



Meeting Summary

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 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 first of the two meetings (the second took place on June 5, 2024).

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. 127 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), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the media. The meeting began at 1 p.m. and ended at approximately 3:30 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 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:

- **Scope of the Draft EA:** Members of the public asked specific questions about the scope of the EA, including about inclusion of the Morro Bay leasing areas due to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and migratory species in the region and the inclusion of additional ports along the Oregon coast, such as Florence and Reedsport. Attendees asked about the ways BOEM considered cumulative impacts of OSW development, including land-based activities in the analysis of cumulative impacts and about the inclusion of intertidal and coastal habitats in the draft EA.
- **Data Sources:** Attendees asked about the data and research sources used in the draft EA. Questions were asked for clarification about which datasets were used to determine important habitat considerations and which agency or agencies decide which datasets and/or research to use for the EA to determine the impacts of construction and operations once COPs are submitted. An attendee asked for greater insight into how BOEM determines impact determinations, e.g. “negligible” or “moderate.”
- **Potential Impacts on Marine Wildlife:** Attendees raised questions about the EA’s consideration of impacts on marine wildlife, such as migratory birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals. There was concern about stronger protections for marine mammals related to vessel speed and proximity, and questions were asked about BOEM’s requirements for lessees to mitigate impacts to marine mammals. Questions were also asked about research on the impacts of transmission cables and turbine noise on marine wildlife. Several members of the public raised concerns about the potential for oil spills and asked BOEM to include the potential impact of oil spills in its assessment.
- **Potential Impacts of Power Transmission:** Members of the public asked about transmission cables and interconnection on land, including if BOEM will conduct an EA or environmental impact statement (EIS) on undersea transmission cables and who would be responsible for conducting a transmission assessment. Questions were also asked about survey grids that would be used for power transmission outside of the leasing areas.
- **Lease Details and Timing:** Questions were asked for more information about lessees’ rights of way and use easements in the ocean and their duration. Members of the public also wanted to know how long the site assessment and characterization phase could take.
- **Coordination with the State of Oregon:** Attendees asked about coordination with and/or funding to State of Oregon agencies in the development of OSW. The public asked if BOEM would work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to engage in the NEPA

process and if BOEM would be involved in any of the State's Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) review process.

- Public Comment Process: Members of the public asked how BOEM will use comments on the draft EA to inform the final EA and if BOEM would respond to the comments submitted by the public.

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. A summary of public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- Scope of the EA: Many commenters expressed concerns that the scope of the EA is too narrow and did not adequately consider cumulative environmental, economic, or cultural impacts. Commenters expressed the desire for BOEM to more thoroughly analyze potential impacts on marine wildlife and habitats, commercial fishing, and Tribal cultural resources.
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS): Building off the previous theme, a significant number of commenters requested that BOEM conduct a PEIS to assess the potential biological, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind (FOSW) along the West Coast of the United States. Commenters believe this would allow for a more comprehensive and thorough analysis of the potential cumulative impacts of FOSW rather than assessing them at a state-specific level. These commenters shared their belief that a PEIS would address many of their concerns about gaps in data and analysis that they believe are present in the current EA.
- Tribal Consultation: Commenters shared their desire for BOEM to make meaningful efforts to engage and reach consensus with Tribes about the potential impacts of FOSW on Tribal resources.
- Requests for Comment Period Extension: Several commenters requested an extension of the draft EA comment period.

g. Closing Remarks

Lisa Gilbane, BOEM, thanked attendees for their time and comments on the draft EA. She noted the next steps in the EA process and reminded attendees about BOEM's upcoming meetings related to OSW leasing in Oregon.

III. Appendices

a. Agenda

BOEM Oregon Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting Agenda

May 21st, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 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.

Meeting Objectives

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- Answer questions related to the Draft EA Process.
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Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator
1:10 – 1:15 p.m.	Opening Remarks	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
1:15 – 1:25 p.m.	Wind Energy Leasing Authorization Process	Jean Thurston-Keller, BOEM
1:25 – 1:45 p.m.	Overview of Draft EA	Linette Makua, BOEM
1:45 – 2:20 p.m.	Clarifying Questions on the Draft EA Process <i>Please use the Q&A Box to submit questions relating to the Draft EA Process</i>	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator
2:20 – 2:30 p.m.	Break	N/A
2:30 – 3:55 p.m.	Public Comment	Jamie Damon, Kearns & West Facilitator

Summary – May 21, 2024, BOEM Oregon Draft Environmental Assessment Webinar

Time	Item	Presenter
	<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 May 31, 2024.</p>	
3:55 – 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn Meeting	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 May 31, 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 May 31, 2024.

