



EXAMINATION OF NJ WIND ENERGY AREA (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS

2004-2022

Abstract

This document is a chronological examination of the who, what, when and why regarding the designation of the Wind Energy Area off the Coast of New Jersey, now being developed as the Ocean Wind and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Turbine Projects.

April 27, 2023

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

I first became aware of the impact of the Offshore Wind Energy Projects when reviewing the Visual Impact Assessments for Atlantic Shores South and Ocean Wind I developments on the BOEM's website. My initial reaction was that I could not imagine who made the decision to put a wind energy power plant off one of the most popular coastal tourist destinations in the US. I was certainly aware of the impending need to find alternatives to our dependence on fossil fuels and the goals of greenhouse gas reductions, but I was still stunned by how the decision on the Wind Energy Area (WEA) location would destroy the Jersey Shore experience. Someone somewhere decided that sacrificing our beach experience, tourist and fishing industries, and habitat for marine mammals was an acceptable solution. For this reason, I needed to know what alternatives were considered, why the Jersey Shore locations were identified as Wind Energy Areas, and who was involved in the decisions.

I found a section in Atlantic Shores Construction and Operation (COP) Document called, *New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program on page 1-12 in Volume 1* which provided a starting point for finding answers. As in most examinations of offshore wind topics, I found a complex story of numerous agencies, studies, rules, regulations, and committees at the state and federal level. The amount of information that was produced during the period of 2004 to 2022 was almost overwhelming to me who is not an energy industry expert nor is familiar with the government agency decision makers. Nonetheless, I continued to finish the tedious task of putting this information in some type of logical order.

I put the information I gathered - mostly listed in chronological order - in a table with three columns. The first two columns are used as a summary of the names or titles of the major actions or studies completed and a brief description of them based on the information in the Atlantic Shores' COP (i.e., the wind developer's lens). Please note that in addition to those mentioned in the COP, I found many other studies and decisions during my searches and added them based on my own judgement of their relevancy to my mission. The third column is also based on my judgement of what was important in the studies/decisions along with some of my criticisms and those of industry experts. There could be holes in my research as finding documents was not easy in the maze of activities related to offshore wind lease locations. I would advise reviewing the actual studies, Federal Register information, committee documents and official actions so that you can draw your own conclusions as to whether the process of identifying the wind energy areas was flawed and/or biased. In my opinion, the purpose of the studies and decisions was for the benefit of promoting offshore wind development and not to protect the marine and coastal inhabitants of New Jersey. I could have completed more analysis of the impact studies, for example, what were the common themes among them and are the statistics, citations and conclusions in these studies just copied and used by the Ocean Wind and Atlantic Shores wind developers for their own COPS and DEIS. For the sake of getting this report out to others, I stopped short of doing this. I am hopeful that having more people involved in the critical analysis of the process used to identify the Wind Energy Areas will strengthen our fight in opposing the industrialization of our ocean and help others in their own studies on the impacts of offshore wind energy development.

Suzanne Moore

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FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>2004 New Jersey Offshore Wind Energy: Feasibility Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NJ Bureau of Public Utilities sponsored the 2004 New Jersey Offshore Wind Energy: Feasibility Study Purpose: to investigate the feasibility of utility-scale wind energy development in the waters offshore of New Jersey. This desktop investigation characterized the geophysical, environmental, regulatory, and commercial siting considerations that would need to be addressed in order to develop New Jersey's offshore wind industry. Results: Of the 2,465 square nautical miles (nm²) studied (from Sandy Hook to Egg Island Point and out to water 	<p>New Jersey Offshore Wind Energy: Feasibility Study, Final Version (With NJ DEP Comments) (rutgers.edu)</p> <p>Report authored by Atlantic Renewable Energy Corporation (AREC); a developer of wind powered generation projects and AWS Scientific, Inc. (AWS) a renewable energy engineering and advisory services firm.</p> <p>The Wind Energy Area was defined in the Study as follows: “The focus area of this study stretches approximately from Sandy Hook to Egg Island Point in the Delaware Bay and extends out to a water depth of 100 feet, the maximum viable depth for purposes of this report. The study area encompasses 2,465 square nautical miles and extends up to 20 miles from shore.”</p> <p>“This depth is the assumed practical limit of offshore wind turbine foundation designs within the next five years or so; to date, all offshore wind projects have been installed in waters shallower than 65 ft.” (Page 1, Objective and Scope)</p> <p>*chart from: Offshore Wind Market Report: 021</p> <div data-bbox="1045 639 1919 1258" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Top Trends in Offshore Wind Department of Energy *</p> </div> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Global offshore wind project water depth trend to 2026. Figure 23 from the Offshore Wind Market Report: 2021 Edition.</p>

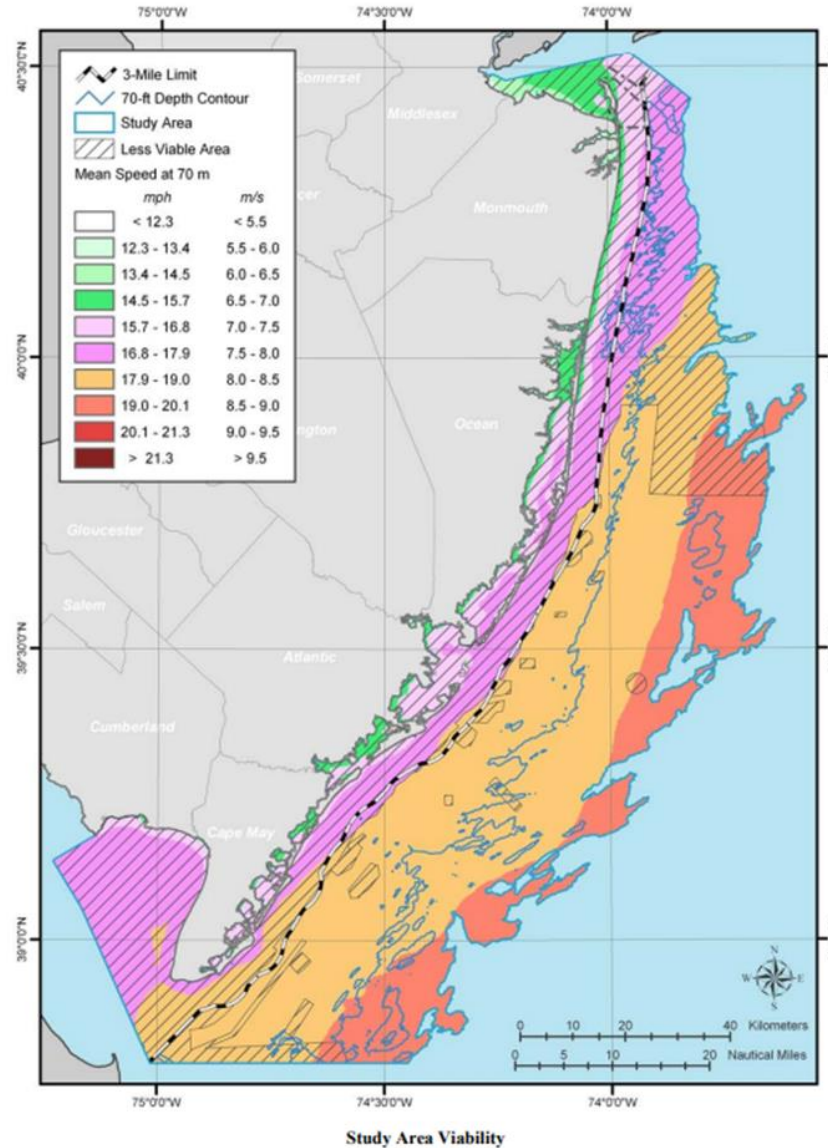
Section 1.3.1 BOEM's New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

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depths of 100 ft [30 m]), approximately half (1,223 nm²) was deemed conditionally viable for offshore wind development after excluding areas with insufficient wind resources and conflicting water and air space uses (AREC and AWS 2004).

