



Vineyard Wind

Construction & Operations Plan Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

Brian Krevor

Environmental Coordinator

Poster Stations



BOEM Leasing and
Environmental Review Process



Fisheries



Marine Mammals



Sea Turtles



Underwater Noise



Avian



Historic Preservation



How to Comment

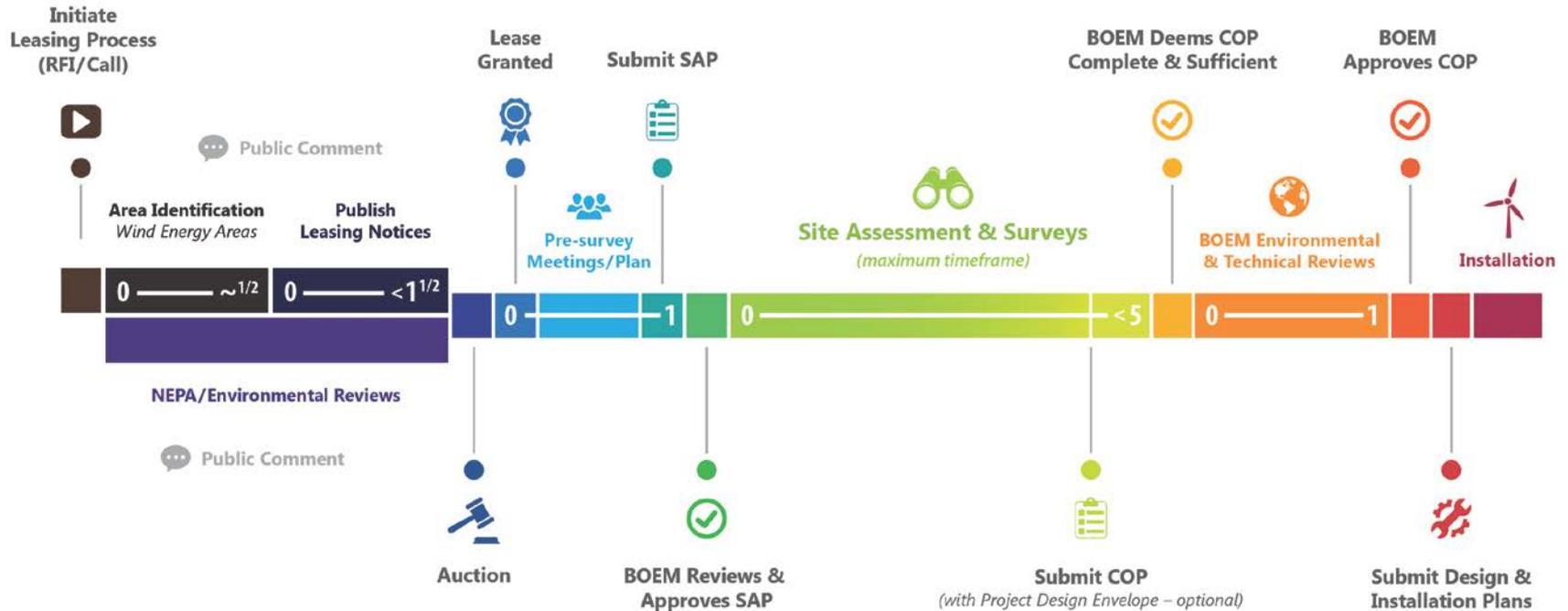


Court Reporter

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Leasing and Development Process



