

BOEMRE Initiates “Smart from the Start” Leasing Process for Commercial Wind Development Offshore New Jersey

WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), in partnership with the state of New Jersey, today announced that it will publish in the *Federal Register* a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to gauge interest in future wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore New Jersey. The Call also seeks information on archaeological sites, cultural resources, commercial and recreational fishing, shipping traffic, socio-economic issues and other environmental data relating to this area.

“Developing offshore wind energy in the right way and in the right places is a top priority for this Administration,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “We have worked closely with New Jersey officials to make commercial renewable energy leasing on the OCS a reality.”

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently identified this area of New Jersey as a Wind Energy Area (WEA), under the “Smart from the Start” initiative, for further study and consultation to foster responsible and efficient leasing and development. The WEA may be adjusted pending the results of comments and information received in response to the Call and through the environmental review process.

The Call area is approximately 418 square nautical miles. The boundary begins about 7 nautical miles from the shore, extending roughly 23 nautical miles seaward and stretches approximately 45 nautical miles southwest to northeast between Avalon, N.J., and Barnegat Light, N.J. A map of the area and a table of the boundary coordinates can be found at: http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/StateActivities.htm#New_Jersey.

The Call area was created through consultation with the BOEMRE - New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force, an intergovernmental group of federal and state agencies, Tribal governments and local government entities that have a role in permitting, reviewing or regulating resources or activities that are involved in energy development on the OCS.

The results of recently completed New Jersey Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/ocean-wind/report.htm>), in conjunction with input from the BOEMRE - New Jersey Renewable Energy Task Force, were used to assist in identifying areas that may not be suitable for development and are based on characteristics ranging from physical obstructions and usages to the presence and density of biological resources including avian populations and aquatic habitats.

This Call is the first step in the commercial renewable energy leasing process and the responses will assist BOEMRE in determining if there is viable commercial interest in the proposed area. Responses will also inform the Bureau as to whether competitive interest exists, which will determine the next steps in the leasing process.

BOEMRE invites the public to comment and provide information about the Call that will be useful in considering the area of interest for commercial wind energy leases, including information about environmental issues and concerns. BOEMRE must receive nominations describing interest in this potential commercial leasing area and public comments no later than June 6, 2011.

The Call is available for public inspection today through the Federal Register website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html>. Nominations, comments and information may be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Electronically: www.regulations.gov. In the entry titled “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM–2011–0005, then click “search”. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this Call. BOEMRE will post all comments.
- By mail, send your nominations, comments, and information to the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement, Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4090, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

Contact: [BOEMRE Public Affairs](#)