



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Additional Site Assessment Activities on Beacon Wind, LLC's Renewable Energy Lease OCS-A 0520

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/beacon-wind>

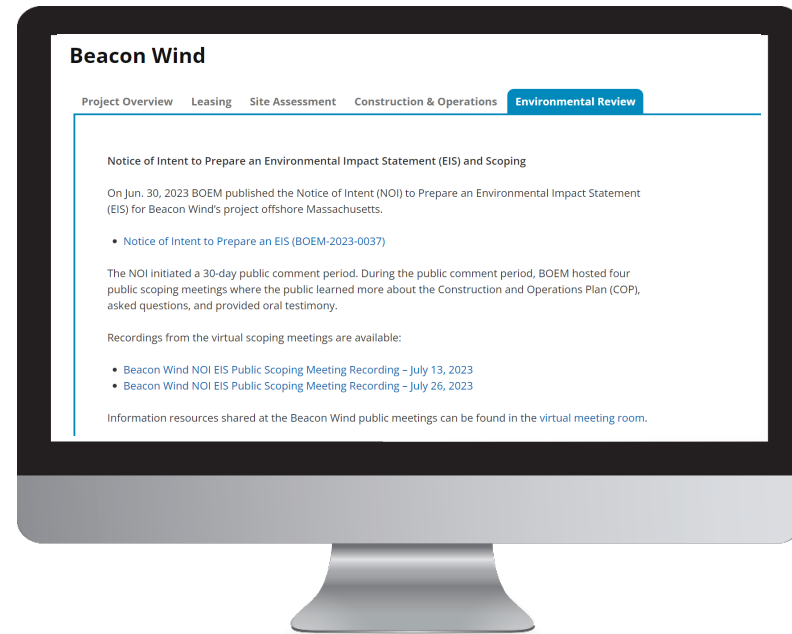
Draft Environmental Assessment Public Meeting
February 23, and February 28, 2024

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Agenda
- Opening Remarks
- Meeting Logistics
- Overview of Environmental Assessment
- Break
- Public Comments
- Break
- Question & Answer Session
- Closing Remarks

Note: *This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on BOEM's website here:*

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/beacon-wind>.





BOEM Opening Remarks

Jessica Stromberg, Chief

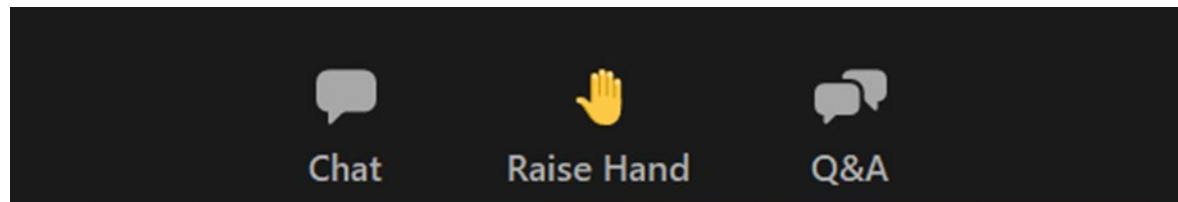
Environmental Branch for Renewable Energy