Stakeholder Outreach in Massachusetts

▶ **13 Task Force Meetings**

- First meeting November 2009

▶ **20 Public Meetings**

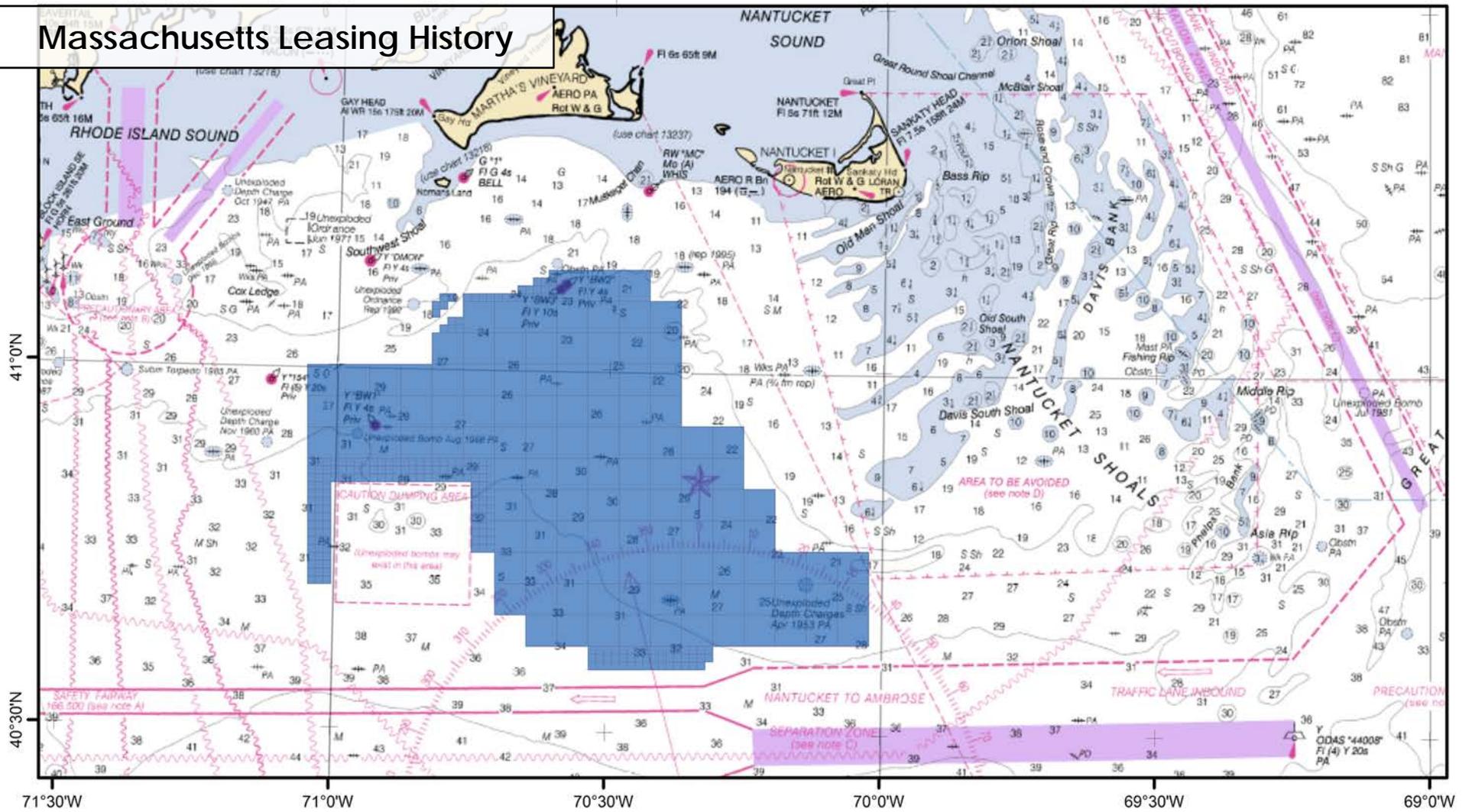
- Informational, Environmental Assessment meetings

▶ Engagement with Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group and Habitat Working Group

