

Proposed Methodology and Preliminary Findings for Maryland Offshore Leasing Zone Delineation



BOEM Maryland Task Force Meeting Annapolis, Maryland

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

#### **NREL Presentation Contents**

- NREL offshore wind technical background
- Proposed technical approach for follow-on assessment of delineation zones
- Review of Maryland delineation proposal
- Schedule and deliverables
- Question and answers



# Background



# National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Offshore Wind Technology

# **Project Summary and Background**

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) requested assistance from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- NREL will provide technical input to help inform delineation of leasing zones within four BOEM Wind Energy Areas(WEA)
- NREL is reviewing Maryland's proposed delineation/methodology and will make recommendations to BOEM
- NREL plans to focus on wind resource, assessing buffer zones and maximizing energy potential to produce approximately equal development zones



Atlantic Wind Energy Resources

# **Offshore Wind Technology Status**



- 51 projects, 3,620 MW installed (end of 2011)
- 49 in shallow water <30meters depth
- 2-6 MW upwind turbines (3.8 MW average power)
- 80+ meter towers on monopoles, gravity bases, or truss (jackets)
- Modular geared drivetrains trending toward direct drive
- Marine technologies
  - Submarine cable technology
  - Oil and gas experience essential
  - Marine operations/ vessels
- Capacity Factors 40% or more
- Higher Cost and O&M have contributed to project risk.

# **NREL Offshore Wind Program Highlights**

- □ National Offshore Wind Strategic Plan support for DOE
- Devision Published Assessment of Offshore Wind Energy Resources for the United States
- Published Large-Scale Offshore Wind Power in the United States: Assessment of Opportunities and Barriers
- Service to National Academy of Science committee addressing Offshore Wind Energy Turbine Structural and Operating Safety
- □ Chaired AWEA Offshore Compliance Recommended Practices (Oct 2012)
- □ International Standards Development including Hurricane Design









Technical Assessment of Maryland's Proposed Zones and Methodology to Evaluate Alternative Scenarios for MD WEA

# **NREL's Proposed Technical Approach**

- Review Maryland MEA delineation plan (memo 9/13/13)
- Prepare written technical evaluation of proposed MD offshore zones
- Present preliminary findings at 29 Jan 2013 Task force meeting
- Review and incorporate stakeholder input
- Utilize AWS Truepower openWind<sup>®</sup> Enterprise program to assess merits of offshore leasing zones
- Perform sensitivity analysis on key variables:
  - Wind Resource Variability
  - Turbine Type/Size
  - Wake Model Fidelity
  - Alternative Array Spacing and layouts
- Draft Report in May 2013



#### **NREL Major Zone Delineation Guiding Principles**

- Approximate balance in energy production potential between two development zones
- Minimize wake loss potential between zones when developed
- Maximize developable area in each zone considering buffers

#### **NREL's Major Assumptions for Zone Delineation**

- Investigate options for development zones
- Minimum project size 350 MW
- Baseline turbine size 5-MW (126-m rotor NREL Reference)
- Baseline array spacing 8D x 8D (approximately 1-km) as used for resource assessment (5 MW/km<sup>2</sup>)
- Total MD WEA maximum capacity ~323 turbines (1615 MW)
- Both zones are built by different developers
- Developers are responsible for planning buffers within their own zones



Maryland Wind Rose

Jonkman, J.; Butterfield, C.P.; Musial, W.; Scott, G. (2009). *Definition of a 5-MW Reference Wind Turbine for Offshore System Development*. NREL/TP-500-38060. Golden, CO: NREL.

# **Description of openWind® Enterprise Program**

- Wind power facility design software program
- Open source software with license for enhanced deep array wake loss model
- Energy computations using standard wind farm design practices
- GIS based architecture
  - o GIS file compatibility
  - Spatial logic with hierarchical structure
- Deep array offshore wake model for higher fidelity comparison of wake effects



Example of Map Taken from openWind <sup>®</sup> Enterprise Tool Showing GIS Layers of Key Parameters

#### Wind Data Source for NREL Study

- From available data we selected 3 years of the Eastern Wind Integration Transmission Study dataset
- Data is within ~1.1% of long term average



Long Term Representation of EWITS Mean Wind Speeds

# **Proposed Technical Approach**

- Establish spatial and temporal distribution of wind characteristics across MD-WEA
  - A. Mean wind speeds
  - B. Wind directions
  - C. Turbulence intensities
- Perform detailed analysis of joint wind speed/direction frequency distributions (wind rose) across MD-WEA
- 3. Model the atmospheric turbulence and stability parameters for wake loss calculations



Example MD-WEA Map of Mean Wind Speeds

# **Proposed Technical Approach (continued)**

- 5. Establish various turbine placement options for sensitivity analysis
- Identify pre-existing buffers due to WEA boundaries
- 7. Perform analysis to minimize wake losses
- Identify options to delineate zones and boundaries
- 9. Vary delineation to generate equitable zones
- 10. Finalize layout for best energy production scenarios