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Meeting Logistics

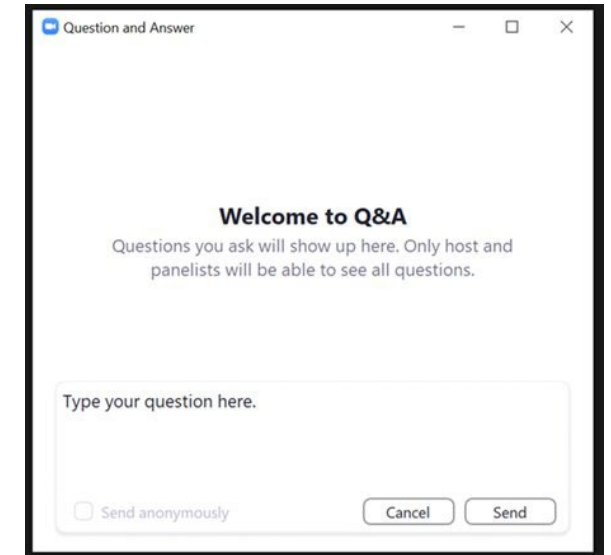
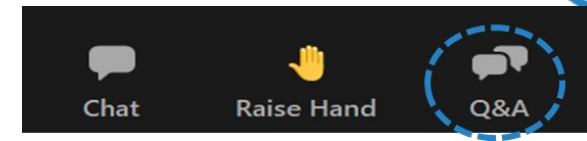
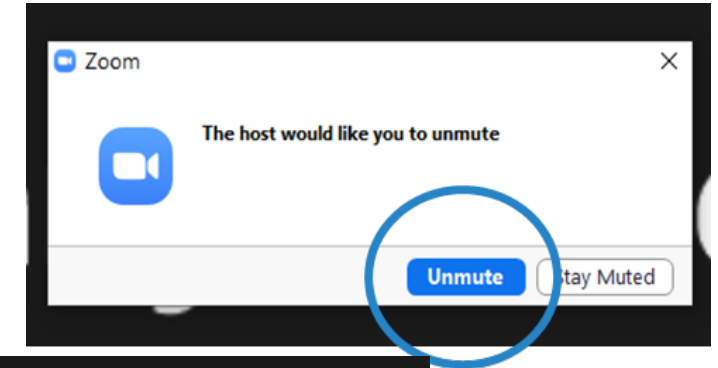
Zoom Platform

- If you need help with the Zoom platform:
 - Use the chat feature at the bottom of the screen
- To call in to meeting
 - Phone number: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)
 - Meeting ID: 871 6811 3697
 - Password: 379 477
- Please close all apps and programs and limit other streaming or downloads
- All participants are on mute until the formal comment period



Comments and Questions

- **Public comment period will follow the presentation**
 - People who pre-registered to comment will go first
