

# **Overview of Environmental Analysis and Review Process for the Hawaii Call for Information and Nominations**

**BOEM/Hawaii Intergovernmental  
Renewable Energy Task Force**

May 16, 2016



- ***Notice of Intent*** to prepare an Environmental Assessment
- Begins formal NEPA environmental review process
- NOI published in the *Federal Register*
- Informs the public and solicits input on:
  - Important resources, issues, and data gaps
  - Alternatives
  - Cooperating agency involvement
- Published concurrently with the Call



An EA is a concise public document that:

- Provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether the proposed action could result in significant impacts to the environment
- Includes mitigation measures as necessary to reduce impacts below the level of significance
- Enhances agency planning and decision-making for the evaluation of environmentally superior alternatives and mitigation measures
- Must result in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- If significant impacts identified, requires preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



## What will be considered:

- Lease issuance of offered Wind Energy Areas (WEA)
- Approval of Site Assessment Plans (SAP)
- Limited to effects of lease issuance resulting from:
  - Site characterization (i.e., surveys of the lease areas and potential cable routes)
  - Site assessment (installation and operation of meteorological buoys)
- Lease provides up to a 5-year period to collect site-specific data to determine site suitability and develop the COP



- BOEM will develop a scenario consisting of routine and non-routine activities expected as a result of commercial wind lease issuance in the WEA
- Routine activities will include:
  - Site characterization surveys (shallow hazards, geological & geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological, biological)
  - Site assessment activities (installation of meteorological buoys)
- Non-routine activities will include:
  - Severe storms
  - Vessel collisions and allisions
  - Spills of oil or other pollutants



- Installation, operation, and decommissioning of a commercial wind energy facility
- ***A separate project-specific NEPA analysis will be required for the construction and operation of any wind energy facility!***



Hazard information	Meteorology, oceanography, sediment transport, geology, and shallow geological or manmade hazards
Water quality	Turbidity and total suspended solids from construction
Biological resources	Benthic communities, marine mammals, sea turtles, coastal and marine birds, fish and shellfish, plankton, seagrasses, and plant life
Threatened or endangered species	As defined by the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 <i>et seq.</i> )
Sensitive biological resources or habitats	Essential fish habitat, refuges, preserves, special management areas identified in coastal management programs, sanctuaries, rookeries, hard bottom habitat, chemosynthetic communities, and calving grounds; barrier islands, beaches, dunes, and wetlands
Archaeological resources	As required by the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 <i>et seq.</i> ), as amended
Social and economic factors	Employment, existing offshore and coastal infrastructure (including major sources of supplies, services, energy, and water), land use, subsistence resources and harvest practices, recreation, recreational and commercial fishing (including typical fishing seasons, location, and type), minority and lower income groups, coastal zone management programs, and viewshed
Coastal and marine uses	Military activities, vessel traffic, and energy and non-energy mineral exploration or development



National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Endangered Species Act (ESA)



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
(Essential Fish Habitat (EFH))

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)





- 45-day Public Comment Period proposed  
Comments accepted electronically and in written form
- Public Scoping Meetings  
Scheduled during 45 day public comment period
- Draft EA Public Comment and Review
- Draft EA Public Hearings
- Continued Public Outreach and Talk Story Opportunities



**Mahalo!**

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