

Guide to the OCS Alternative Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The full text of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Energy Development and Production and Alternate Use of Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf is available for downloading or online browsing.

The following documents are in PDF format, which requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.



Letter to the Reader

Summary: Introductory letter to the reader.



[Letter to the Reader](#) (58 KB, 1 page)

Volume I: Executive Summary through Chapter 4

Volume I Frontmatter

Summary: Frontmatter for Volume I of the Final Programmatic EIS document, including cover page, table of contents, notation, and units of measure.



[Volume I Front Matter](#) (927 KB, 38 pages)

Executive Summary

Summary: A brief overview of the Final Programmatic EIS, including summaries of the proposed action and alternatives, potential impacts and mitigation for alternative energy development, potential impacts and mitigation for alternate use of existing facilities, impacts from nonroutine conditions, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action.



[Executive Summary](#) (105 KB, 16 pages)

Chapter 1: Introduction

Summary: Introduction to the Final Programmatic EIS, including purpose and need for this EIS, the scope of the analysis including what technologies and what portions of the OCS are considered, and the legal framework within which this EIS was produced.



[Chapter 1: Introduction](#) (724 KB, 26 pages)

Chapter 2: Proposed Action and Alternatives

Summary: Discussion of the proposed action considered in the Final Programmatic EIS, alternatives analyzed, and comparison of the alternatives. Alternatives discussed in detail include: the proposed action (i.e., the establishment of the Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program on the OCS through rulemaking); a case-by-case alternative (i.e., BOEM would consider individual project proposals for alternative energy or alternate use on a case-by-case basis but would not issue formal regulations); a no action alternative (i.e., BOEM would not approve leases, easements, or rights-of-way for any alternative energy facility on the Federal OCS or alternate use of existing offshore facilities); and a preferred alternative (i.e., a combination of the proposed action and the case-by-case alternative).



[Chapter 2: Proposed Action and Alternatives](#) (169 KB, 28 pages)

Chapter 3: Overview of Potential Alternative Energy Technologies on the OCS

Summary: Chapter 3 summarizes potential alternative energy technologies available and screens out unlikely candidates; it also describes the general operating principle for each alternative energy technology considered, current development status, and the necessary site characteristics.



[Chapter 3: Overview of Potential Alternative Energy Technologies on the OCS](#) (957 KB, 26 pages)

Chapter 4: Affected Environment

Summary: A description of the OCS areas that may be suitable for alternative energy development. Descriptions are presented by coastal region (Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific) and include each area's current use, physical characteristics (e.g., geology, oceanography, meteorology), marine biota and habitats, and socioeconomic characteristics.



[Chapter 4: Affected Environment](#) (5.8 MB, 302 pages)

Volume II: Chapter 5

Volume II Frontmatter

Summary: Frontmatter for Volume II of the Final Programmatic EIS document, including cover page, table of contents, notation, and units of measure.



[Volume II Front Matter](#) (920 KB, 38 pages).

Chapter 5: Potential Impacts of Alternative Energy Development on the OCS and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures

Summary: A description of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts for each alternative energy technology in terms of technology testing, site characterization, construction, operation, and decommissioning.

 [Chapter 5: Potential Impacts of Alternative Energy Development on the OCS and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures](#) (1.3 MB, 342 pages)

Volume III: Chapter 6 through Chapter 12

Volume III Frontmatter

Summary: Frontmatter for Volume III of the Final Programmatic EIS document, including cover page, table of contents, notation, and units of measure.

 [Volume III Front Matter](#) (920 KB, 38 pages)

Chapter 6: Alternate Uses of Existing Oil and Natural Gas Platforms on The OCS

Summary: Chapter 6 summarizes the characteristics of oil and gas platforms on the OCS likely to be retired from their current use; it also discusses potential uses for these retired platforms and presents the environmental and socioeconomic impacts for each alternate use (alternate uses considered are alternative energy projects, aquaculture, and research and monitoring).

 [Chapter 6: Alternate Uses of Existing Oil and Natural Gas Platforms on The OCS](#) (664 KB, 18 pages)

Chapter 7: Analysis of the Proposed Action and Its Alternatives

Summary: Chapter 7 compares the estimated environmental impacts of alternative energy project activities on the OCS with other options either not employing their use or substituting other energy resources (e.g., coal- or gas-fired generation).

 [Chapter 7: Analysis of The Proposed Action and Its Alternatives](#) (299 KB, 64 pages)

Chapter 8: Consultation and Coordination

Summary: A list of the activities involved in the preparation of the programmatic EIS, including public scoping, comments on the EIS, coordination among BOEM offices, and interactions with other Federal agencies.

 [Chapter 8: Consultation and Coordination](#) (1.4 KB, 12 pages))

Chapter 9: References

Summary: A list of references cited in Chapters 1 through 8.

 [Chapter 9: References](#) (266 KB, 60 pages)

Chapter 10: List of Preparers

Summary: List of individuals who participated in the preparation of the Final Programmatic EIS, including a summary of their expertise, experience, professional discipline, and contribution to the Final Programmatic EIS.

 [Chapter 10: List of Preparers](#) (46 KB, 4 pages)

Chapter 11: Glossary

Summary: Definitions of scientific and technical terms used in the Final Programmatic EIS.

 [Chapter 11: Glossary](#) (587 KB, 20 pages)

Chapter 12: Index

Summary: Page numbers for key terms used in the Final Programmatic EIS.

 [Chapter 12: Index](#) (55 KB, 6 pages)

Volume IV: Appendix A through Appendix C

Volume IV Frontmatter

Summary: Frontmatter for Volume IV of the Final Programmatic EIS document, including cover page, table of contents, notation, and units of measure.

 [Volume IV Front Matter](#) (925 KB, 38 pages)

Appendix A: Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58

Summary: Text of Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58.

 [Appendix A: Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58](#) (56 KB, 8 pages)

Appendix B: Public Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Summary: Text of public comments received on the draft programmatic EIS submitted in person at public hearings, via the Internet, or via mail. Included are BOEM responses to the comments.

 [Appendix B: Public Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#) (1.2 MB, 364 pages)

Comments and Responses

 [Comments and Responses: Part 1](#) (6 MB, 30 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 2](#) (3 MB, 15 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 3](#) (964 KB, 5 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 4](#) (3.9 MB, 20 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 5](#) (4.9 MB, 36 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 6](#) (8.2 MB, 43 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 7](#) (5.8 MB, 32 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 8](#) (6.5 MB, 33 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 9](#) (9.2 MB, 42 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 10](#) (6.5 MB, 41 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 11](#) (5.5 MB, 27 pages)

 [Comments and Responses: Part 12](#) (7.8 MB, 41 pages)

Appendix C: Contractor Disclosure Statement

Summary: Certification by Argonne National Laboratory (contractor assisting the Minerals Management Service in preparing the programmatic environmental impact statement) that it has no financial or other interest in the outcome of the project.

 [Appendix C: Contractor Disclosure Statement](#) (56 KB, 4 pages)