



New York Environmental Assessment

Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment
Activities

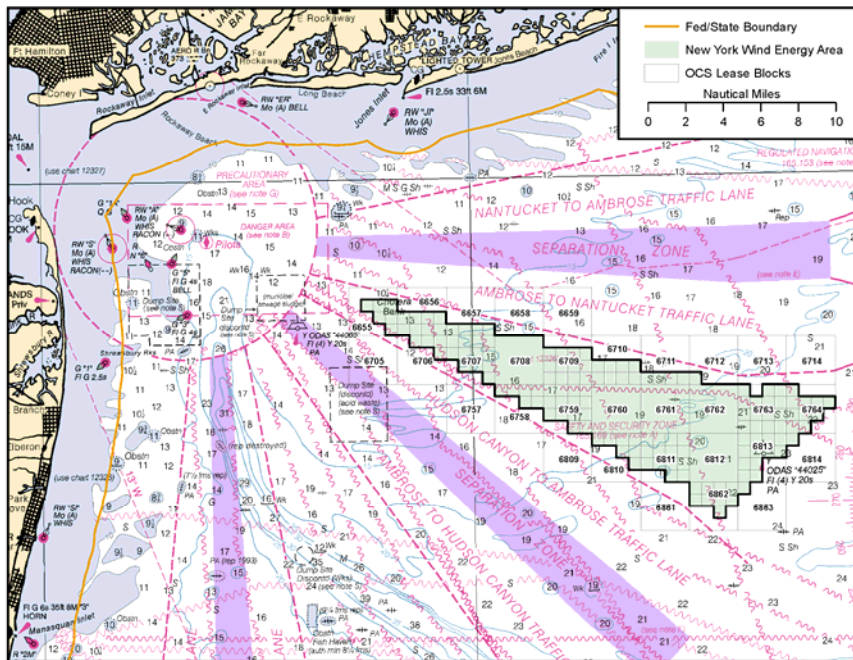
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Brian Krevor, Environmental Protection Specialist

Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

New York Environmental Assessment

- Notice of Availability published on June 6, 2016 (Docket No. BOEM-2016-0038)
- 30-day public comment period (ending July 6, 2016)