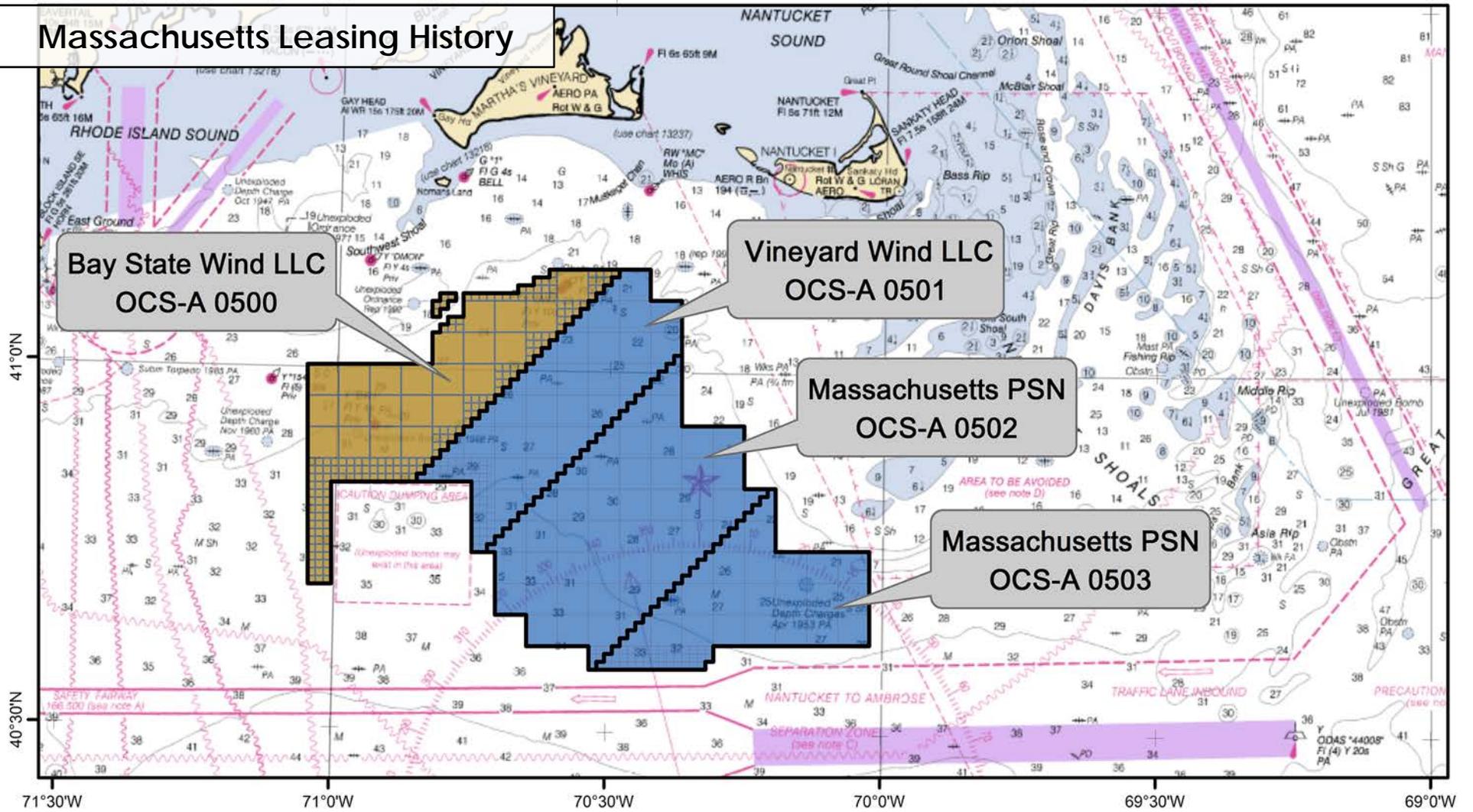
▶ Upcoming Task Force meeting: **April 24, 2018**



Massachusetts Leasing History



Massachusetts Leasing History



Bay State Wind LLC
OCS-A 0500

Vineyard Wind LLC
OCS-A 0501

Massachusetts PSN
OCS-A 0502

Massachusetts PSN
OCS-A 0503

Vineyard Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP)

- ▶ Vineyard Wind submitted their COP on **December 20, 2017**
- ▶ COP is currently undergoing a completeness and sufficiency review
- ▶ BOEM can disapprove, approve, or approve with conditions
 - Will happen after environmental impact statement (EIS) is complete and will be documented by the Record of Decision (ROD)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA is a procedural law requiring Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action(s), and reasonable alternatives, prior to making decisions.

► Major Actions/Decision Points

- Lease Issuance (Survey Work)
- Plan Approval (Site Assessment, Construction & Operation, or General Activities)
- Decommissioning Activities

Environmental Review and Approval Process for COP

~2 YEARS OR LONGER

COP Submittal

- Completeness and sufficiency review

Public Scoping

- Publish Notice of Intent in *Federal Register*
- 30-day public comment period
- Hold public meetings
- Receive input on issues and alternatives

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Prepare with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*
- 45-day public comment period
- Hold public hearings

Final Environmental Impact Statement

- Address public comments with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*

Record of Decision

- “One Federal Decision”
- Minimum 30-day wait period

12 MONTHS

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- ▶ Published in *Federal Register*
March 30, 2018
(www.boem.gov/83-FR-13777)
- ▶ Kicks off the EIS process
- ▶ 30-day public comment period

Identifies:

- Significant issues to be analyzed in EIS
- Issues that will not be significant or have been adequately covered in prior environmental review and can be eliminated from detailed review
- Gaps in data and information needs
- Reasonable alternatives

Public Comment on NOI

- ▶ Very important element of NEPA
- ▶ Local expertise and perspective help guide environmental analysis and results in more informed decisions
- ▶ Types of information BOEM is looking for:
 - Significant issues to address | Mitigation measures | Alternatives
- ▶ Comments due **April 30, 2018**

Scoping Meetings

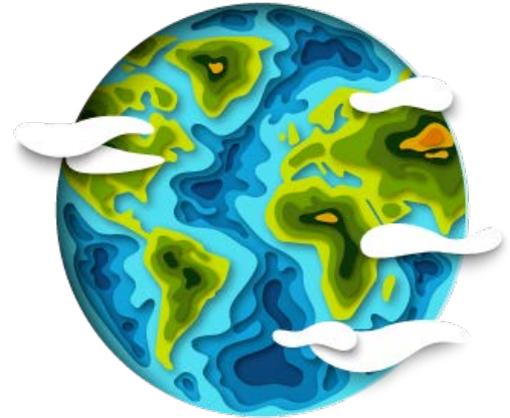
Five public scoping meetings:

- April 16 – New Bedford, MA
- April 17 – Martha's Vineyard, MA
- April 18 (a.m.) – Nantucket, MA
- April 18 (p.m.) – Hyannis, MA
- April 19 – Kingston, RI



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- ▶ Must be prepared if agency is proposing **major federal action** significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
- ▶ Public scoping required
- ▶ Draft EIS required with 45 day public comment period



What's in an EIS?

