



Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas Tribal Governments

Engagement Meeting

Monday, December 5th, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. ET

I. Introduction

On December 5th, 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened a meeting between BOEM staff and Tribal Governments invited from across the Central Atlantic region to discuss the “Draft Wind Energy Areas” (WEAs). The virtual meeting was held via the Zoom platform for the purpose of sharing BOEM’s plans for the Central Atlantic Region including analysis, planning activities and schedules for the draft WEAs in the Central Atlantic.

The meeting’s stated objectives were to:

- Share Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Central Atlantic Region’s upcoming plans and activities on draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) within the Central Atlantic region.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to discuss issues related to the draft WEAs.
- Provide information on how public input can be submitted on the draft WEAs.
- Establish and strengthen relationships between Tribal Governments and BOEM.

The meeting agenda is available in Appendix A.

This meeting summary document summarizes input from tribal government participants. It focuses on discussion rather than the formal presentations made and is not intended to be a detailed transcript. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West (K&W). This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Discussion Highlights
 - a. BOEM Welcome and Opening Statements
 - b. Presentations on the Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas
 - c. Feedback and Dialogue
 - d. Next Steps
- III. Appendix
 - a. Agenda

II. Discussion Highlights

A. BOEM Welcome and Opening Statements

Karen Baker (*Chief – BOEM/Office of Renewable Energy Programs*) welcomed participants to the meeting. She clarified BOEM’s role in offshore wind development and reiterated the value of gathering input from Tribal Nations as part of the Central Atlantic Offshore Wind planning activities. Ms. Baker paused to open the floor for any tribal representatives to give opening remarks, an invocation, or a blessing. After no participants offered an invocation, Ms. Baker continued her overview of the Central Atlantic region that includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. She acknowledged that some potential conflicts have already been highlighted within the draft WEAs and noted that concerns heard during the meeting will help BOEM narrow down the final WEAs. Ms. Baker concluded by reminding participants of the [active 30-day comment period](#) and thanking them for their input.

B. Presentations on the Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas

Bridgette Duplantis (*Chief – BOEM/Leasing and Financial Responsibility Section*) presented on the development of the Draft WEA in the Central Atlantic region. The presentation included an overview of BOEM’s offshore wind planning and analysis process, and the steps have already been completed. Ms. Duplantis outlined the comments and feedback received from recent engagements with stakeholders and industry actors and how that input was incorporated into the draft WEAs. Then, she introduced James Morris from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and asked him to provide additional context on how the original Call Areas were winnowed down to the draft WEAs.

James Morris (*Marine Ecologist at NOAA/ National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)*) highlighted the partnership between BOEM and NCCOS where his team used spatial modeling to support BOEM’s development of the WEAs. Mr. Morris explained the NCCOS “Suitability Model” – a model that identifies ocean areas within the Call Areas that offer the lowest potential for use conflict and environmental impacts based upon a series of preordained criteria. Examples of data layers included as suitability sub-models include:

- Various constraints
- National security considerations
- Industry and operations activities
- Natural resources
- Fisheries’ use
- Wind capacity

NCCOS and BOEM combined all the sub-models to determine final suitability scores and inform which ocean areas were included in the draft WEAs.

Bridgette Duplantis provided an overview of the eight draft WEAs. Ms. Duplantis walked through the attributes of each WEA within the larger Call Area and explained potential conflicts under consideration. Sarah Vaughn (*National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator - BOEM/Central Atlantic*) reviewed NEPA requirements relative to decision-making on offshore wind development. She told participants that BOEM is seeking input on its environmental assessment (EA) of renewable energy leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. Ms. Vaughn reminded participants that the EA will analyze certain impacts of leasing activities but will not analyze project-specific layouts or considerations; that analysis will come later in the process once a lease is obtained and a project plan is submitted. Bridgette Duplantis concluded the presentation portion of the agenda by outlining BOEM’s projected timeline for offshore wind in the Central Atlantic and providing information on how to submit public comments to BOEM before the period ends on

December 16, 2022.

A recording of BOEM's *Presentations on the Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas* can be found at the following link: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic>

Bridgette Duplantis, James Morris, and Sarah Vaughn then opened the floor for clarifying questions specific to the information presented to participants from the PowerPoint slides. A summary of the questions posed and the responses from BOEM and NOAA staff is below.