 - If you did not pre-register but would like to comment, you can ‘raise your hand’ to be called on
- **Question and Answer session**
 - If you have a question for BOEM, type it in the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen
 - Questions can be typed in the Q&A feature throughout the presentation and listening session
 - Following receipt of public comments, BOEM will respond to any questions that came in through the Q&A box
- **This meeting is being recorded and will be transcribed**
- **Media representatives, please contact Lissa Eng**
 - lissa.eng@boem.gov





Background and Overview

Laura Lee Wolfson

NEPA Coordinator

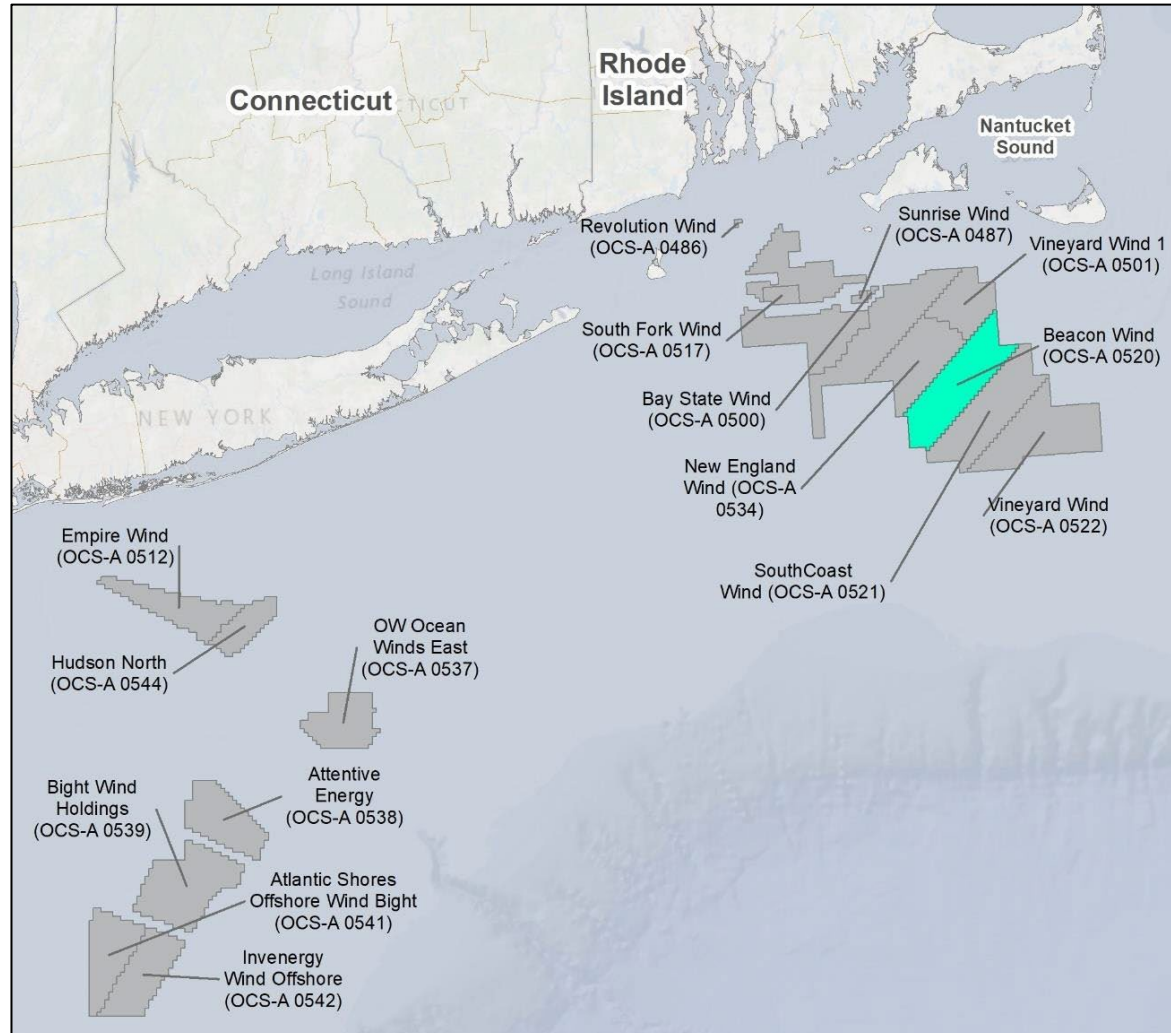
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Purpose and Need

