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Background

- NEPA requires analyzing the potential environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives
- During the process of preparing an EIS, the public raises concerns about potential consequences
- Analyses must address these concerns through existing knowledge

Proposed Study

Literature Review: Environmental Risks, Fate and Effects of Chemicals Associated with Wind Turbines on the Atlantic OCS

Address concerns raised by the public about the potential environmental consequences of a catastrophic spill of chemicals from the turbines

Proposed Study

- Estimate 500-1,000 gallons of coolants, lubricants, and other mechanical fluids will be present in each offshore wind turbine.

- Need to analyze the impacts that releases of these chemicals, alone, or in combination, may have on the benthic habitats and marine life.

- A literature review of risks, fate and effects of chemicals associated with offshore wind turbines based on European experience.

Other Concurrent Efforts

- Wind facilities will have one or more electrical service platforms
- Will have 42,000 gallons of transformer fluid
- Study funded through Technical Assessment and Research Program to evaluate this type of spill

Proposed Study

Microclimate Formation within Wind Turbine Arrays on the Atlantic OCS

Address concerns raised by the public about the formation of a microclimate within a wind turbine facility and the consequences to the environment

Proposed Study

- Commercial wind facilities could have 100 turbines or more in a relatively small area of the OCS.
- The installation of these turbines could result in localized changes in the microclimate of the area, potentially resulting in fog or “sea smoke.”
- A desk top study is proposed to evaluate the microclimate that could be created by wind turbines.