(see map 7.10, Study Area Viability)

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FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>2004 State of New Jersey Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Offshore Wind Turbine Facilities</p> <p>2006 The Blue Ribbon Panel's final report, submitted to the Governor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Executive Order, the Governor of New Jersey authorized a State of New Jersey Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Offshore Wind Turbine Facilities • Per the Executive Order, "The State of New Jersey has Federal Consistency review authority pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq., for activities occurring in its coastal zone and in Federal waters where there is a reasonably foreseeable effect on the uses and resources of New Jersey's coastal zone." • Purpose: to identify and weigh the costs and benefits of developing offshore wind turbine facilities for New Jersey. 	<p>Link to Final 2006 Report: Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Wind Turbine Facilities in Coastal Waters Final Report.pdf (nj.gov)</p> <p>Public meeting dates and locations: blue-ribbon-past-meetings.pdf (nj.gov) Individuals providing testimony (spoken and written) at public meetings: page 28-33 of Final Report</p> <p>Conclusions in Report Pg V: "While this Panel has identified an absence of information regarding the various possible impacts of offshore wind turbines, it believes the potential of the technology as a renewable energy source should be explored further. Following collection of baseline data, this should be done through a carefully monitored and tightly controlled test project." Pg XI: "Planning for a test project must proceed with caution; its development must be preceded, accompanied, and followed by collection and analysis of scientifically valid data and monitoring of environmental and economic impacts of the project. These data should be used to determine if future development is necessary and/or appropriate. No further offshore wind development should proceed until these data have been studied for consistency with the guiding principles developed by this Panel and the coastal policies of this state."</p> <p>Statement under Recommendation 1 about Programmatic EIS Preparation (see page 10,11 of Final Report): ".....MMS will also prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The programmatic EIS will focus on generic impacts from each industry sector and will identify key issues that subsequent site-specific assessments should consider, facilitating future preparation of site-specific environmental compliance documents. MMS expects to adopt such regulations and complete the programmatic EIS in late 2007, and is not planning to accept new applications until the regulations and EIS are finished. Additionally, MMS will involve stakeholders throughout development of the program and regulation, and coordination is planned with state governors, local government executives, and other federal agencies concerning activities that may affect them"</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Ribbon Panel's final report was submitted to the Governor in 2006. • Recommendation: New Jersey conduct scientific baseline studies to collect data about the existence, location, and nature of New Jersey's offshore natural resources (see 76 FR 22130). 	<p>Risk Assessment /Guiding Principles in NJ Blue Ribbon Panel Final Report:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Table 5 <i>Guiding Principles for Development of Renewable Technologies in New Jersey</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Energy</td> <td>New Jersey can and must address its growing energy crisis through the application of energy efficiency programs and development of renewable energy technologies.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Jersey will suffer increasingly high energy costs and the effects of upwind pollution if it looks to out-of-state sources to meet its growing energy demand and so must be a leader in the development of renewable technologies.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Jersey must continue to take bold action on several fronts including enactment of conservation/efficiency measures and development of technologies that, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide generation capacity near load centers; • Reduce transmission congestion, and • Alleviate upward pressure on energy prices. </td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Environment</td> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not cause unacceptable adverse impact to wildlife or natural resources.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not cause unacceptable interference with critical avian or marine mammal lifecycle habits, or cause unacceptable loss of critical habitats.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses</td> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not cause unacceptable economic impact, including unacceptable impact to tourism and related industries, or to the commercial and recreational fisheries.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not create unacceptable aesthetic impact, particularly in the viewsheds of state or federal parks and natural areas.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Other</td> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not have unacceptable environmental justice implications.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To ensure the interests of New Jersey are protected, development of renewable technologies such as wind power in waters under federal jurisdiction must proceed as a private/public partnership among developers, state and federal authorities.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Table 7 <i>Areas Requiring Risk Assessment Modeling and Monitoring Before, During, and After Construction of an Offshore Wind Project</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Energy</td> <td>Amount of electricity generated.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact on transmission congestion and electricity costs to residents and businesses.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Requirements for decommissioning, abandonment, and repair of turbines.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Environment</td> <td>Impact on wildlife and natural resources.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact on and disturbance of benthic habitat.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental Justice Implications.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Economic</td> <td>Impact on tourism and related industries.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact on ocean-dependent industries (i.e., commercial and recreational fishing).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Energy	New Jersey can and must address its growing energy crisis through the application of energy efficiency programs and development of renewable energy technologies.	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<p>Energy Policy Act of 2005</p>	<p>Purpose: To amend the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act authorizing the Department of Interior to grant leases, easements, and rights of way (ROWS) on the OCS for energy activities other than oil and gas.</p> <p>Information not referenced in COP Section 1.3.1</p>	<p>Minority Report Findings Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Wind Turbine Facilities in Coastal Waters Final Report.pdf (nj.gov) Pg 19-24</p> <p>Tim Dillingham, ED of the American Littoral Society and member of the Task Force, prepared a Minority Report criticizing the Task Force’s recommendations, stating “critical evaluation indicates that wind power may not in fact live up to the claims made by its advocates, that its impact on the coastal environment may be far from benign, and that other approaches may be available, though less examined, that secure similar benefits to those promised by offshore wind power, without requiring construction of new industrial structures in the ocean.”</p> <p>Link to Summary of the Act on EPA Website: Summary of the Energy Policy Act US EPA Link to the Act: BILLS-109hr6enr.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>Impact of Energy Policy Act of 2005 on Offshore Renewable Energy Development: The Act amended the OCS Lands Act by adding subsection 8(p)(1)(c), which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to grant leases, easements of rights of way (ROWS) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for activities that are not otherwise authorized by law and that produce or support production, transportation, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil or gas. The Act required the Director of BOEMRE to issue regulations to carry out the new authority pertaining to renewable energy on the OCS.</p> <p>Minerals Management Services issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register on 12/30/05 to seek comments on the development of a regulatory program. E5-8119.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p>

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<p>Interim Policy (IP) and Request for Information and Nominations for IP Leases 11/6/2007</p>	<p>Purpose: Policy created to allow limited offshore leasing before finalizing the Renewable Energy and Alternative Uses (REAU) rules.</p> <p>Information not referenced in COP Section 1.3.1</p>	<p>Link to Interim Policy: Rules Development And Interim Policy Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (boem.gov)</p> <p>BOEM developed this policy for the development of OCS energy projects prior to finalizing the Renewable Energy and Alternative Uses (REAU) rulemaking. The IP allowed for limited leasing, data collection and technology testing activities in the OCS.</p> <p>The IP and the Request for Information and Nominations of Areas for Leases Authorizing Alternative Energy Resource Assessment and Technology Testing Activities Pursuant to Subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, were both announced in the Federal Register 11/6/07: E7-21793.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>BOEMRE in November 2009 issued noncompetitive IP leases (after no competitive interest) in six areas on the OCS ranging from 8-21 miles offshore of the coast of New Jersey to three developers, Deepwater Wind LLC, Blue Water Wind NJ Energy LLC, and Fishermen’s Energy of New Jersey.</p>
<p>Guide to OCS Alternative Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)</p> <p>5/5/2006-11/6/2007</p>	<p>The PEIS was prepared by Mineral Management Service (DOI) assisted by Argonne National Laboratory.</p> <p>The PEIS evaluates the generic impacts from potential activities occurring in the environment. Regions of study were Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific</p>	<p>BOEM’S (at the time, Minerals Management Service) Guide to the OCS Alternative Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) 11/6/2007</p> <p>Program for Renewable Energy and Alternate Use of Existing Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) and scoping meetings Federal Register 5/5/2006: E6-6924.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>Final EIS Federal Register Notice of Availability 11/6/2007: E7-21792.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>Link to Report: Guide To The OCS Alternative Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (boem.gov)</p> <p>Prepared by Mineral Management Service assisted by Argonne National Laboratory.</p>


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	The PEIS was not referenced in COP Section 1.3.1	<p>This Programmatic EIS takes a first look at the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts from and mitigation measures for the activities along the entire coastline of the US that could be initiated in the next five to seven years. Regions of study were Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific.</p> <p>1.3.2 Scope of This Programmatic EIS</p> <p>“This EIS is programmatic and, therefore, evaluates the generic impacts from potential activities occurring in the environment. Specific examinations of localized impacts are deferred to subsequent analyses. This programmatic EIS informs the MMS generally about the types and extent of environmental effects that could result from future authorizations. Any future proposal for an alternative energy project on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under this new authority will be subject to its own project-specific environmental analyses under NEPA. This EIS will also serve to identify the potential impact-producing factors and the key resources that could be impacted.”</p> <p>Document defines areas of interest: “This EIS is focused on alternative energy technologies and areas on the OCS about which industry has expressed a potential interest and ability to develop or evaluate from 2007–2014. for wind and wave technologies being assessed within the time frame of this EIS, development is expected to occur near to shore with maximum water depths of 100 meters (m) (328 feet [ft]). With the exception of ocean current technology as discussed below, the analysis in this EIS is, therefore, limited to the area defined by this water depth for these technologies.”</p> <p>Public Comments on the Draft EIS: Alt_Energy_FPEIS_AppendixB.pdf (boem.gov) Example of Criticism of Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement related to Offshore Wind: by Clean Ocean Action 5/21/2007 Microsoft Word - OCS Comments and Responses-Part11.doc (boem.gov)</p> <p>Inadequate information and scientific rational or conflicting information in determining environmental impacts regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electromagnetic Fields from submarine cables • human activity/vessel traffic • percentage that offshore wind will reduce impacts of coal, nuclear and natural gas

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options for energy efficiency, conservation methods, onshore renewable energy technologies • cumulative environmental and ecological impacts of multiple energy projects on the OCS • high voltage and extra high voltage onshore transmission lines • exclusion of National Academy of Sciences Study which will provide information on offshore energy potential and recommendations on statutory and regulatory mechanisms for developing these resources. <p>Offshore wind areas for Atlantic Coast identified in the report: on maps: Alt Energy FPEIS Chapter4.pdf (boem.gov)</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">FIGURE 1.3.2-2 Atlantic Coast Planning Areas</p>

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FIGURE 4.2.1-2 Major Basins on the Outer Continental Shelf within the Atlantic Region
(Source: Folger 1988)