C. Feedback and Dialogue

During this part of the meeting, Tribal representatives posed questions to BOEM and shared feedback about the offshore wind information discussed in the meeting.

Comment 1: BOEM should be thinking of ways to proactively engage the Tribal Nations of the Central Atlantic and support our involvement in the offshore wind process. Examples of ways BOEM can support us include:

- Working with the offshore wind industry to better serve the removed communities of federally recognized tribes;
- Subsidizing our Wind Energy Areas review process to lessen the burden on tribes; and
- Raising money for comprehensive studies that enable us to better participate in offshore wind. Tribes are looking for this type of forethought rather than having data thrown at us.

Comment 2: There needs to be a “kickback” from the offshore wind industry to Tribal Nations based upon the sale and profits that these projects generate. Most of the Tribal Nations on the East Coast have never given up their ocean rights, which extend somewhere around 3 miles off the coast of state lands.

Comment 3: The Delaware Tribe is dependent on BIA and other entities to get GIS data and software. Our tribe's standard computers cannot handle the data necessary to fully participate in the map review process, and we would request BOEM's assistance in upgrading our hardware and software capabilities. The mapping products we have seen from BOEM have been great, but we need funding for ethnographic research to take BOEM's initial studies or maps one step further to be more beneficial to us.

A. Next Steps

BOEM staff thanked meeting attendees for their participation and outlined the following next steps in the Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas process:

- The meeting summary and recording of BOEM's informational presentation will be shared with participants in the weeks following the meeting.
- Any feedback on the draft Wind Energy Areas should be shared with Bridgette Duplantis (Bridgette.duplantis@boem.gov) by December 16, 2022.
- The Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting is expected to take place in Spring 2023. BOEM will transmit calendar invitations and meeting materials to interested tribes in advance of the meeting.

III. Appendix

A. Agenda

Agenda

Virtual Meeting: Tribal Governments’ Feedback Meeting on Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas

December 5, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET

Meeting Information: Zoom

URL: https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkc-CorjMpH93xY8iUB7Nfl_AF-YVsrgE2

Meeting Objectives

- Share Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Central Atlantic Region’s upcoming plans and activities on draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) within the Central Atlantic region.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to discuss issues related to the draft WEAs.
- Provide information on how public input can be submitted on the draft WEAs.
- Strengthen relationships between Tribal Governments and BOEM.

Note: This meeting is primarily informational and is not intended to be a formal government to government consultation

Time (ET)	Item	Lead
8:55 a.m.	Join the Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Baker, Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, BOEM • Tribal Leadership
9:05 a.m.	Invitation for Tribal Invocation <i>Optional and at the discretion of Tribal Leadership.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Leadership
9:15 a.m.	Webinar Instructions & Agenda Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam R. Saslow, Senior Facilitator, Kearns & West
9:20 a.m.	Presentations on the Central Atlantic Draft Wind Energy Areas <i>With an opportunity for participants to ask clarifying questions (noting that the next session offers the chance to opine on the strengths and weaknesses of the draft WEAs).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Duplantis, Central Atlantic Team Lead, BOEM • Helen Rucker, Gulf of Mexico NEPA Coordinator, BOEM • James Morris, Marine Ecologist, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), NOAA
10:00 a.m.	Feedback and Dialogue <i>An opportunity for participants to request additional information on the draft WEAs. Representatives from Tribal Governments will interact with BOEM officials to discuss key concerns, elements that resonate and other issues that arise.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by Adam R. Saslow, Senior Facilitator at Kearns & West.

Time (ET)	Item	Lead
10:15 a.m.	How to Submit a Written Comment <i>BOEM officials will explain how and when a written comment may be submitted.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridgette Duplantis, Central Atlantic Team Lead, BOEM
10:30 a.m.	Wrap Up and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Baker, Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, BOEM
10:45 a.m.	Invitation for Closing Benediction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal Leaders
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All

Invitees
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Catawba Nation
Cherokee Nation
Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division
Delaware Nation
Delaware Tribe of Indians
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Monacan Indian Nation
Nansemond Indian Nation
Narragansett Indian Tribe
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Rappahannock Tribe
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Shawnee Tribe
Shinnecock Indian Nation
Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians
Tuscarora Nation
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)