MD-WEA Map Showing Maximum Turbine Development – Upper Bound

#### **Task 1 Description**

# Review and evaluate Maryland's proposed lease zones within the BOEM Maryland Wind Energy Area (WEA)



# **Maryland's WEA Delineation Criteria**

- **1. Wind Speed**
- 2. Prevailing Wind Direction
- 3. Bathymetry
- 4. Distance to Shore
- 5. Transmission Requirements
- 6. Shipping Lanes and Potential U.S. Coast Guard Requirements
- 7. Inter-project Wake Effects and Potential Buffer Requirement
- 8. Fisheries Use
- 9. Military Use
- 10. Additional Stakeholder Considerations

**\*\*Bold items are areas of primary focus by NREL in quantitative analysis** 

# Wind speed

- Wind speed varies geographically with best wind in the southeast
- Wind speed gradients provide better winds further from shore
- Maryland's proposed delineation may favor Zone B



Broad scale map of MD offshore wind resource (Source NREL)



MD WEA Showing Wind Speed Gradients in 0.05 m/s increments (source NREL)

# Prevailing Wind Direction Inter-project Wake Effects and Potential Buffer Requirement

- Prevailing winds are seasonally directed
- Winter winds are NNW and are more likely in unstable atmospheres (natural turbulent mixing)
- Summer winds are SSW and are more likely to occur in unstable atmospheres





for Maryland

#### Wake Losses and Inter-project Buffers

- The wind in a turbine's wake has lower available energy, higher turbulence, and needs to be replenished by natural atmospheric mixing
- Atmospheric stability conditions dominate the rate of mixing and replenishment
  - Stable atmospheres are stratified and allow turbulence to persist
  - Unstable atmospheres replenish energy in the wind more quickly



# **Preliminary Summary of NREL Analysis**

Parameter	MD WEA Zone A	MD WEA Zone B
Total Turbines	153	178
Total Capacity(MW)	765	890
Total Area(km <sup>2</sup> )	155.52	167.04
Array Losses(%)	17.01	16.57
Annual Energy Production (GWh)	2746	3240
Capacity Factor(%)	40.95	41.54



**Annual Offshore Wind Rose** 

for Maryland

Notes: Layout assumes NREL 5 MW baseline turbine and 8Dx8D spacing – max deployment with no additional burdens

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

#### Wind Zone Buffers

- Maximum possible project size per zone is between 700MW and 900MW but significant project size reductions are necessary to accommodate wake losses
- Wake losses can be mitigated by increased turbine spacing, not developing some areas, or both
- Buffer areas are proposed by lessees for BOEM's approval
- Developers will create buffer zones for economic purposes in coordination with neighboring zones

#### **Bathymetry review**



#### Offshore Wind Projects – Installed, Under Construction, and Planned

(data current as of Jan 2012)



# **Qualitative Delineation Criteria**

- Transmission and distance to shore
- Shipping and navigation uses could impact some areas, especially in Zone B
- Fisheries may burden some areas of Zone B more heavily
- Military use did not have a significant impact on the delineation.
- Additional stakeholder input was received but did not impact the zone delineation outcome substantially

#### **NREL MD WEA Comparative Summary**

Parameter	MD WEA Zone A	MD WEA Zone B
Capacity Factor(%)	40.95	41.54
Total Capacity(MW)	765	890
Total Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	155.52	167.04
Potential burden from shipping conflicts	No	Yes
Potential burden from fishing conflicts	No	Yes
Potential burden from additional depth and distance to shore	No	Yes





#### **NREL Conclusions**

- Maryland's proposed delineation provides approximately equal development zones
  - using comprehensive selection criteria multiple trade-offs
  - o no major issues were found but some findings are subjective
  - Treatment of array effects and bathymetry need some further analysis
- Zone B is 11 km<sup>2</sup> bigger and would have a 15% higher potential for gross energy yield due to better winds and lower losses
- Zone B is more heavily burdened by alternative use conflicts and deeper water
- Zone A would have slightly higher array losses
- Zone A would have reduced development costs due to shallower water and proximity to shore
- Buffer zones and inter-array spacing is key unknown

#### Task 2 – NREL Zone Analysis for MD WEA

- Next steps by NREL will assess:
  - Optimal turbine placements scenarios, bathymetry, seasonal impacts, and wake losses
  - Alternative delineation scenarios to produce two zone balance to determine sensitivity to key parameters
  - Report on findings

#### **Deliverables to BOEM**

Presentation of methodology and process Jan
Evaluation of proposed MD offshore Jan

wind zones from a technical resource perspective

- Draft report detailing:
  - Wind resource data and computational models used
  - Assumptions
  - Results and Conclusions
  - Recommendations and next steps

Jan 29, 2013

May 2013





#### **Questions?**