



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

October 6, 2015

William Hoffman
Archaeologist
Bureau of Renewable Energy Program
45600 Woodland Road
Mail Stop VAM-OREP
Sterling, VA 20166

Re: BOEM New York Visual Simulations/Area Identification
Offshore Wind Project New York Call Area
Off the South Coast of Long Island
15PR05581

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

It is our understanding that BOEM has identified an area of potential future wind energy leasing offshore Long Island, New York as part of the Planning and Analysis phase of the Wind Energy Commercial Leasing Process. We appreciate the time that you and your team spent meeting with us at Peebles Island on 26 August 2015 to share with us the visibility study for this hypothetical wind energy project located on OCS offshore New York ("NY Call Area"). The view shed models were most helpful in providing us with an initial understanding of the potential visibility of the project from key areas of the surrounding landscape. In particular, the video simulations that took into account meteorological conditions and day vs. night views were very instructive. As BOEM is not currently considering the approval of a specific project within the NY Call Area, the SHPO cannot offer substantive comments at this time. However, we can provide some initial observations and thoughts for your consideration. The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to consult with you early on as part of the Section 106 process in considering the effects of the potential wind farm project on historic and archaeological properties.

Given the largely flat and open nature of the area surrounding the potential offshore wind farm project, careful consideration should be given to establishing the Area of Potential Effect so that key view sheds are taken into account. Underwater archaeological investigations for this project must be specialized as well. Remote sensing surveys (e.g., magnetometry, ultra-high resolution multibeam sonar bathymetry, and sub-bottom sonar surveys) by an experienced cultural resources firm will be necessary to determine if archaeological resources including submerged Native American sites as well as shipwrecks are potentially present at the wind turbines, substations, anchorages, cable runs, and staging areas.

If the project proceeds, we ask that BOEM and their cultural resources specialists meet with us in advance of initiating surveys so that questions concerning scope and methods can be resolved at the outset. For information on National Register listed properties and previously determined National Register eligible properties I invite you to explore our Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

<http://nysparks.com/shpo/online-tools/>. Click on the CRIS icon. You'll need to agree to the terms, then you can start by logging in as a guest or you can apply to NY.gov to get a designated ID for CRIS. By selecting "search" on the top green bar you can search for both locations and data for properties within the APE. Please note, that we are in the process of commencing a large-scale survey project using funds received through the National Park Service for Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief so the data available in CRIS on historic resources along the south shore of Long Island, Queens, Brooklyn, and the east shore of Staten Island will greatly improve over what is currently in CRIS.

While the potential visual effects on the numerous NR-listed and NR-eligible properties will need to be evaluated should this project move forward, at this time we want to call your attention to our National Register-listed Jones Beach State Park in Nassau County. The potential visual impacts appear to be the greatest at night with the blinking field of red lights. It is important to note that Jones Beach was listed under the national level of significance meaning that it is worthy of consideration as a possible National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. The boundaries of the NR listing extend approximately one mile from the southern shoreline of Jones Beach into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The nomination states that Jones Beach "unlike other public beaches on the coastal United States . . . was not a scenic area acquired for conservation and/or passive recreation" but, "an extensive naturalistic landscape and transportation system almost entirely created through human intervention specifically to provide active recreation for a massive urban population. As such, it is a landmark in the history of public recreation in the United States."

Thank you again for reaching out our agency at this early stage of the Wind Energy Commercial Leasing Process. Please note that we ask you to submit any future correspondence for this planning project by using the online CRIS system under project number 15PR05581.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Howe
Survey Coordinator

cc: Kathleen Martens, OPRHP
Ron Rausch, OPRHP