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FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>Assessing the Costs & Benefits of Electricity Generation Using Alternative Energy Resources on the OCS March 2007</p> <p>2008-09 , 2010 Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies (OWPEBS) offshore New Jersey.</p>	<p>Scope: “is not an analysis of whether to use the OCS for alternative energy projects, nor an analysis of aggregate benefits and costs.”</p> <p>Information not referenced in the COP 1.3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) contracted Geo-Marine Inc. to conduct the OWPEBS offshore NJ including 24 months of field studies to address data gaps on birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other natural resources. Desktop reviews of fish and fisheries resources in the 1360 nmsq2 study were also conducted (GMI2020) • Results: Identification of suitable areas for siting future wind energy facilities offshore of New 	<p><u>Accompanying Report on Programmatic FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Study) Webpage Assessing the Costs and Benefits of Electricity Generation Using Alternative Energy Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf</u> : Report compares Wind, Wave, Ocean Current Energy and analyzes benefit/cost of Fossil Fuel, Nuclear, Offshore Wind, Wave, and Ocean Current Resources, Onshore Wind and Conventional Hydropower including detailed calculation of CO2 emissions economic impact. Final Report Date on Document: March 2007 16 April 2004 (boem.gov)</p> <p><u>Ocean Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies (OWPEBS) Final Report July 2010</u> NJDEP Offshore Wind Resources & Materials The final report included ecological and environmental characteristics of the “study area”, the distribution and migration patterns of avian, marine mammals and fish species in the study area along with potential impacts to each during each phase (survey, construction, operation, and decommissioning) of offshore wind development.</p> <p>Project Objectives: Address Natural Resource portion of Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendation No. 4: “Baseline data should be collected regarding the distribution, abundance, and migratory patterns of avian, species, fish, marine mammals and turtles in the offshore area where development may be feasible.” Ocean Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies Meeting Agenda 6.18.2010 (nj.gov)</p> <p>Bid Document (Solicitation) for Studies : BASELINE STUDIES (nj.gov) According to the <i>Solicitation for Research Proposals: Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies</i>, the study area was predefined by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. (April 19, 2007)</p> <p>“Study Area” Defined in the 2007 Solicitation for Consultant RFP: <u>Study Area</u> The contractor shall perform work within the confines of the Study Area. The Study Area (Figure 1) is defined as the waters offshore of the coast of New Jersey starting from the shoreline and continuing out to 20 nautical miles offshore (approximate 100-foot depth contour). This zone will be surveyed from the area adjacent to Seaside Park (approximate latitude/longitude 39° 55’ 56” N, 74° 04’ 10” W) south to Stone Harbor (approximate latitude/longitude 39° 01’ 58” N, 74° 46’ 11” W) and extending 20 nautical miles perpendicular to the shoreline. This area is approximately 1,360 square nautical miles (i.e., 68 x 20 nautical miles) in size and excludes Delaware Bay and areas off the New Jersey coast with known major constraints for offshore wind power (e.g., air-restricted zones, significant water habitat, shipping lanes).</p>

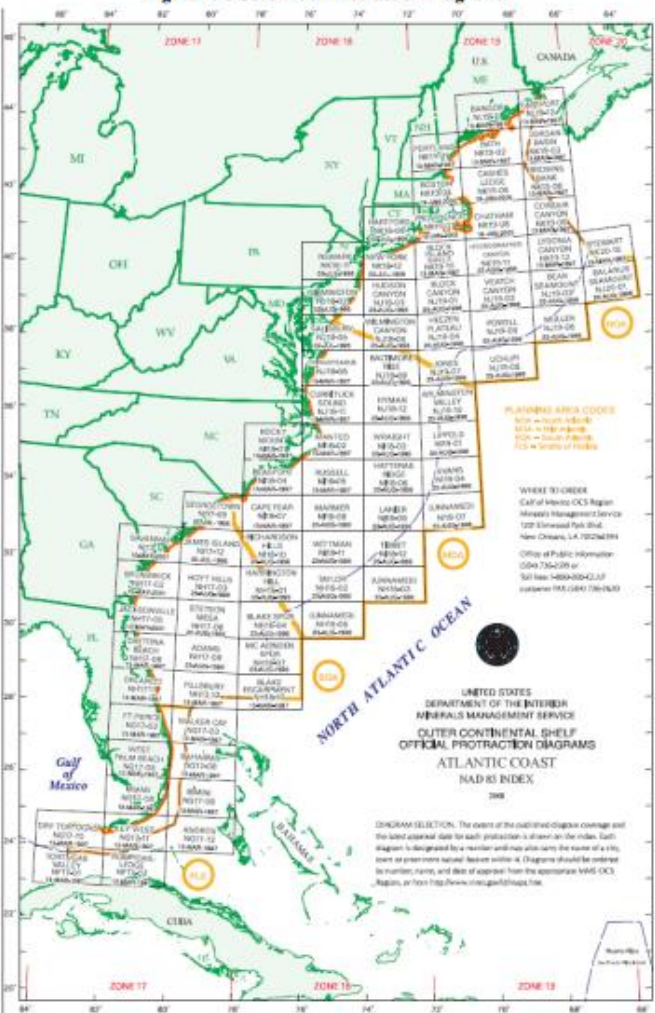
Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>Renewable Energy and Alternative Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) 4/29/09</p>	<p>Jersey and delineation of the New Jersey Call Area identified by BOEM in the “Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New Jersey – Call for Information and Nominations” (the “Call”) published on April 20, 2011 (see 76 FR 22130).</p> <p>Purpose: Issue Final Renewable Energy Regulations to establish a program to grant leases, easements, and rights of way (ROW) for renewable energy project activities on the OCS, use of existing facilities for renewables, sharing revenues generated by this program among coastal states, ensure orderly, safe, and environmentally responsible development of renewable energy sources on the OCS.</p> <p>Regulations not referenced in COP.</p>	<p>Meetings held with Interested Party Group (IPG): Defined as organizations that have an interest in offshore power (e.g., environmental, natural resource or development standpoint). DEP outreach – provided updates on the project’s progress and results. Dates of meetings : 11/9/07, 10/30/2008, 3/5/2009, 6/18/10 (Draft Final Report Presentation) Ocean Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies Interested Party Group 10.30.2008 GMI (nj.gov)</p> <p>“The Call” - Federal Register 76 FR 22130: 2011-9545.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>Marine Management Service (MMS), Interior Alternative Energy and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf Action: Proposed Rule; notice of availability of the draft environmental assessment in the Federal Register 7/9/2008 link: E8-14911.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>Renewable Energy and Alternative Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf; Final Rule Action: Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Assessment in the Federal Register 4/29/2009, pg. 19638 – 19871 link: Final Renewable Energy Rule (boem.gov)</p> <p>Link for Final EA in Federal Register The Final EA is available on the MMS Web site at: http://www.mms.gov/offshore/AlternativeEnergy/RegulatoryInformation.htm. (link does not work) Link to: Issuance of Leases for Wind Resource for Data Collection on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Delaware and New Jersey Environmental Assessment June 2009, Link to Document: 1 (boem.gov)</p> <p>MMS announced its publication of the final regulations to establish a program to grant leases, easements, and right-of-way (ROW) for renewable energy project activities on the OCS. Also announced its preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing this rule by incorporating the</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p style="text-align: center;">Figure 4: OCS Official Protraction Diagram.</p>  <p>The map displays the Atlantic Coast of the United States, divided into several zones (ZONE 17 to ZONE 21) and numerous lease areas. Key locations include New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The map also shows the Gulf of Mexico, the North Atlantic Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea. A legend indicates 'PLANNED AREA CODES' and 'WHERE TO ORDER' information. The map is titled 'UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFICIAL PROTRACTION DIAGRAMS ATLANTIC COAST RAD 85 INDEX 2008'.</p> <p><i>Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Alternative Energy Development and Production and Alternative Use of Facilities on the OCS, November 2007</i></p> <p>In July of 2009, The Minerals Management Service, Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Program, finished Guidelines for the Minerals Management Services Renewable Energy Framework.</p> <p>Link to Document: Microsoft Word - REn Guidebook_03 August 2009_3 .doc (boem.gov)</p> <p>Guidance was jointly prepared by Minerals Management Service and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to clarify the implementation of the final Renewable Energy and Alternative Uses of Existing Facilities regulations.</p> <p>The Map, OCS Official Protraction Diagram, was included in the guidance document.</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>2011 “Commercial Leasing for Wind Power Offshore New Jersey on the Outer Continental Shelf– Call for Information and Nominations” (the “Call”) published on April 20, 2011 (see 76 FR 22130).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Jersey Call Area was delineated through consultation with the New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force using the 1,360 nm² OWPEBS study area as a starting point. • Purpose: to determine if competitive interest existed for the development of offshore wind generation facilities offshore New Jersey within the New Jersey Call Area. • Areas of the OWPEBS study area excluded from the Call Area: (see 76 FR 22130): • “no build areas” such as shipping lanes, traffic separation schemes, pipelines and cables, artificial reefs, and shipwrecks; • areas of high avian density (particularly in shoals and within 7 nm of the New Jersey coast); • areas of 	<p><u>New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force</u> Renewable Energy Task Force Meetings Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (boem.gov) The NJ task force was called the Minerals Management Service (MMS) New Jersey Task Force. The New Jersey Project Coordinator of the Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs headed the task force. Task Force Meeting Dates: 11/24/09, 5/12/10, 11/19/10, 12/18/12, 1/28/14, 4/22/14, 5/19/16, 12/4/17</p> <p>Framework for Renewable Energy for Task Force President Obama, Secretary Salazar Announce Framework for Renewable Energy Development on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/boem-newsroom/Press-Releases/2009/press0422.pdf</p> <p>“Section 285.102 of the 2009 Energy Renewable Framework states that Marine Management Service (MMS) will provide for coordination and consultation with the Governor of any State or the executive of any local government or Indian tribe that may be affected by a lease, easement, or ROW”</p> <p>Roster of the New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force Task Force Membership List (boem.gov) Roster: 33 Federal Elected and Agency Officials, 26 State Elected and Agency Officials, 52 Mayors Typical Meeting attendance: lists available for Meeting 1 and Meeting 3 – 29 Federal & State Agency Officials, 2 Indian Tribe Officials, 1 local Commissioner of Economic Development, 3 Offshore Wind Development Company Observers</p> <p>Task Force Parameters “The Task Force membership cannot alter the Regulatory Framework or the established leasing processes, but it can provide input on how these processes are implemented. MMS will consider Task Force member input as it makes its renewable energy leasing decision.” Microsoft PowerPoint - NJ Task Force Meeting 111809 (boem.gov)</p> <p>Discussion of EIS vs. EA Microsoft PowerPoint - NJ Taskforce EnvProcess Morin 112409 Revised (boem.gov)</p>

