



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001
JUL 18 2017

Mr. Thomas Brostrøm
Ocean Wind LLC
One International Place
100 Oliver Street, Suite 1400
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Mr. Brostrøm:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has received Ocean Wind LLC's (Ocean Wind) February 14, 2017, letter requesting a departure from the requirement in 30 CFR 585.600(a) to file a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) describing site assessment activities proposed in lease area OCS-A 0498 offshore New Jersey. BOEM has determined that granting such a departure in this instance is not necessary to facilitate activities on the lease; therefore, BOEM is denying Ocean Wind's request.

BOEM reviewed Ocean Wind's proposal and does not believe that the alternative process identified in the letter would increase efficiencies or otherwise facilitate the initiation of site assessment activities on the lease at the present time. Implementing your departure request would likely result in a procedure requiring SAP-level data and the submission of project details to BOEM for review and coordination with other Federal agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service. In light of the data and information needs required under the existing Endangered Species Act consultation, we believe at this time that utilizing the existing regulatory process is the most efficient and responsible means of facilitating site assessment activities on the lease.

While BOEM is not granting a departure, we will make every effort to complete our SAP approval decision within 90 calendar days of receiving a complete SAP.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David MacDuffee at 703-787-1576 or david.macduffee@boem.gov.

Sincerely,

James F. Bennett
Program Manager
Office of Renewable Energy Programs