



**BOEM**

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

## BOEM Environmental Review Process

Public Scoping Meeting for the  
Virginia Department of Mines,  
Minerals and Energy – Virginia  
Offshore Wind Technology  
Advancement Project Offshore  
Virginia

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Office of Renewable Energy Programs

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# Initiating the Environmental Review Process

- Scoping:
  - Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in the *Federal Register*
  - 30 day comment period
  - Hold scoping meeting
- The NOI requests interested and affected parties to identify:
  - Issues and alternatives to be considered in the EA
  - Potential mitigation measures
  - Sources of information relevant to the analysis
- BOEM will also use the scoping process to identify and eliminate issues that are not significant or issues that have been analyzed by prior environmental reviews.

# Environmental Assessment

## Next Steps:

- Prepare EA with cooperating agencies and consider public input
  - Cooperating agencies are those with “jurisdiction by law or special expertise” per the Council on Environment Quality
- Publish EA for public review
  - Publish Notice of Availability (NOA) of EA in *Federal Register*
  - 30 day comment period
- BOEM will consider public comments on the EA to determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or conduct additional analysis under NEPA.
- BOEM will determine to approve, approve with modifications or disapprove the research activities plan.

# Potential Impact Producing Factors and Activities

- Construction
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Decommissioning
- Cable Placement
- Severe storms
- Vessel Collisions and allisions
- Spills of oil or other pollutants
- Lighting
- Bottom disturbance
- Space use conflicts

# Examples of Alternatives that May be Analyzed

- Geographic Alternatives
- Timing/Seasonal Restrictions
- No Action Alternatives

# Analysis of Physical and Biological Resources

- Physical Resources
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
- Biological Resources
  - Fish and essential fish habitat (EFH)
  - Marine mammals
  - Birds and bats
  - Sea turtles
  - Benthic resources
  - Coastal habitats

# Analysis of Socioeconomic Conditions

- Vessel Traffic
- Commercial and recreational fishing activities
- Cultural resources
- Recreational resources
- Demographic and employment
- Environmental justice
- Land use and coastal infrastructure
- Other uses of the area

# Analysis of Cumulative Impacts

- Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions:
  - Maritime traffic
  - Existing port and waterway usage
  - Onshore development
  - Other renewable energy activities
  - Other proposed projects (e.g. Virginia commercial lease)



## Environmental Consultations

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Government-to-Government Consultations
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

## How to Submit Public Comments

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry titled “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM-2014-0009, then click “search.” Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice;
- By U.S. Postal Service or other delivery service, send your comments and information to the following address:
  - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 381 Elden Street, HM 1328, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817
- Comments should be submitted no later than April 14, 2014.