- On December 8, 2020, Beacon Wind submitted a site assessment plan (SAP) to install and operate one floating light detection and ranging buoy, two current meter moorings, and two meteorological and oceanographic (metocean) buoys in Lease Area OCS–A 0520. Beacon Wind updated this SAP on June 28, 2021, and BOEM approved it on September 24, 2021.
 - On June 3, 2014, BOEM issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on a comprehensive revised Environmental Assessment titled “Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Massachusetts (2014 EA).” The 2014 EA included analysis of leasing and site assessment impacts in Lease Area OCS–A 0520.
- On March 2, 2023, Beacon Wind submitted a SAP Amendment to conduct additional site assessment activities in the Lease Area, which would consist of foundation testing.
 - The suction bucket technique was not included in the analyzed site assessment activities in the 2014 EA.
- This **NEW** EA considers the reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences associated with the deployment and recovery of suction bucket foundations to further assess the site conditions and gather information to support the engineering design of wind turbine and offshore substation foundations that would potentially be installed within the Lease Area for the proposed Beacon Wind project.



Beacon Wind Lease Area OCS-A 0520 Location Map





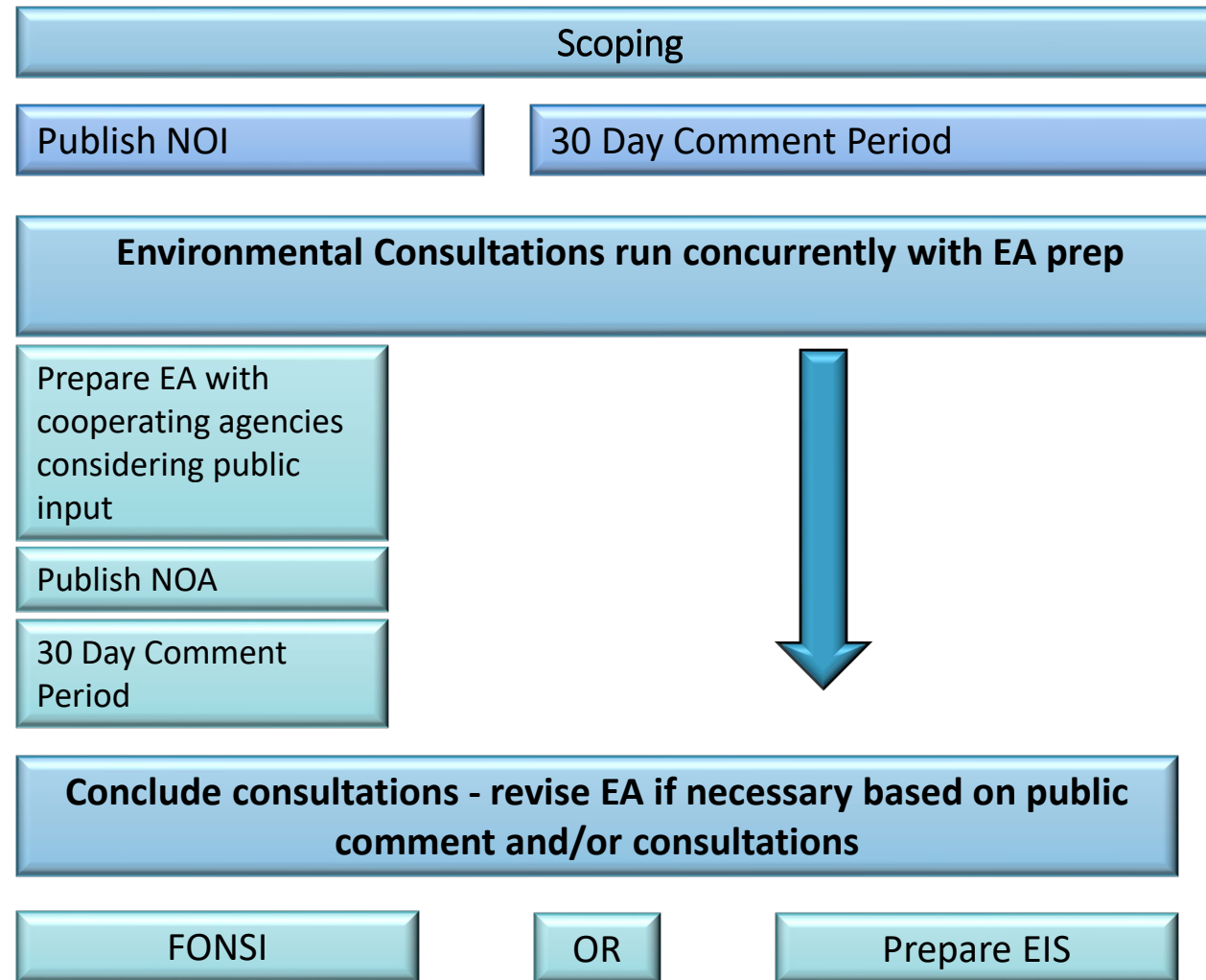
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 “NEPA”

- Required that an environmental analysis be prepared for major federal actions.
- Analysis looks at potential impacts to the human and natural environment.
- Coordination with Tribal Nations, Federal and State Resource Agencies, Environmental Groups and the Public.

- **An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a concise public document which:**
 - Briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
 - Aids an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary (better alternatives and mitigation measures) and;
 - Facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.



Overview of NEPA Process for an Environmental Assessment



Activities Analyzed in the Draft EA

Site Assessment Activities

Foundation Testing (suction bucket)



Non-Routine Activities

Severe storms, allisions and collisions, spills, and recovery of lost survey equipment



Classification Scheme for Potential Impacts



Impact Producing Factors (IPFs) Associated with the Proposed Action

- Noise
- Air Emissions
- Lighting
- Vessel Traffic
- Routine Vessel Discharges
- Bottom Disturbance

Standard Operating Conditions (SOCs)

- Ensures the site characterization and are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner
- Lessees required to comply through lease stipulations and/or conditions of site assessment plan

Resource Areas



Resources anticipated to have **Negligible** impacts and eliminated from detailed analysis in the EA

- Bats
- Geology
- Birds
- Coastal Habitats
- Demographics and Employment
- Environmental Justice
- Military Use Areas
- Navigation and Vessel Traffic
- Physical Oceanography
- Recreation and Visual Resources
- Water Quality



Resources analyzed in detail the EA

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (in Appendix A & B)
- Benthic Resources
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Sea Turtles
- Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources (in Appendix B)
- Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat
- Marine Mammals