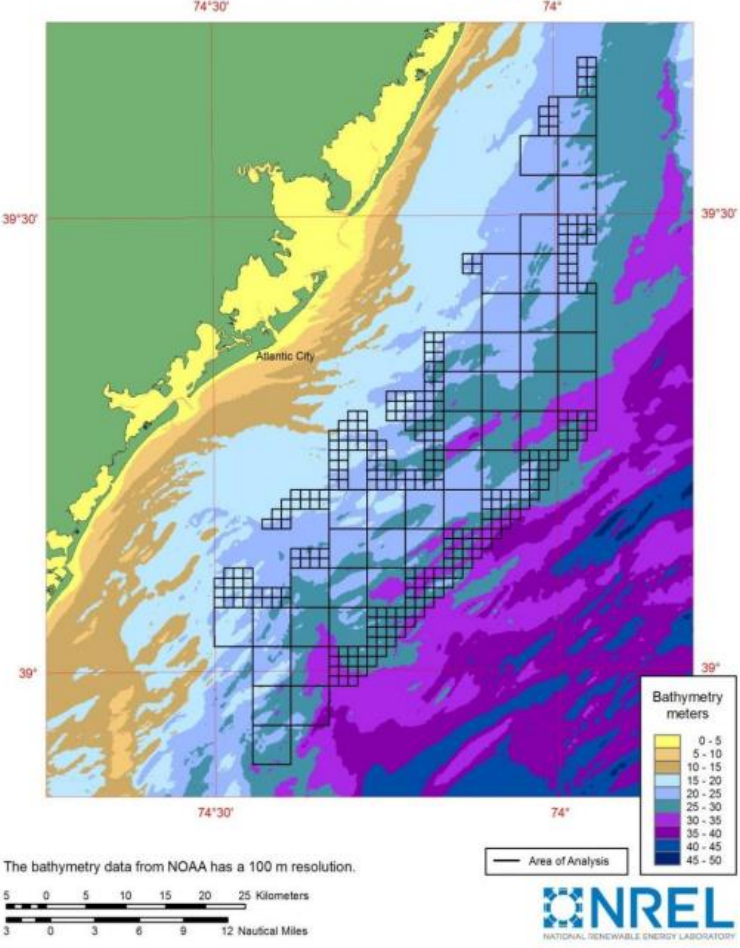
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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
	<p>high marine mammal and sea turtle density; and • fishing hotspots for recreational and commercial fishermen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result: BOEM received 11 commercial indications of interest to obtain a commercial lease for an offshore wind facility and numerous comments from the public. In addition, the Call gathered comments from interested and affected parties regarding site conditions, resources, or other uses within the area. 	<p><u>Studies (in addition to OWPEBS) Presented at Task Force Meetings</u> National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) prepared 2 studies for the Task Force: Hired by BOEM for studies, NREL is a national laboratory of the US Dept of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, co-managed and governed by Battelle and MRIGlobal.</p> <p>Studies by NREL Previous to Task Force (Slide 9, see link below for Study 1.): Assessment of Offshore Wind Energy Resources for the United States, June 2010 https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/45889.pdf AND Large-Scale Offshore Wind Power in the United States, Sept 2010 https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/45889.pdf</p> <p>NREL Studies Presented at Task Force Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Methodology for New Jersey Offshore Leasing Zone Delineation 12/18/12 Slide 1 (boem.gov) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The focus was to help delineate leasing zones within the WEAs by focusing on balance wind resource, assessing buffer zones and maximizing energy potential. (slide 4) Objective: Create 3-5 development zones within the BOEM specified New Jersey Wind Energy Area (WEA) (slide 11) Final Presentation to New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force on Leasing Area Delineation Studies 1/28/13 PowerPoint Presentation (boem.gov) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Topics included “NJ “Call” summary, physical description of NJ WEA, NJ WEA analysis of wake loss and energy analysis.” (Slide 2) “Focus was on wind resource, energy potential, bathymetry, and wake effects and capacity factor after wake losses with a goal to produce development zones with similar value.” (Slide 1, 8) All calculations assume a 10D X 12D (10D = 1260 meters) spacing and a 5 MW wind turbine with a 126m diameter rotor. (Actual turbine generator specifications as of 2022: Ocean Wind I project is using 12 MW WTG and Atlantic Shores project is using 15 MW WTG)

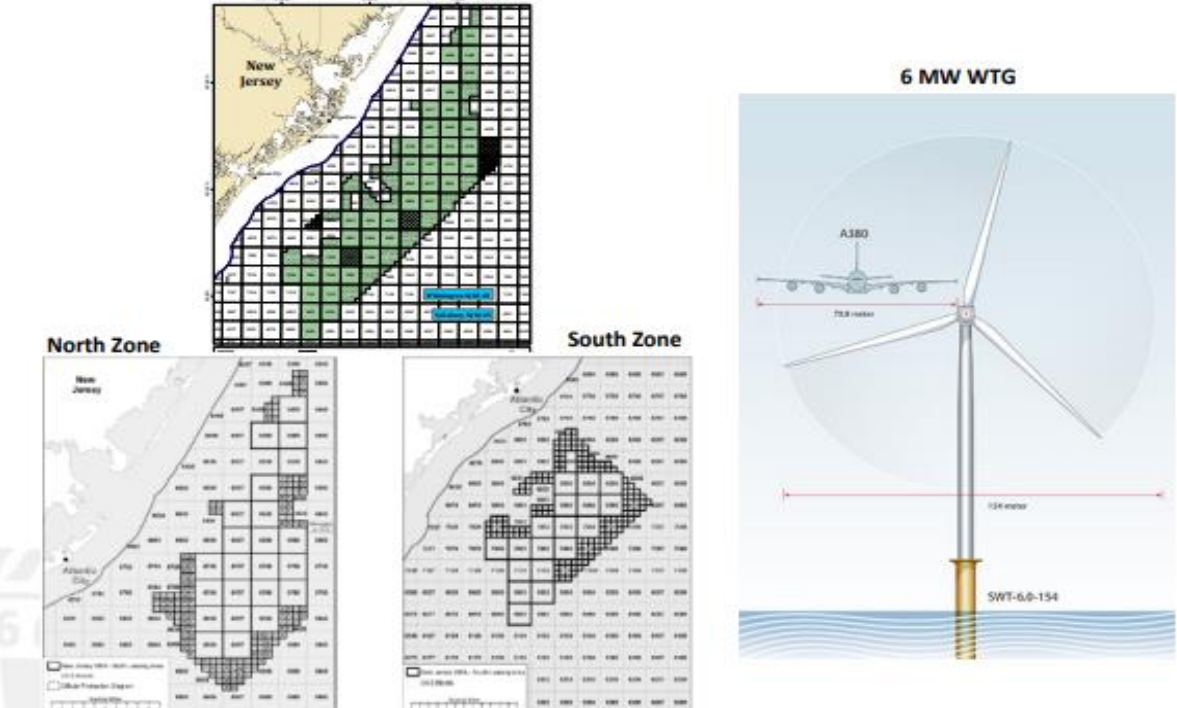
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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>The bathymetry data from NOAA has a 100 m resolution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bathymetry Chart for NJ Area of Analysis (source NREL)</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">(Slide 20,38) “Most leasing areas have over 90% of the depths less than 30 meters - shallow enough to support large projects without adding excessive development cost.”</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Rutgers Coastal Ocean Observation Lab (for NJBPU) prepared 1 study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An Advanced Atmosphere/Ocean Assessment Program: Reducing the Risks Associated with NJ Offshore Wind Energy Development (as defined by the NJ EMP, NJ Offshore Wind Energy Economic Development Act, and NJBPU's Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Rules) 4/22/14 Rutgers.pdf (boem.gov) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: New Ocean Data, Hi-Res Weather Model, Spatial Validation Data, Wind Power Stats • Study based on 6 MW Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) (Pg,36,37). (Ocean Wind I project is using 12 MW WTG and Atlantic Shores project is using 15 MW WTG) <div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>OSW Energy Development Domain and WTG Size</h3>  </div>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM's New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Extend sea breeze and local wind analyses</h3> <p>The figure consists of two main plots. The left plot is a cross-sectional view of wind velocity difference, titled 'horizontal Velocity Diff [m s-1] 39.3N, 74.6W to 74.1W'. It shows a color-coded vertical profile of wind speed, with a scale from 0 to 50 m/s. A silhouette of a wind turbine is overlaid on the plot, with height markers for '110+ m' and '30-40 m'. The right plot is a map titled 'RU-WRF Model 0.75km Simulation' showing wind speed and direction. The map includes labels for 'Land wind direction', 'Near shore wind direction', and 'Offshore wind direction'. A color scale at the bottom indicates wind speed in m/s, ranging from 0.5 to 5.0.</p> </div>

