

Offshore Wind Energy Outlook for the Gulf of Mexico

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Abstract

The prospects for a commercial industry for local deployment of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Mexico will be explored. In addition, the prospects for existing Gulf of Mexico businesses and supply chains to capitalize on the emerging offshore wind industry in the United States will be discussed. The Gulf of Mexico has historically been the supplier of heavy equipment, vessels, infrastructure, and services to the oil and gas industry. The similarities to oil and gas may allow the both the supply of electricity to the Gulf States as well as immediate participation to supply goods and services to the emerging National offshore wind industry. The presentation will explore the offshore wind resources in the Gulf and describe both the unique GoM advantages and the challenges facing companies interesting in offshore wind. In particular, hurricane design issues, low wind conditions, gulf bathymetry, offshore wind cost and economic viability, and complimentary resource load matching will be covered.