▶ **Proposed Action**

- Action being analyzed (*e.g., construction & operation of an offshore wind energy facility*)

▶ **Alternatives**

- At a minimum, proposed action and no action alternative

▶ **Cumulative Effects**

- Incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions
- Can result in individually minor but collectively significant actions

Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Fish and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Coastal Habitats
- Benthic Resources
- Avian and Bat Species



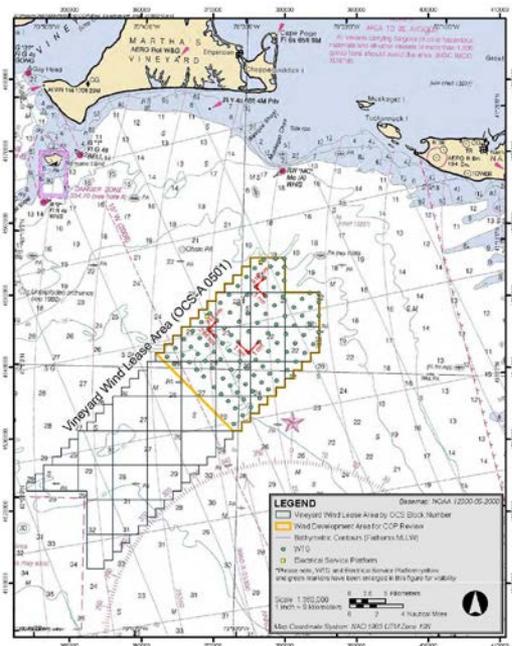
Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

Socioeconomic

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Military Uses
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Tourism and Recreation
- Demographics and Employment

Environmental Review of COP



- ▶ Design Envelope
 - Maximum impacting parameters for each resource
- ▶ Reasonable scenario for cumulative impacts
- ▶ Review to run concurrent with consultations

Consultations

- ▶ Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- ▶ Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- ▶ Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- ▶ Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat [EFH])



Executive Order (EO) 13807 and Secretarial Order (SO) 3355

- ▶ **Executive Order 13807:** *Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure*
 - Complete all Federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects within 2 years of NOI
 - “One Federal Decision”
- ▶ **Secretarial Order 3355:** *Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807*
 - One year EIS (from NOI to NOA of Final EIS)
 - EIS page limits – 150 pages/300 pages for unusually complex projects (excl. appendices)

EIS Schedule



Fall 2018

Publish Draft EIS – (45 day public comment period)

Spring 2019

Publish Final EIS

Spring 2020

Conclude consultations and publish Record of Decision

Environmental Studies Program

- ▶ Extensive environmental studies program
- ▶ Funds and manages scientific research to inform decision-making processes and fill data gaps
- ▶ **Snapshot of relevant studies:**
 - Spatial and Temporal Distributions of Lobsters and Crabs in the Rhode Island/Massachusetts Wind Energy Area – Led by University of Rhode Island (www.boem.gov/Spatial-and-Temporal-Distributions)
 - EMF Impacts on Elasmobranch (sharks, rays and skates) and American Lobster Movement and Migration – Led by University of Rhode Island (*Report anticipated 2018*)

Environmental Studies Program

► Snapshot of relevant studies, cont'd:

- Real-time Opportunity for Development Environmental Observations (RODEO) (www.boem.gov/RODEO)
- Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Values and Implication for Recreation and Tourism (www.boem.gov/espis/5/5662.pdf)

► Visit our website:

www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Environmental-Studies





How to Comment

► At this meeting!

- Comment card
- Speak directly to court reporter

► In writing:

Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Renewable Energy Programs
45600 Woodland Road (VAM-OREP)
Sterling, VA 20166

► Online at *www.regulations.gov*

Enter **BOEM-2018-0015**;
click "search." Use the
"Comment Now!" button on
the right side of the screen

Questions?

For more information on the Vineyard Wind project, visit:

www.boem.gov/Vineyard-Wind

Brian Krevor

Environmental Coordinator

Brian.Krevor@boem.gov

703-787-1346