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>BOEMRE published its Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New Jersey – Call for Information and Nominations. 4/20/11 76 FR 22130 2011-9545.pdf (govinfo.gov)</p> <p>“BOEMRE invites the submission of nominations for one or more commercial leases for the construction of a wind energy project(s) in the OCS offshore New Jersey. BOEMRE will use the response to this Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to gauge specific interest in acquiring commercial win lease(s) in some or all of the area.”</p> <p>Reference to Wind Energy Area in the “Call”:</p> <p>A detailed description, including block numbers, of the Wind Energy Area is on page 22134-22317 of 76 FR 22130</p> <p>Excerpts include:</p> <p>“The area under consideration for commercial leasing is located off the coast of New Jersey, beginning approximately 7 nautical miles (nmi) from the shore, extending roughly 23 nmi seaward to the approximate 100 ft depth contour, and extending 45 nmi parallel to the Federal/State boundary between Avalon and Barnegat Light. This area is approximately 418 square nmi and contains approximately 43 whole OCS blocks and 34 partial OCS blocks. This area was delineated in consultation with the BOEMRE/New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force”</p> <p>“Map of the Call Area A map of the area and a table of the Call boundary coordinates in X, Y (eastings, northings) UTM Zone 18, NAD83 Datum and geographic X, Y (longitude, latitude), NAD83 Datum can be found at the following URL: http:// www.boemre.gov/offshore/ RenewableEnergy/ stateactivities.htm#New Jersey. (Link does not work)”</p> <p>“The New Jersey WEA and Call was developed using the boundary of New Jersey’s Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies (OWPEBS) as a base. Areas were removed based on features ranging from physical obstructions and usages to the presence and density of biological resources including avian populations and aquatic habitat. “ (Specific areas removed are listed on page 22136 of 76 FR 22130.)</p> <p>Other areas included in the WEA discussion were Traffic Separation Scheme and Department of Defense Activities. (page 22136 of 76 FR 22130)</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>2012 Environmental Assessment (EA)</p> <p>2012 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for commercial wind lease issuance and site assessment activities on the Atlantic OCS offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February 2012, BOEM published an Environmental Assessment (EA). • Result: Issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for commercial wind lease issuance and site assessment activities on the Atlantic OCS offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia (see 77 FR 5560). • In December 2012 Result Revised: As a result of subsequent discussions with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force, and maritime stakeholders in, BOEM decided to remove certain OCS Lease Blocks from the area offshore New Jersey studied in the EA to alleviate navigational safety concerns resulting from vessel transits out 	<p>FR-2011-02-09.pdf (govinfo.gov) P139/391</p> <p>“On February 9, 2011, BOEMRE issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EA for Mid Atlantic WEAs (76 FR 7226). The NOI requested public input to identify the important environmental issues associated with leasing and site assessment within the identified WEAs, and alternatives to be considered in the EA.</p> <p>The Federal Register announcement states that the WEAs were identified by BOEMRE with input from State Renewable Energy Task Forces and other Federal Agencies.. WEAs may have been adjusted based on input during THE 2010 CALL. For New Jersey, the WEA is identified as:</p> <p>“The proposed area offshore New Jersey begins 7 nautical miles from the shore and extends roughly 23 nautical miles seaward (or the approximate 100 ft depth contour) and extends 72 nautical miles along the Federal/state boundary from Seaside Park south to Hereford Inlet. The entire area is approximately 418 square nautical miles and contains approximately 43 whole OCS blocks and 34 partial blocks.”</p> <p>According to the NOI, a Regional Environmental Assessment (REA) would be completed based on environmental and social economic analysis in the Programmatic EIS https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/guide-ocs-alternative-energy-final-programmatic-environmental-impact-statement-eis (E7-21792.pdf (govinfo.gov)) and Interim Policy EA and other public information. The REA will include the environmental consequences of lease issuance scenario and site assessment activities during Construction and Operation Proposals including site characterization and site assessment.</p> <p>BOEMRE determined environmental impact from issuing leases and conducting site characterization and assessment as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) IF MAJOR IMPACT: Environmental Impact Statement will be required. (action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (42 U.S.C. 4332 (c) and 76 FR 22133) 2) IF NOT MAJOR IMPACT: Finding of No Major Impact (FONSI) will be issued. <p>Public Engagement: “Federal, State, and local government agencies, Tribal governments, and other interested parties may assist BOEMRE in determining the important issues and any additional</p>

