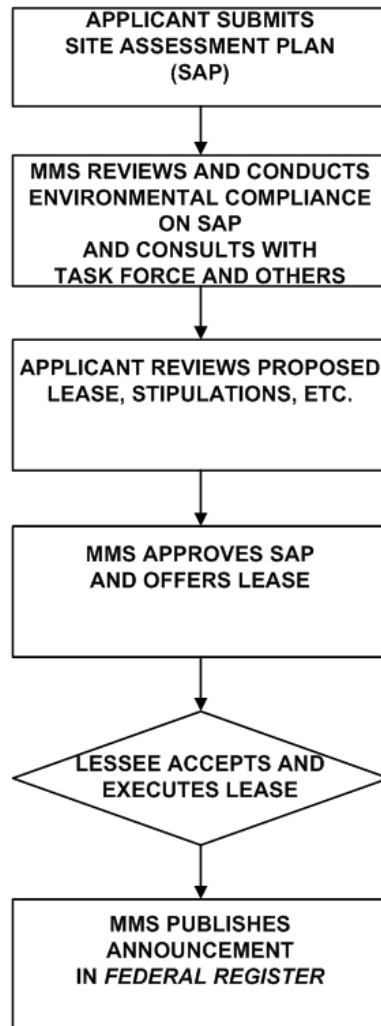


# Non-Competitive Leasing Process

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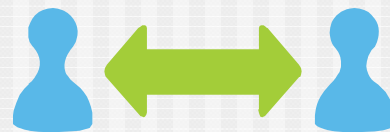
- Determination of no competitive interest
- Applicant submits Site Assessment Plan (SAP)
- Lease Issuance and approval of SAP: requires NEPA review
- Construction and Operations Plan (COP): Approval requires NEPA review
- Facilities Design Report (FDR) and Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR)
- Decommissioning Plan

**PROCESS FOLLOWING MMS FINAL DETERMINATION OF NO COMPETITIVE INTEREST FOR COMMERCIAL WIND LEASING**



# Opportunities for Public Input

- **Request for Information** published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- **Call for Information and Nominations** published in the Federal Register, assuming competitive interest, (45 days)
- **Proposed Sale Notice** (assuming competitive interest) published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- **Notice of Intent** to prepare an **environmental impact statement** published in the Federal Register (60-90 day scoping)
- **Notice of Availability** of a **draft environmental impact statement** published in the Federal Register (60 days, public hearings in the vicinity of the proposed lease)
- **Notice of Availability** of a **final environmental impact statement** published in the Federal Register (30 days public review)



# Questions?

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