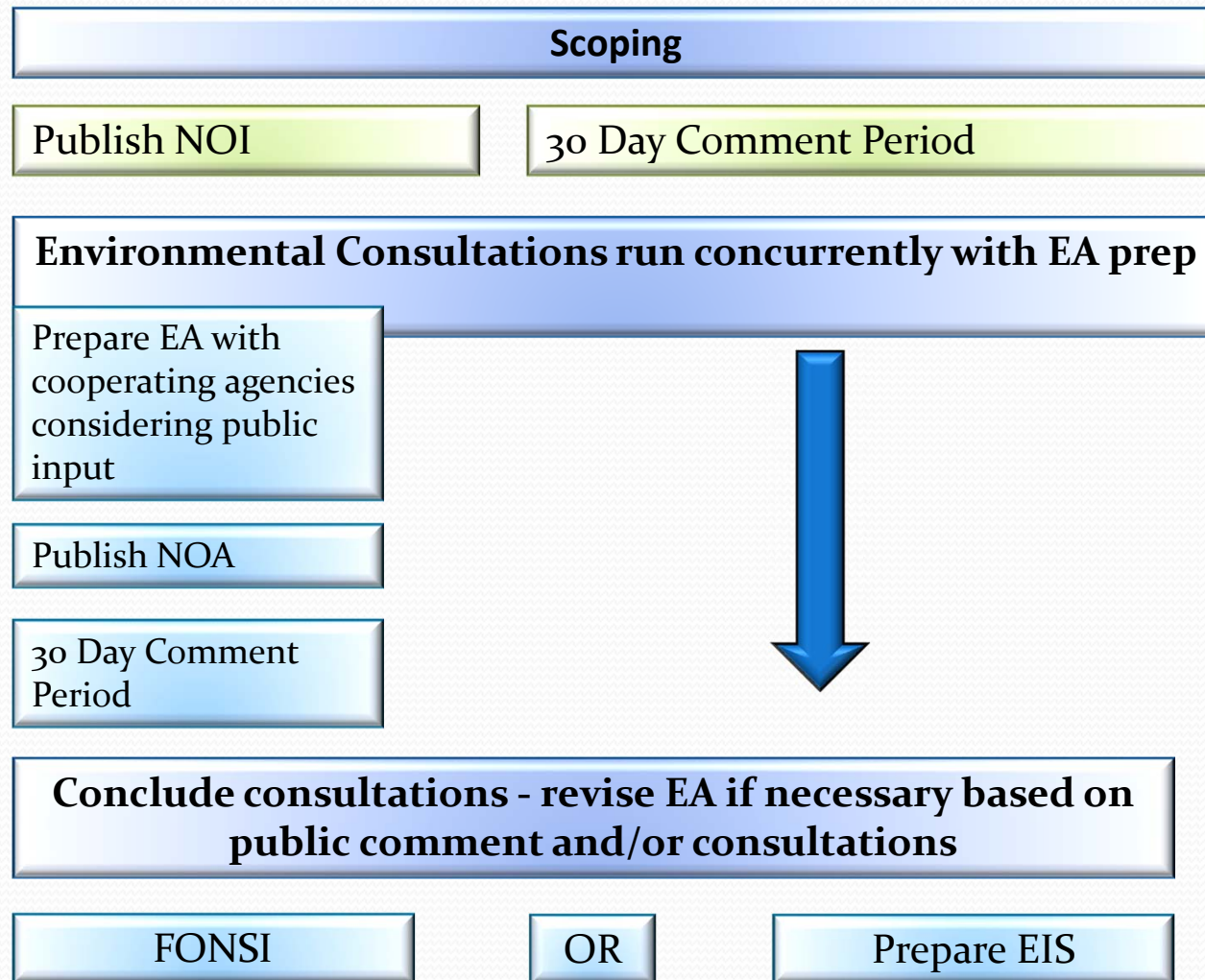
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA is a procedural law that requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action(s), and reasonable alternatives, prior to making decisions.

- **Major Actions/Decision Points**

- Lease Issuance (Survey Work)
- Plan Approval (Site Assessment, Construction and Operation, or General Activities)
- Decommissioning Activities

Overview: Standard NEPA Process





What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

- An EA is a concise public document which:
 - Briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
 - Aids an agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary (better alternatives and mitigation measures) and;
 - Facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

Proposed Action: What is considered

- Lease Issuance
- Associated site characterization surveys
- Subsequent site assessment activities