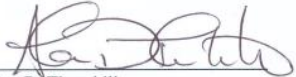
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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
	<p>of New York Harbor (see 79 FR 42361).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This revised area constitutes the NJWEA. The NJWEA was divided into two leasing areas: Lease Area OCS-A 0498 and Lease Areas OCS-A 0499. 	<p>alternatives to be analyzed in the REA. Input is also requested on measures (e.g., limitations on activities based on technology, distance from shore, or timing) that would mitigate impacts to environmental resources and socioeconomic conditions that could result from leasing, site characterization, and site assessment in and around the WEAs.”</p> <p><u>Alternatives considered in the EA</u> The alternatives in the EA were limited to: A) Full Leasing of the WEAs B) Removal of Anchorage Ground Offshore DE C) Removal of Category B Areas Offshore Maryland D) Seasonal Prohibition to Protect the North Atlantic Right Whale E) Removal of Inclement Weather Diversion Area Offshore F) No Action</p> <p>According to BOEM, these public comments were considered in drafting the alternatives and assessing the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts associated with each alternative. Comments received in response to the NOI can be viewed at http://www.regulations.gov, by searching for Docket ID BOEM–2010– 0077.” Regulations.gov</p> <p>Notice of the Availability (NOA) of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact: 2012-2494.pdf (govinfo.gov) Federal Register 2/3/2012 Vol. 77, No. 23</p> <p><i>Final Report : Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia Final Environmental Assessment, January 2012</i> OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2012-003</p> <p>“As a result of its analysis in the final EA, BOEM issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI concluded that the environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative would not</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>significantly impact the environment; therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.”</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>I have thoroughly considered the prominent issues and concerns identified in the EA and by the public and cooperating and consulting agencies in their comments, as well as the evaluation of the potential effects of the proposed action and alternatives in the attached EA. It is my determination that there are no substantial questions regarding the reasonably foreseeable impacts of the proposed action or alternatives, and that no reasonably foreseeable significant impacts are expected to occur as the result of the preferred alternative or any of the alternatives contemplated in the EA. It is therefore my determination that implementing the proposed action or any of the alternatives would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. As a result, an EIS is not required, and I am issuing this finding of no significant impact.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Alan D. Thornhill Chief Environmental Officer Bureau of Ocean Energy Management </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>20 Jan 12 Date</p> </div> </div> <p>“BOEM in consultation with other Federal Agencies and State Renewable Energy Task Forces identified The Wind Energy Area for NJ” as follows:</p> <p>“New Jersey: The proposed area offshore New Jersey begins 7 nautical miles from the shore and extends roughly 23 nautical miles seaward (or the approximate 100 ft depth contour) and extends 72 nautical miles along the Federal/state boundary from Seaside Park south to Hereford Inlet. The entire area is approximately 418 square nautical miles and contains approximately 43 whole OCS blocks and 34 partial blocks”</p> <p>“New Jersey WEA: The area offshore New Jersey considered for leasing is approximately 43 whole OCS blocks and 26 partial blocks. The area begins 7 nm from the shore and extends roughly 23 nm seaward (or the approximate 100 ft depth contour) and extends 53 nm along the Federal/state boundary from Seaside Park south to Hereford Inlet. The entire area is approximately 418 square nm (354,408 acres; 143,424 hectares)”</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p><u>Environmental Assessment: Discussion of Economy and Tourism Impacts</u></p> <p><i>Final Environment Impact Study was completed before studies on Economy and Tourism were completed. (See section on Economy and Tourism below)</i></p> <p>Actual Information included in Final EA regarding tourism and recreation: (PG 132 and tables on PG 134, 135)</p> <p>4.1.3.2 Recreational Resources (Pg. 132) 4.1.3.2.1 Description of the Affected Environment “The coastal beaches, barrier islands, estuarine bays and sounds, river deltas, and tidal marshes of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia are used for recreational activity by residents of the local areas and tourists. Beaches are a major recreational resource that attracts tourists and residents to the coastal counties for fishing, swimming, shelling, beachcombing, camping, picnicking, bird watching, and other activities. The scenic and aesthetic values of beaches play an important role in attracting visitors. Recreation and tourism provide employment and wages in the coastal counties. The coastal waters of these areas would be transited by vessels associated with Alternative A. Recreational fishing is discussed in Section 4.1.3.6 of this EA. “</p> <p>New Jersey “The coastal counties of New Jersey are host to substantial recreation, particularly in connection with marine fishing and beach-related activities. The shorefronts along these counties in New Jersey contain a diversity of natural and developed landscapes and seascapes. Table 4-12 presents employment in tourism-related industries in 2004 (National Ocean Economics Program, 2008). This source defines tourism related employment and wages as those from the following travel-related industries: amusement and recreation services, boat dealers, eating and drinking places, hotels and lodging places, marinas, recreational vehicle parks and campsites, scenic water tours, sporting goods retailers, zoos, and aquaria. The USEPA reports 263 beaches in the 5 coastal counties (Atlantic, Cape May, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean) in New Jersey, which is summarized in Table 4-11 (USEPA, 2008b).”</p> <p>4.1.3.2.2 Impact Analysis of Alternative A</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Routine Activities “Impacts on recreational resources are not anticipated in connection with Alternative A. As discussed in Section 4.1.3.5, existing ports or industrial areas are expected to be used by vessels associated with Alternative A. Expansion of these existing facilities is not anticipated. Due to the distance to shore of the WEAs, it is estimated that most of the anticipated meteorological towers would not be visible from shore (see Section 3.1.3, Visual Aesthetics – note, this is missing from the EA Report). The few meteorological towers located nearer to shore would be virtually invisible from shore due to the anticipated widths of these structures, and to the nominal atmospheric conditions offshore of the Atlantic coast. It is most likely that vessel traffic associated with Alternative A would use established nearshore traffic lanes. Chapter 5.2.22 of the Programmatic EIS concluded that, as tourism and recreation exists in its current state in the context of existing military, commercial, and recreational water and air vessels that currently traverse these coastal areas, it is unlikely that there would be any detrimental impact on tourism and recreation from the additional vessels associated with Alternative A. No information has been presented that would tend to invalidate the analysis in the Programmatic EIS.”</p> <p>Non-Routine Events “The potential impacts of non-routine events on water quality are discussed in Section 4.1.1.2 of this EA. Spills could occur during refueling or as the result of a collision. Since the anticipated meteorological towers would be located 7 or more miles offshore, if a diesel spill occurred in the WEAs, it is unlikely a diesel spill would reach the shore. If a diesel spill were to occur, it would be expected to dissipate very rapidly and biodegrade within a few days. From 2000 to 2009, the average spill size for vessels other than tanker ships and tank barges was 88.36 gallons (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, USCG, 2011). Litter on recreational beaches adversely affects the ambience of the beach environment, detracts from the enjoyment of beach activities, and increase administrative costs to maintain beaches. Due to the limited nature of the activities associated with Alternative A and their distance from shore, it is unlikely that recreational beaches in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia would be impacted by waterborne trash that may result from Alternative A. Any beached litter and debris which may result from Alternative A is unlikely to be perceptible to beach users or administrators given the amount of vessel traffic and debris currently traversing the coastal areas of these states. “</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Conclusion “Due to the distance of the proposed lease areas from shore, the fact that no new coastal infrastructure would be necessary, and the small amount of vessel traffic associated with Alternative A that would be present in any given recreational area (particularly given the existing amount of vessel traffic in these areas), no impacts to coastal recreational resources from routine activities or potential spills are expected. While impacts could occur from marine trash and debris, it is unlikely that any additional trash that could be associated with Alternative A would be perceptible. Potential impacts to recreational fishing are discussed in Section 4.1.3.6 of this EA. “</p> <p>4.1.3.3 Demographics and Employment</p> <p>4.1.3.3.1 Description of the Affected Environment “Chapter 4.2.18 of the Programmatic EIS describes the heterogeneity of the Atlantic region’s sociocultural systems, which is reflected by a variety of demographic, employment, income, land-use, and infrastructure patterns in the coastal communities of the affected states. The Atlantic region consists of a number of contrasting types of economic areas, which include metropolitan areas and large urban areas with highly complex economic structures; urban areas that serve a smaller number of more specialized economic functions; and a large number of local and regional market areas with relatively simple economic structures and smaller, less diversified labor markets. Population and economic data for the shore adjacent counties of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia that would host onshore activities associated with Alternative A is presented in Table 4.12 below.”</p> <p>4.1.3.3.2 Impact Analysis of Alternative A “Alternative A would require various support services primarily within the coastal counties of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Due to the short duration of survey, construction, and decommissioning activities, any benefit to the population and economy would be short-term. Survey, construction, and decommissioning activities are not expected to employ many workers relative to the existing employment numbers (Table 4.12 above). Little activity would be associated with the maintenance and operation of the meteorological towers and buoys. “</p>

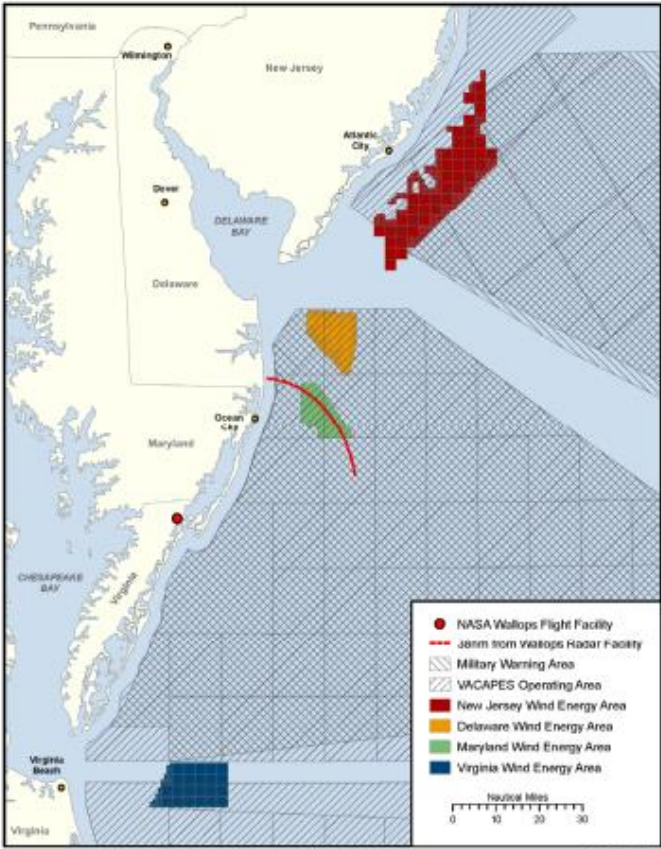
Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Conclusion Alternative A is expected to have negligible but positive impacts on the population and employment of coastal counties of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey that would provide support services for Alternative A.</p> <p>4.1.3.5 Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure (see report for description of activities)</p> <p>Conclusion Existing ports or industrial areas are expected to be used, and expansion of these existing facilities is not anticipated to support Alternative A. No significant impact on land use or coastal infrastructure is expected.</p> <p>4.1.3.6 Commercial and Recreational Fishing Activities (see report for description of activities)</p> <p>Conclusion “The increase in vessel traffic, and activities related to the installation/operation of the meteorological towers and buoys would not measurably impact commercial or recreational fishing activities, total catch of fish and shellfish, or navigation over any substantial period of time. Any impacts, such as localized fishing displacement and/or target species availability within the immediate area of activities associated with Alternative A, would be of short duration, limited area, and temporary, and result in negligible, if detectible, impact to fishing.”</p> <p>Discussion of Other (Nonenvironmental) Impacts Included in EA</p> <p>4.1.3.7 Other Uses of the OCS 4.1.3.7.1</p> <p>Description of the Affected Environment</p> <p>Military Activities (Related to New Jersey) “The Atlantic City OPAREA is an area used for surface, sub-surface and air warfare training exercises located off the coast of New Jersey (Global Security, 2011). Approximately 40 OCS blocks in the New</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Jersey WEA are located in Warning Area 107A (W-107A) and roughly 1 ½ OCS blocks are located in Warning Area 107C (W-107C). The W-107A and W-107C areas are designated special use airspace over the Atlantic City OPAREA and are used for surface-to-air gunnery exercises using conventional ordnance and exercises (Global Security, 2011).”</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 4.5. Military Activity Areas and Uses.</p>

