

**The NewsRoom**

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**MMS Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment of Cape Wind Energy Project**

*Public Comments on the Environmental Assessment due by April 7, 2010*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** —The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the [Cape Wind Energy Project](#). The MMS prepared the EA in order to evaluate the significance of any new information that has become available since the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Project was published in January 2009.

The EA will be available for public review and comment in the *Federal Register* on March 8, 2010. The comment period for the EA closes on April 7, 2010.

"We are on track to bring together, by April, the information and analysis that will help Secretary Salazar make a final determination about the Cape Wind project," said MMS Director Liz Birnbaum. "This environmental assessment will help ensure that all the information is complete and up to date, and that the public has had a final opportunity for review and comment on any new information regarding environmental impacts."

The EA examines whether there are "substantial changes in the proposed action" or "significant new circumstances or information" that either were not fully discussed or did not exist at the time the Final EIS was prepared and that have bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.

In preparing the EA, the MMS researched and reviewed new information obtained from scientific/technical literature, government reports and actions, intergovernmental coordination and communications, required consultations, and comments made during comment periods offered after the Final EIS was circulated to determine if any assumptions, data or analysis related to resources should be reevaluated or if the new information would alter conclusions of the Final EIS. This includes new information in the MMS' January 13, 2010 MMS Documentation of Section 106 Finding of Adverse Effect (Revised) and the comments received during a comment period on this document, and issues raised by the Department of the Interior's Inspector General's report of January 2010. MMS' EA finds no new information that would necessitate a re-analysis of the range of alternatives or the kinds, levels or locations of the impacts by the Cape Wind project upon biological, physical, socioeconomic or cultural resources. The analyses, potential impacts, and conclusions detailed in the Final EIS remain applicable and unchanged. Therefore, MMS has determined that a supplemental EIS is not required and is issuing a draft finding of no new significant impact.

The proposed Cape Wind project would place 130 turbines over 25 square miles in Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts, and could supply up to 75 percent of the electricity for Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island.

The EA and the Final EIS documents are available on the [MMS web site](#).

Comments on the EA document should be mailed or hand carried to:

The Minerals Management Service  
Attention: James F. Bennett  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Envelopes or packages should be marked "Cape Wind Energy Project, Environmental Assessment." The MMS will also accept comments submitted [electronically](#). In the entry titled "Enter Keyword or ID," enter docket ID MMS-2010-OMM-0006 then click search. Under the tab "View by Docket Folder" the public can submit comments for this Notice

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