b. Attendee List

First Name	Last Name	What is your affiliation
Ricky	Armendariz	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Ashley	Audycki	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Joshua	Basofin	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Jonathan	Bates	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Dale	Beasley	Commercial Fishing
Julia	Bingham	Academia
Emily	Bitalac	Government Agency
Dahna	Black	Government Agency
Matthew	Blazek	Government Agency
Hannah	Brachfeld	Academia
Lorne	Bulling	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Jeff	Burright	Government Agency
Carina	Burroughs	Government Agency
Deanna	Caracciolo	Other
Jessica	Carlton	Government Agency
Eliza	Carter	Government Agency

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First Name	Last Name	What is your affiliation
Jena	Carter	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Susan	Chambers	Commercial Fishing
Kelly	Chang	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
LYNN	Coker	General Public
Renato	Cordeiro	General Public
Sarah	Courbis	Other
Melissa	Cribbins	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Shannon	Davis	Other
Julia	DeGraw	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Hannah	Dondy-Kaplan	Government Agency
Rick	Eichstaedt	Tribal Government/Member
Kathy	Eisenhart	General Public
Liliana	Elliott	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Ben	Enticknap	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Heidi	Etter	Other
Amanda	Evans	Other
Karynn	Fish	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Kathleen	Gasperini	General Public
Denise	Gerski	Other
Hara	Gkarramone Patsou	Academia
Dana	Goodson	Government Agency
Emma	Gosliner	Government Agency
Jess	Grady-Benson	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Michael	Graybill	General Public
Scott	Groth	Government Agency
Gustavo	Guerrero	Government Agency
Sara	Guiltinan	Government Agency
Kristen	Gulick	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Luke	Harkins	Government Agency
Shawn	Hazboun	Academia
Casey	Heiskell	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Laurel	Hillmann	Government Agency
Jan	Hodder	Academia
Isaac	Hodges	Government Agency
Rosie	Hoxeng	General Public
Melanie	Hunter	Government Agency
Jeffrey	Jahn	Government Agency
Glenn	James	General Public
Steve	Joner	Tribal Government/Member
Elizabeth	Keller	Government Agency
Delia	Kelly	Government Agency
Capt. Jim	Kendall	Commercial Fishing

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First Name	Last Name	What is your affiliation
Viviana	Kfir	Government Agency
Carrie	Konkol	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Tyler	Krug	Government Agency
Connor	Lacefield	Other
Andy	Lanier	Government Agency
Lucy	Lefkowitz	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Brenda	Ling	Government Agency
Derrick	Losli	General Public
Natalie	Lowell	Tribal Government/Member
Casey	MacLean	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Heather	Mann	Commercial Fishing
Angela	Martinez Quintana	Other
Scott	McMullen	Commercial Fishing
Rosemary	Melendy	General Public
Susan	Merle	Academia
Kassia	Micek	Press/Media
Jennifer	Miller	Government Agency
Karina	Nielsen	Academia
Mary	O'Hara	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Mike	Okoniewski	Commercial Fishing
Zak	Otjen	Government Agency
Sara	Palmer	Tribal Government/Member
Frank	Pendleton	Government Agency
Angelina	Peterson	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Charlie	Plybon	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Teresa	Powell	General Public
Frank	Puyleart	Government Agency
Alec	Ramirez	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Amanda	Rapinchuk	Government Agency
Erik	Richardson	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Caitlin	Roesler	Government Agency
Jennifer	Rose	Government Agency
Kathryn	Roy	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Julie	Siestream	Tribal Government/Member
Ray	Simon	General Public
John	Snider	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Michelle	St. Martin	Government Agency
Stefanie	Stavrakas	Government Agency
Lori	Steele	Commercial Fishing
Shayna	Steingard	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Jake	Stephens	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Nataliya	Stranadko	Government Agency

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First Name	Last Name	What is your affiliation
Kate	Sullivan	Academia
Andrea	Sumerau	Tribal Government/Member
Sara	Swett	Academia
Roberta	Swift	Government Agency
Jill	te Velde	Academia
Larry	Thevik	Commercial Fishing
Katrina	Thompson	Tribal Government/Member
Valerie	Thompson	Government Agency
Margaret	Toth	General Public
Ross	Tyler	Offshore Wind Energy/Utilities
Carina	Uraiqat	Government Agency
Jonathan	Vallarta	Other
Dick	Vander Schaaf	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Ann	Vileisis	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Chloe	Vizsla	General Public
Tom	Wadsworth	Government Agency
Isaac	Ward-Fineman	Government Agency
Jessica	Watson	Government Agency
Katy	White	Other
Max	Wilbert	Non-governmental organization or labor organization
Tyler	Williams	Academia
Ron	Willing	General Public
Scott	Winner	Government Agency
Ysabelle	Yrad	Tribal Government/Member
Phone User 1	N/A	N/A
Phone User 2	N/A	N/A
Phone User 3	N/A	N/A