



## Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Regional Office  
**Oregon Wind Lease Issuance Draft Environmental Assessment Public Meeting**

*Wednesday, June 5, 2024*

*4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PT*

## I. Introduction

As part of the public comment process, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hosted two virtual public meetings to present the Oregon Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA or “Draft”) and gather public input on the content of the Draft. This summary covers the second of the two meetings (the first took place on May 21, 2024).

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. 24 participants attended. Government participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, Tribes, and local governments. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), commercial fishing, and the media. The meeting began at 4 p.m. and ended at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The meeting agenda, list of public attendees, and recordings of the meeting proceedings along with each individual meeting presentation are available at [www.boem.gov/oregonea](http://www.boem.gov/oregonea) under the “Environmental Assessment” tab.

### Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Oregon Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA Process.
- Provide information on how to submit comments related to the Draft EA.
- Provide an opportunity for verbal public comment on the content of the Oregon Draft EA.

This document summarizes key outcomes and the next steps from the meeting. It focuses on public comment input received, rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West (K&W) facilitated the meeting.

The document organization follows the meeting agenda:

- I. Introduction
- II. Discussion Highlights
  - a. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
  - b. Opening Remarks

- c. Wind Energy Leasing Authorization Process
  - d. Overview of Draft EA
  - e. Clarifying Questions on the Draft EA Process
  - f. Opportunity for Public Comments
  - g. Closing Remarks
- III. Appendices
- a. Agenda
  - b. Attendee List

## II. Discussion Highlights

### a. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Jamie Damon, K&W facilitator, welcomed public attendees to the meeting. She shared webinar instructions for attendees, reviewed participation ground rules and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

### b. Opening Remarks

Lisa Gilbane, BOEM, Chief of Pacific Environmental Analysis Section, gave opening remarks and welcomed attendees. She presented an overview of BOEM’s mission and authority, including its regulatory authority to issue leases for offshore wind (OSW). She highlighted that the purpose of this meeting is to learn more about and comment on the draft EA.

### c. Wind Energy Leasing Authorization Process

Jean Thurston-Keller, BOEM, Renewable Energy Specialist and Oregon Task Force Coordinator, provided an overview of the BOEM wind energy leasing authorization process. She shared more details about the main phases of the process, including planning and analysis, leasing, site assessment, and construction and operations. She discussed how BOEM consults with state, local, and Tribal governments throughout the process. She then provided background on the renewable energy process, including a call for information and nominations (call), wind energy areas (WEAs), and lease areas. Jean shared a history of BOEM’s involvement in OSW in Oregon. She provided an overview of the final WEAs and lease areas offshore Oregon and displayed a map of these areas. She noted that the next step in BOEM’s process is to review comments received on the Proposed Sale Notice and Draft EA, and finalize the EA. The Consistency Determination process by the State of Oregon will be completed through the Coastal Zone Management Act.

### d. Overview of Draft EA

Linette Makua, BOEM, NEPA Coordinator, shared a background of NEPA, the proposed action, and an overview of the draft EA, and next steps related to the EA. She reminded attendees that BOEM is not currently looking at the development or construction of specific OSW projects, but rather the potential impacts of leasing activities such as site assessment and characterization. Linette shared

an overview of how NEPA guides BOEM as it considers potential impacts, including environmental, social, economic, natural resources, and historic preservation factors.

Linette then provided more information about the proposed actions in the draft EA, including issuance of commercial wind energy lease(s) and site characterization and assessment activities. She discussed cable route corridors and highlighted that BOEM does not currently know the locations of cable corridors because no project has been proposed yet. She then shared an overview of public comments from the scoping process.

She shared more details about each resource assessment in the draft EA, including the affected environment, potential impacts, and estimated level of impact. Specifically, she discussed cultural resources, commercial fishing, and marine and coastal habitat and associated biotic assemblages.

Finally, Linette discussed the next steps in the NEPA process, including finalizing the EA in the summer of 2024.