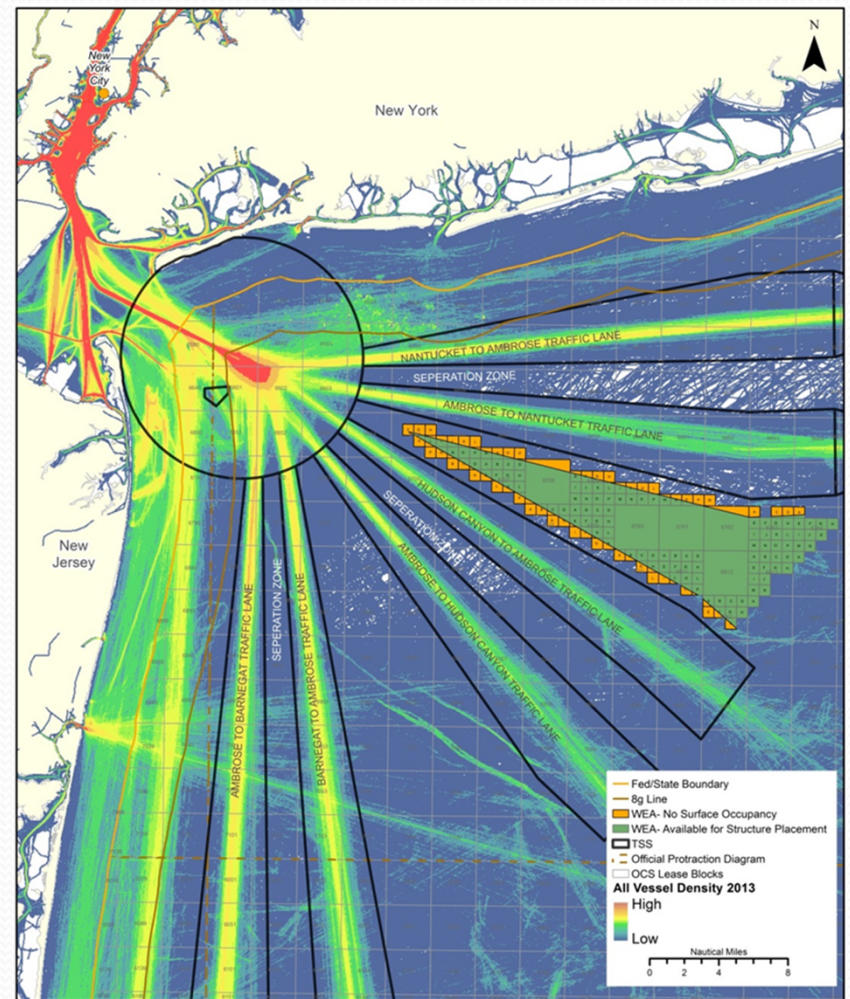


Proposed Action: What is NOT considered

- Installation, operation, and decommissioning of a commercial wind energy facility
- If an eventual lessee were to submit a construction and operations plan, BOEM would conduct a project specific environmental analysis that would likely take the form of an EIS

Other Alternatives

- Alternative B – Leasing of the Whole WEA, Restricting Site Assessment Structure Placement within 2 NM of a TSS
- Alternative C – No Action
- Others alternatives were considered but not analyzed in the EA as they did not meet the purpose and need and/or they were not reasonable. These are outlined in Section 2.4 of the EA



Impact Producing Factors

- Vessel Traffic
- Noise (Pile Driving, Surveys)
- Vessel Collisions/Allisions
- Bottom Disturbance
- Emissions and Discharges
- Lighting
- Visual and Aesthetic Interference





Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

- Physical
 - Air Quality
 - Water Quality
- Biological
 - Marine Mammals
 - Sea Turtles
 - Fish and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
 - Coastal Habitats
 - Benthic Resources
 - Avian and Bat Species
- Socioeconomic
 - Aesthetics and Visual Resources
 - Commercial and Recreational Fishing
 - Cultural Resources
 - Military Uses
 - Environmental Justice
 - Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
 - Tourism and Recreation
 - Demographics and Employment

Environmental Lease Stipulations



****Additional Construction or Operations Stipulations May Be Added As Terms and Conditions of Plan approval***



EA Findings

- For most resources, reasonably foreseeable impacts were negligible to minor.
- Potential moderate impacts identified for marine mammals and sea turtles
 - Only result from noise related to pile driving (i.e., meteorological tower construction)
 - SOCs developed to minimize or eliminate these potential impacts
- No reasonably foreseeable significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action

Consultations

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat (EFH))





Environmental Assessment: Next Steps

- 30-day comment period closes on July 6, 2016
- BOEM will review all comments received and either:
 - Revised the EA and/or;
 - Issues a Finding of No Significant Impact or;
 - Prepare an EIS



Contact Information

Brian Krevor, Environmental Protection Specialist

Brian.Krevor@boem.gov

703-787-1346



How to comment on the EA

In written form, deliver to:

Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road (VAM-OREP)
Sterling, Virginia 20166

Electronically:

<http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/Public-Engagement/Public-Engagement-Opportunities.aspx>

- Click on “Documents Open for Public Comment” and choose the “Open Comments Document” link. Please use the documents titled “Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.: Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New York”