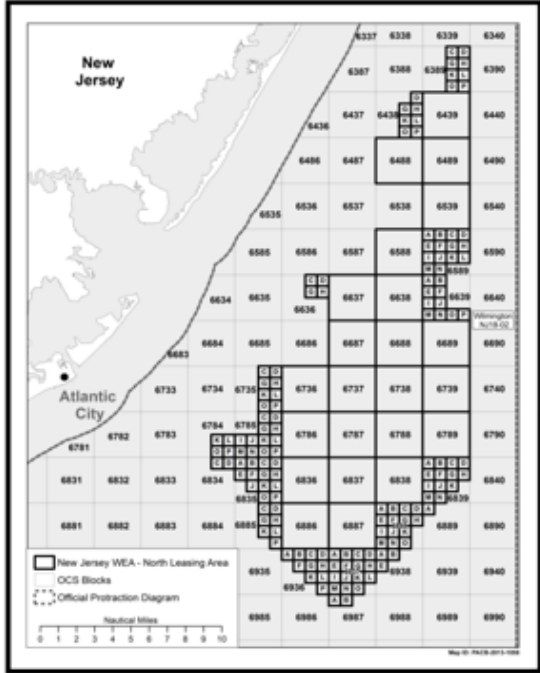
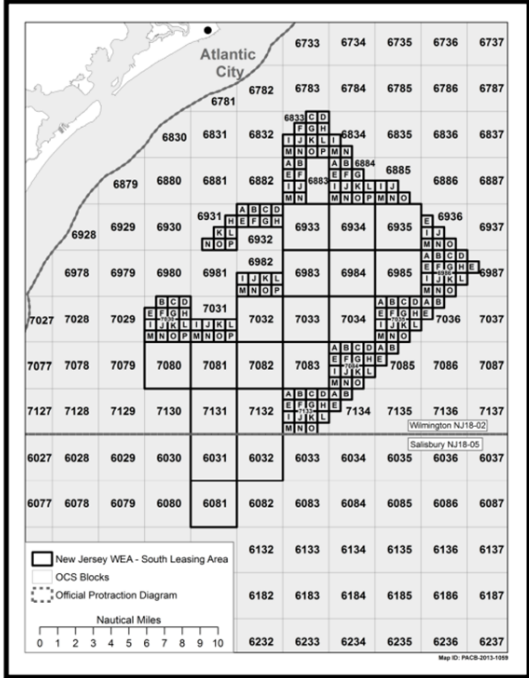
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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>2015 Final Sale Notice for the sale of Lease Areas OCS-A 0498 and OCS-A 0499</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2015, BOEM announced that it had published a Final Sale Notice for the sale of Lease Areas OCS-A 0498 and OCS-A 0499 (see 80 FR 57862); the competitive lease sale was held on November 9, 2015. 	<p>4.1.3.7.2 Impact Analysis of Alternative A (related to New Jersey)</p> <p>“BOEM consulted with the DOD on Alternative A of this EA. On May 2, 2011, the DOD responded that the impact to the Navy's training areas and other DOD activities from site characterization surveys and installation, operation and decommissioning of meteorological towers/buoys offshore Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia could be mitigated given site specific stipulations in consultation with the DOD (Engle, personal communication, 2011). “</p> <p>Link to Publication in Federal Register: Atlantic Wind Lease Sale 5 (ATLW5) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New Jersey—Final Sale Notice 2015-24392.pdf (govinfo.gov) P57862-P57872</p>

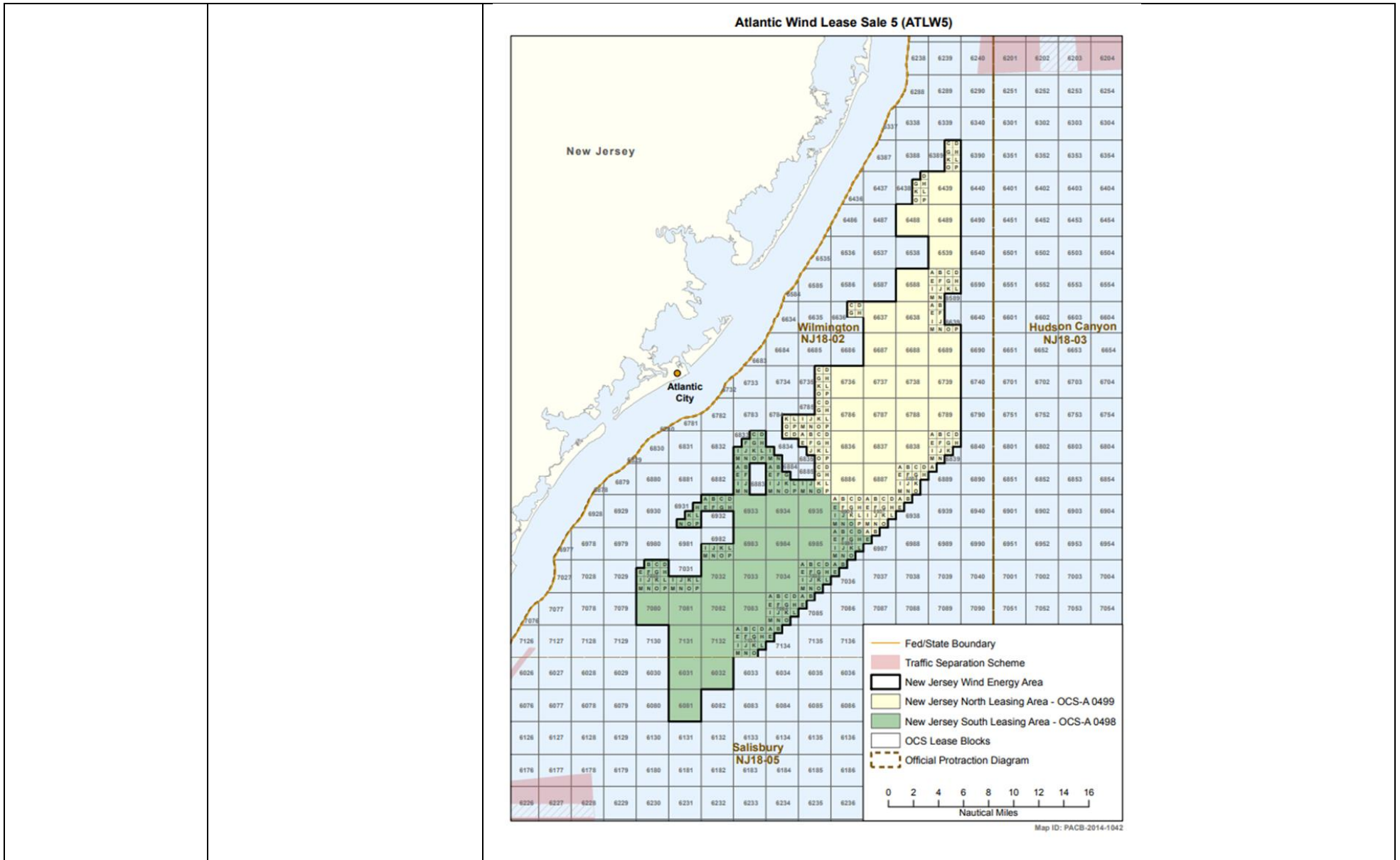
Section 1.3.1 BOEM's New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>Maps of lease areas:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Map of Lease OCS-A 0499</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Map of Lease OCS-A 0498</p> </div> </div>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM's New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018



Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-shores-cop-volume-1-update-9-23-2021)

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>BOEM Completed Sale and Approved Assignment of Lease Areas to Different Companies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Wind Inc. was the winning bidder for Lease Area OCS-A 0499 (see Figure 1.1-1). In December 2018, the Lease was assigned to EDF Renewables Development, Inc. The Lease was subsequently assigned to Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC in August 2019. 	<p>On Nov. 9, 2015, BOEM held a competitive lease sale (i.e., auction) for the Wind Energy Area offshore New Jersey. The auction lasted seven rounds. RES America Developments Inc., which bid \$880,715 was the winner of lease area OCS-A 0498, and US Wind Inc., which bid \$1,006,240 was the winner of lease OCS-A 0499. A summary of the bidding results can view here.</p> <p>On April 14, 2016, BOEM received an application to assign 100% of commercial lease OCS-A 0498 FROM RES AMERICA DEVELOPMENTS to Ocean Wind LLC. BOEM approved the assignment on May 10, 2106. The approved assignment is available through this link: www.boem.gov/Assignment-Approval-Lease-OCS-A-0498/</p> <p>On November 16, 2018 BOEM received an application from U.S. Wind Inc. to assign 100% of commercial lease OCS-A 0499 to EDF Renewables Development, Inc. BOEM approved the assignment on December 4, 2018. The approved assignment is available through this link: www.boem.gov/Assignment-Approval-Lease-OCS-A-0499/</p> <p>On April 29, 2019 BOEM received an application from EDF Renewables Development, Inc. to assign 100% of commercial lease OCS-A 0499 to Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC. BOEM approved the assignment on August 13,2019. The approved assignment is available through this link: www.boem.gov/OCS-A-0499/.</p> <p>On December 8, 2020, Ocean Wind LLC submitted an application to BOEM to assign a portion of lease #OCS-A 0498 to Orsted North American Inc. BOEM approved the assignment on March 26, 2021. The lease area assigned to Orsted North America Inc. now carries the new lease number #OCS-A 0532. Orsted North America Inc.'s lease is subject to all terms and conditions of the original lease. Please find a copy of the assignment below</p>

