



SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

FEB 13 2020

David MacDuffee
Chief, Projects and Coordination Branch
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Dear Mr. MacDuffee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Carolina Long Bay Offshore Planning Areas. The Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse coordinated a review within the Department of Defense (DoD) that identified concerns for Department of the Navy (DON) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

The air and waters off the coast of North and South Carolina are heavily used by the DON to support missions that prepare the warfighter for deployment. Development in the warning areas and adjacent waters have the potential to significantly impact DON mission requirements. The DoD will continue to work with BOEM to evaluate the potential for compatible siting.

The planning areas are located within Warning Areas 138, 161, and 177 (map attached). The Marine Corps uses these areas extensively for aviation training that requires the ability to conduct low-altitude, high-speed training, live fire, and use of drone targets. Aircraft Carriers and Expeditionary Strike Groups transit these areas particularly the Charleston, Cape Romain and Winyah Call Areas and require open sea space in order to operate safely.

Once specific project data is available, the DON will evaluate the effects of wind turbine development on the Digital Airport Surveillance Radar located at Marine Corps Aviation Station Beaufort, SC. This applies to the Charleston, Cape Romain, Winyah, and Grand Strand planning areas as they are within the coverage area. Lastly, the DON operates in these planning areas under restrictions that protect marine mammals and sea turtles. Development in these areas could increase these restrictions and should be assessed prior to development planning.

- DON POC: Matthew Senska; matthew.senska@navy.mil; 703-614-2201

NORAD has the critical mission of surveillance for national security in these planning areas. Project details will be required to conduct an analysis on impacts to NORAD's homeland defense radars. Once completed, the analysis will provide guidance on actions that can be taken to minimize impacts.

- NORAD POC: Frederick "Stitch" Shepherd; frederick.l.shepherd.civ@mail.mil; 719-556-3260

Thank you. We look forward to continued collaboration on this effort.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Sample
Deputy Director
Military Aviation and Installation
Assurance Siting Clearinghouse



Carolina Long Bay Planning Areas