#### e. Clarifying Questions on the Draft EA Process

Jamie Damon, K&W, facilitated a question-and-answer session during which BOEM staff answered questions from attendees. Key themes among the questions include:

- NEPA Process: Several questions focus on understanding the NEPA process, including the difference between an EA and an environmental impact statement (EIS), and why BOEM is preparing an EA rather than an EIS for this proposed action of leasing. Additionally, an attendee asked how the data collected during the site assessment and characterization phase is used in a later stage of the NEPA process.
- Data Availability: Attendees asked questions to understand the accessibility of data, including public availability of site assessment data and whether analysis undergoes independent peer review processes.
- Tribal Consultation: An attendee asked for clarification on why a cooperating Tribe from California is participating in the draft EA, while no Oregon Tribes are involved. Attendees also questioned if Tribes are being consulted in this process.
- Published Draft EA: An attendee asked about the scope of the EA and what information BOEM used to inform the published draft EA. Another attendee requested BOEM to define “reasonable and foreseeable actions” in the context of site assessment and characterization activities.
- Equipment oversight: Some questions focused on the use of site assessment and characterization equipment, such as buoys, and whether this equipment is decommissioned following the assessment phase or remains onsite for monitoring purposes. Additionally, there were questions about federal agencies’ oversight and decommissioning responsibilities concerning equipment.
- Studies: Other questions focused on understanding the role of site assessment activities and how they inform future studies in understanding impacts from development. Additionally, attendees sought more information about the parameters for determining existing or future studies to understand ecosystem and socio-economic impacts.

**f. Opportunity for Public Comment**

Jamie Damon, K&W, transitioned the meeting to the public comment opportunity. She reminded attendees that the court reporter present would capture their comments verbatim and submit them to BOEM for posting to regulations.gov, Docket BOEM-2023-0065. She highlighted the types of information BOEM is looking for, including potentially significant issues to be analyzed in the EA, sources of information to be included in the EA, and potential data gaps and information needs. She also noted that BOEM extended the public comment period until June 14, 2024, 8:59 PM PT, in response to several stakeholder requests. No verbal public comments were provided at this time.

**g. Closing Remarks**

Lisa Gilbane, BOEM, thanked attendees for their time and questions on the draft EA.

### III. Appendices

a. Agenda

## BOEM Oregon Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting Agenda

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PT

### Registration Information

Register at by visiting [this registration page](#).

Upon registering, a confirmation email will be sent with the webinar link and audio line for the virtual meeting. Meeting materials, a detailed agenda, and registration information are available at [boem.gov/oregonea](http://boem.gov/oregonea).

### Meeting Objectives

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- Answer questions related to the Draft EA Process.
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### Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
4:00 – 4:10 p.m.	<b>Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review</b>	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator
4:10 – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
4:15 – 4:25 p.m.	<b>Wind Energy Leasing Authorization Process</b>	Jean Thurston-Keller, BOEM
4:25 – 4:45 p.m.	<b>Overview of Draft EA</b>	Linette Makua, BOEM
4:45 – 5:20 p.m.	<b>Clarifying Questions on the Draft EA Process</b>  <i>Please use the Q&amp;A Box to submit questions relating to the Draft EA Process</i>	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator

Summary – June 5, 2024, BOEM Oregon Draft Environmental Assessment Webinar

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>5:20 – 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	N/A
<b>5:30 – 6:55 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p><i>Please use the “raise hand” icon to enter the queue to provide verbal public comment on the EA.</i></p> <p>To provide written comment on the draft EA, please go to regulations.gov, docket number BOEM-2023-0065. BOEM will accept comments through 8:59 PT/11:59 pm ET on June 14, 2024.</p>	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator
<b>6:55 – 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn Meeting</b>	N/A

To provide written comment on the draft EA, please go to regulations.gov, docket number BOEM-2023-0065. BOEM will accept comments through 8:59 PT/11:59 pm ET on June 14, 2024.

You may also submit written comments by mail. Enclose your comment in an envelope labeled, “Oregon Draft EA” addressed to “Environmental Analysis Section Manager, Office of Environment, Pacific Regional Office, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 760 Paseo Camarillo, Ste. 102, Camarillo, California 93010.” Comments must be postmarked no later than June 14, 2024.

**b. Attendee List**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Brenda	Ling	Government Agency
Jean-Paul	Wallis	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Melissa	Cribbins	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Michael	Karnosh	Tribal Government/Member
Kathryn	Duvall	Government Agency
Glenn	James	Academia
Casey	Heiskell	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Chloe	Vizsla	Other
Karie	Silva	Commercial Fishing

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Kate	Sullivan	Academia
Mike	Okoniewski	Commercial Fishing
Yelena	Nowak	Commercial Fishing
Cynthia	Hovind	General Public
Jenny	Vick	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Dale	Beasley	Commercial Fishing
Kate	Briegel	Other
Jerry	Howard	Press/Media
Sheri	Olney-Ray	Tribal Government/Member
Eliza	Carter	Government Agency
Chiharu	Mori	Government Agency
Ronald	Benner	General Public
Jena	Carter	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Jeff	Burright	Government Agency
Nancy	Kirshner-Rodriguez	Non-governmental organization or labor organization