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
<p>BOEM Study on Social- Economic Impact of OCS Wind Energy Development on Fisheries in the US Atlantic February 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study conducted by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) • BOEM is required to assess potential impacts of WEA development under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) • BOEM will use the report to inform decision making related to leases. <p>Study not referenced in COP</p>	<p>The BOEM Study on fisheries was completed after the Wind Energy Areas were defined and sale of lease areas were completed in 2015.</p> <p>Volume One: Socio-Economic Impact of Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Development on Fisheries in the U.S. Atlantic, Volume I—Report Narrative (boem.gov)</p> <p>Volume Two: Socio-Economic Impact of Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Development on Fisheries in the U.S. Atlantic, Volume II- Appendices (boem.gov)</p> <p>Pg 48. “Nearly all exposure from the NJ WEA is through the surfclam fishery, which is itself highly consolidated.”</p> <p>Pg 77., 5.4.1 “The NJ WEA is explicitly modeled in the Cluster 2 GC segment (Mid-Atlantic scallop fishermen) and in Cluster 3 (Mid-Atlantic clam fishermen), as described in Section 6.2.6 and Section 6.2.7, respectively..... although highly exposed to the NJ WEA, Cluster 3 is expected to be negligibly impacted by its development, with 100 percent of displaced revenue net of variable costs (RNVC) expected to be recovered by fishing in alternative locations.”</p> <p>Pg. 114., 6.2.7 “The same characteristics that make the NJ WEA desirable for wind energy development (i.e., it is shallow and close to shore) are the same features that make it desirable as surfclam and ocean quahog habitat.”</p>

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY				
<p>Studies on Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses/Visual Impact</p>	<p>Studies on Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses/Visual Impact Information completed from 2012-2022, after the Wind Energy Area was determined and sale of lease areas was completed.</p> <p>Studies not referenced in COP.</p>	<p>Studies on Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses/Visual Impact</p> <p>No agency attempted to complete a rigorous study on tourism, commercial ocean uses or visual impact before the Wind Energy Area was decided or before the Environmental Assessment and FONSI was determined. In Fact, accurate visual assessments based on current specifications for wind turbines were not available until after the offshore wind areas were leased and Construction and Operation Plans were completed by the Wind Development Companies for the Ocean Wind I and Atlantic Shores South projects. The NJ’s 2006 Blue Ribbon Panel Report’s, Guiding Principles for Tourism/Economic Impact/Aesthetics were inadequately studied and addressed. Any conclusions made on the topic used research that was inconsistent with the New Jersey Shore area environment and wind energy area development project scope and wind turbine size.</p> <p>New Jersey’s 2006 Blue Ribbon Panel Report Included Guiding Principles for Tourism/Economic Impact/Aesthetics and Recommendation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guiding Principles for Development of Renewable Technologies in New Jersey</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses</td> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not cause unacceptable economic impact, including unacceptable impact to tourism and related industries, or to the commercial and recreational fisheries.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not create unacceptable aesthetic impact, particularly in the viewsheds of state or federal parks and natural areas.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Blue Ribbon Panel Report RECOMMENDATION 3. The Commerce, Economic Growth & Tourism Commission should undertake a consumer intercept opinion survey summer 2006 to collect data necessary to quantify visitors’ primary reasons for travel to New Jersey and measure the attitudes of these visitors to the sight of offshore wind turbines at various distances offshore.</p>	Tourism/Commercial Ocean Uses	Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not cause unacceptable economic impact, including unacceptable impact to tourism and related industries, or to the commercial and recreational fisheries.		Development of renewable technologies, including offshore wind turbine facilities, must not create unacceptable aesthetic impact, particularly in the viewsheds of state or federal parks and natural areas.
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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>The Following Studies on Tourism, Economic, and Visual Impact were completed for BOEM and Wind Development Companies from September 2012- 2022:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2012, BOEM completed this Study: <i>Atlantic Region Wind Energy Development Recreation and Tourism Economic Baseline Development Impacts of Offshore Wind on Tourism and Recreation Economics, Sept 2012 which was after the completion of the Final Environmental Assessment.</i> atlantic-region-wind-energy.pdf (noaa.gov) <p>This study is often cited as proof that people will not care about the negative impact. However, because there were no offshore wind projects in the US at the time the conclusions were based on the Danish wind farm "Horns Rev" which is mentioned 25 times in this report. According to Orsted the Horns Rev 2 project has rotors with 93 meter diameters and located 30km (18 mi) offshore. Horns Rev ,therefore, are smaller and farther away than the wind turbines used for Atlantic Shores ((V236-15MW WTG) and Orsted (GE Haliade -X12MW or option of 13 MW Variant) Projects off the NJ coast.</p> BOEM paid the University of Delaware to complete a study after the Wind Energy Areas were leased. The report, <i>Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Values and Implications for Recreation and Tourism, March 2018</i> 5662.pdf (boem.gov) <p>The University of Delaware study lacks validity for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wind turbines shown in the were only 579 feet tall compared to the actual size that will be used in future projects which is at least 851 feet tall. 35% of survey respondents were not beachgoers. Survey respondents, who said the view would be worse, were asked: "How certain they were?" Their responses were adjusted downward for any uncertainty. Survey respondents who said the view would be better were NOT asked any follow-up questions.

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EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study showed nighttime views to respondents but did not report the results. Other studies (https://cenrep.ncsu.edu/cenrep/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WP-2017-017.pdf) have shown nighttime visualizations and the opposition increased dramatically compared to daytime views. • The University of Delaware Study says property values would fall, but no details were provided. • In March 2021, one of the two study’s authors stated publicly (https://delawaretoday.com/life-style/skipjack-windfarm/) the Study was no longer useful because of the increased height of the planned turbines. <p>Energy Updates Caesar Rodney This Coastal Delaware Wind Farm Awaits a 2026 Debut (delawaretoday.com)</p> <p>3. <i>Ocean Wind Visual Impact Assessment for Lease Area OCS-A0498 (Ocean Wind 1,) on BOEM website 3/1/21</i></p> <p>Ocean Wind 1 Construction and Operations Plan for Commercial Lease (OCS-A 0498) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (boem.gov) Appendix L</p> <p>4. <i>Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Visual Impact Assessment for Lease Area OCS-A0499 (Atlantic Shores South) Available on BOEM website March 2022</i> Visual Impact Assessment - Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind (boem.gov) Attachment E of Appendix II-M1: – Visual Simulations for 13 Key Observation Points on website Example: North Brigantine Natural Area BC02 North Brigantine Natural Area (boem.gov) “With the proposed Project in place, the view is dominated by a large and highly visible array of WTGs that extend across a large portion of the ocean view to the southeast from this location. Project visibility is enhanced by the relative proximity of the WTGs (9.03 miles) and lighting conditions that make the WTGs appear relatively dark against the light blue sky..... Panel members indicated that the WTG’s become dominant elements in the view. They reduce the</p>

Section 1.3.1 BOEM’s New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing Program (page 1-12) was used as the basis for Information in Columns (1) & (2). Additional activities were added to the columns to examine the designation of the NJ WEA more thoroughly. [Atlantic Shores COP Volume 1 Update 9.232021 \(boem.gov\)](#)

EXAMINATION OF NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA) STUDIES AND DECISIONS FROM 2004-2018

FEDERAL/STATE TASK/ACTION/ ACTIVITY (1)	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (2)	EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDIES/ACTIONS & COMMENTARY
		<p>view’s sense of openness and add a large number of built features to what was previously an open, undeveloped ocean view. The presence of the WTGs tends to enclose the view, and adds substantial visual clutter. This effect is enhanced by the transition of the WTGs an orderly arrangement to stacked alignment when the viewer is looking down a row of aligned WTGs, making them appear disorderly. The movement of the rotor blades will also attract viewer attention and make the WTGs the focus of this view. Although the visibility and visual dominance of the WTGs is likely to be reduced under more hazy sky conditions, and when lighting conditions reduce WTG contrast with the sky, proximity of the WTGs will allow them to be visible under most clear sky conditions. With the Project in place, this KOP has low to moderate scenic quality. Considering the scale, compatibility, and spatial dominance factors that influenced the visual impact rating at this KOP, panel ratings indicated that the WTGs present severe scale contrast with the ocean (water resources), land use, and user activity. The panel scores also indicate that the WTGs are not compatible with water resource, landform, land use, and user activity. The WTGs would become the dominant feature in the seascape when compared to the existing water resources, landform, and user activity.”</p> <p>5. <i>CUMULATIVE HISTORIC RESOURCES VISUAL EFFECTS ANALYSIS- OCEAN WIND OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT</i>, Prepared for BOEM, by ICF, Fairfax VA, June 2022 https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/OW1-CHRVEA.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3tqVobeyz9ZWRfHfWhfKakpl3XPEpCtapFWDdb99xSejNtkCPmppyDafHo</p>

The Minerals Management Service was established on January 19, 1982, by Secretarial order. The Service assesses the nature, extent, recoverability, and value of leasable minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf. It ensures the orderly and timely inventory and development and the efficient recovery of mineral resources; encourages utilization of the best available and safest technology; and safeguards against fraud, waste, and abuse.

MMS was renamed Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) on June 21, 2010. On October 1, 2011, BOEMRE was reorganized into the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

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