Alternative A – No Action

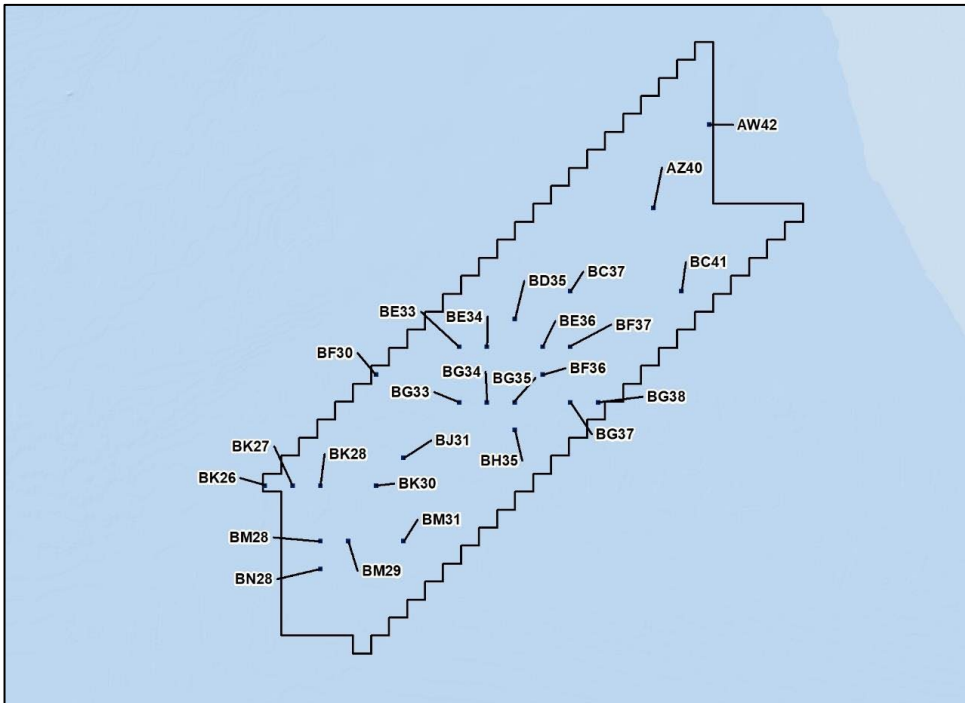
Alternative A is the No Action Alternative, which would not include the proposed suction bucket testing, but would include other ongoing activities and future planned actions. Alternative A would result in the continued approved site assessment activities in the Lease Area as described in the Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic OCS Offshore NY, Revised EA (BOEM 2016) and as Alternative A Proposed Action in the 2014 EA, but no additional site assessment activities as described in the SAP Amendment would occur.

Alternative B – Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to approve additional site assessment activities as described in the SAP Amendment. Under the Proposed Action, BOEM would approve the additional site assessment activities for Foundation Testing that will occur within the Lease Area.

Proposed Action

The proposed site assessment activities consist of up to 35 deployments and removals of a single steel suction bucket foundation at up to 26 locations within the Lease Area.



- Each test site would be a 984 by 984-foot area centered on a proposed location for wind turbine generator installation in the Lease Area.
- The suction bucket would be 36 to 39 feet in height with a diameter of 30 to 39 feet and a thickness of 2 to 2.8 inches



Potential Environmental Consequences

Resource	Impact Determination: Alternative B (Proposed Action)	
	Foundation Testing Activities	Non-Routine Events
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Negligible	Negligible
Benthic Resources	Negligible	Negligible
Commercial and Recreational Fishing	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources	Negligible	Negligible
Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Marine Mammals	Negligible	Negligible
Sea Turtles	Negligible	Negligible



Proposed Action Impacts

- The foundation testing activities include:
 - For each test, the suction bucket foundation would be installed and removed once over a period of approximately six to nine hours (three to five hours for installation and three to four hours for removal).
 - The pump is expected to operate at an estimated mean distance above the seabed of 19 feet (6 meters) and at a typical flow rate of approximately 1,320 gallons per minute (5 cubic meters per minute), with a pump velocity of 5.2 feet per second (1.6 meters per second) and a maximum intake diameter of 7 inches (18 centimeters) while pumping water from the water column into the suction bucket. In total up to 1,775 cubic yards (1,357 cubic meters) of water may be removed from inside the suction bucket and released into the water column immediately outside the bucket.



Avoidance Measures

- **Marine Area of Potential Effects (APE)**
 - The Lessee will avoid Ancient Submerged Landform Features (ASLFs).
- **Navigation**
 - The Lessee will submit a request to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for publication of a Local Notice to Mariners at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the in-water work.
- **Commercial and Recreational Fishing**
 - The Lease Area will not be closed off to fisherman during testing. Vessel exclusion would only occur in the relatively small spatial area over a limited duration during a test.



