

BOEM Funds IDIQ to Support Tribal Reviews

Aiding in participation of Offshore Wind Activities

Overview

In response to requests from Tribal governments to strengthen capacity for review of offshore wind-related documents, the Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) has issued an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to three Indian Small Business Economic Enterprises to facilitate Tribes' review of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) environmental documents.

The contract will support Tribal review of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), other environmental documents, and Construction and Operations Plans (COP) associated with offshore wind development.

A contractor will reach out to Tribes using the contract at key review points to discuss their interests and potential concerns. The contractor will review project and environmental documents with those interests and concerns in mind. After that review, the contractor will discuss the contents of the documents with each Tribe and assist in the preparation of the Tribe's comment letters.

The IDIQ supports reviews of the following efforts for leases or projects:

1. Lease Planning
2. Draft NEPA document reviews
3. Section 106 of NHPA document reviews
4. COP reviews



Lease Planning

The task orders could support Tribal engagement in the lease planning process. This might address lease planning for the Gulf of Maine, the Central Atlantic, or other areas. Techniques for engagement might include participatory GIS where a map is shared for discussion of important geographic areas.

NEPA Review

The task orders could support Tribal review of draft NEPA documents such as environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and programmatic environmental impact statements. These tasks could focus on individual projects or on programmatic reviews and might involve multiple Tribes. The reviews might also cover documents prepared under the Endangered Species Act or other environmental laws.

Section 106 of the NHPA

The task orders could support tribal review of programmatic agreements or other documents prepared under Section 106 of the NHPA. This might include, for example, review and comment on draft and final findings of effects, memorandums of agreement (MOAs), or Section 106 related-reports and documents associated with COP-specific Section 106 consultations. The contractor would reach out to the Tribes engaged with the consultation process to identify their concerns with programmatic agreements and review the documents with those concerns in mind. The contractor would prepare comments on the document specific to each Tribe's interests and potential concerns for the Tribes to review and, as the Tribes may wish, to submit to BOEM.

COP Review

Lessees develop Construction and Operations Plans under 30 CFR 585, detailing their plan to build and operate offshore wind projects. Task orders could support Tribal review of these COPs, which might also include documents prepared under the Endangered Species Act or other environmental laws, including essential fish habitat assessments.

American Indian Consulting Services Chloeta Snow Eagle Group