- **Endangered Species Act**
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Coastal Zone Management Act**
 - States of New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.
- **Tribal Coordination and Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes**
 - 10 federally recognized Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the region
- **National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)**
 - Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Offices
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - 10 federally recognized Native American Tribes consulting
 - Certified local governments, historical preservation societies, museums, and state recognized Tribes



Next Steps

Action	Timing
Published Draft EA 30-Day Comment Period	February 2, 2024 Ends March 4, 2024
Publish Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, if applicable	Spring/Summer 2024
Foundation Testing	July 2024-July 2026





Providing Public Comments

Public comment period ends March 4, 2024

Helpful Types of Comments

- Accuracy of information
- Adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
- New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
- Where clarification is needed



Public Meetings February 23 and February 28, 2024

For more information visit the BOEM virtual public meeting website

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/beacon-wind>



Online at www.regulations.gov: Search for Docket No. BOEM-2024-0006

Click on the “Comment” button. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit Comment.”



In writing to:

“Comments on Beacon Wind SAP EA”, Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road (Mailstop VAM-OREP), Sterling, VA 20166

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/beacon-wind>

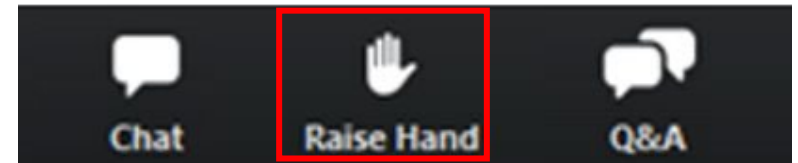
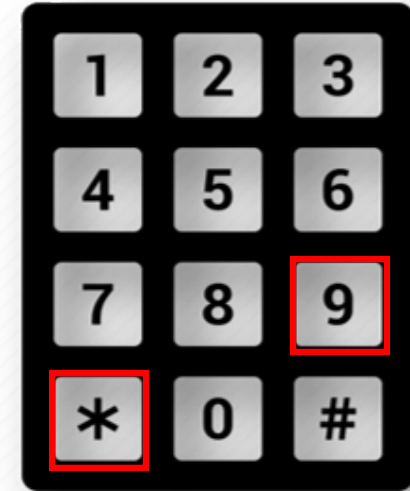


Break – 5 minutes

Official Public Comments

Order of Public Comments

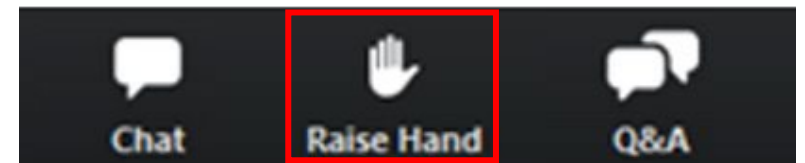
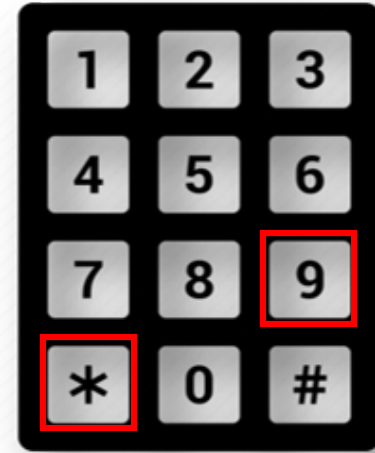
- We will start by calling on those who registered in advance to comment. The Facilitator will call on them in the order they registered
- Once those comments are completed, others will be invited to comment
- Commenters will be called on by the Facilitator in the order they raised their hands



Official Public Comments

Open for Public Comment

- To comment, use the 'raise hand' button in Zoom (or *9 for phone-only participants)
- When you are called upon, the Facilitator will invite you to unmute your line
- Please state and spell your name when you begin
- Please limit comments to 5 minutes.
For testimony more than 5 minutes, you can submit your comments in writing



Comments Limited to Five Minutes

05:00



Break – 5 minutes

Question and Answer Session



BOEM Closing Remarks

**Lisa Landers, NEPA Section Chief
Environmental Branch for Renewable Energy
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

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