

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM)
NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FORUM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. ET
VIRTUAL MEETING

This document summarizes the discussion and key themes heard at the April 26, 2023, Environmental Justice Forum (EJF), hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The meeting is part of a larger EJF series. The goals of the EJF series are to:

- Identify priorities, needs, and issues to address through BOEM’s draft New York Bight PEIS specific to environmental justice and underserved communities.
- Improve information-sharing and coordination across agencies, governments, lessees, community-based organizations, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Create greater accountability by providing transparency to communities on whether and how their input has affected the decision-making process.
- Grow long-term relationships with communities that are founded on mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration.
- Reduce barriers to participation, increase access to environmental reviews, and create better-informed decisions.

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Appendix A: Virtual Whiteboard Activity

1. Action Items

- **BOEM** to share link to more information for NY State’s Article VII Intervenor Funding in Transmission Siting Review Process.
 - **BOEM** to help connect individuals who requested additional information on this topic to the correct point of contact.
- **BOEM** to prepare and share lessee contact information with participants.

2. Meeting Participants

BOEM Staff	
Sindey Chaky	Senior Social Scientist
Meghan Cornelison	Social Scientist
Annette Ehrhorn	Project Coordinator
Holly Fowler	Program Analyst
Connie Gillette	Community Engagement
Sara Gultinan	Renewable Energy Specialist
Katsumi Keeler	Physical Scientist
Marissa Knodel	Senior Advisor
Andy Kornacki	Engagement Team
Laura Mansfield	Social Scientist
Liz Oliver	Tribal Liaison
Chris Page	Environmental Protection Specialist
Dustin Reuther	Social Scientist
Blossom Robinson	Renewable Energy Engagement
Amy Shanahan	Archaeologist
Chloe VanderMolen	Knauss Fellow

Community-Based Organizations	
Ben Algeo	Intern
Ana Baptista	Associate Professor
Barrie Bazarsky	Homeowner
Michael Beltzer	Climate Justice Fellow
Jeff Bendremer	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Daniel Chu	Energy Planner
Jeremy Dennis	Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Ana Fisyak	Affiliate
Gwen Gallagher	Coastal Climate Specialist
Gabrielle Gonzales	Program Associate
Anastasia Gordon	Energy and Transportation Policy Manager
Tyrese Gould Jacinto	President and CEO
Caroline Hahn	program manager
Cynthia Hall	Community Education Manager
Jason Hansana-Cofield	Executive Director of Tribal Operations
Thomas Ikeda	Research and Policy Development Fellow
Dillon Jones	Manager
Sara Parkison	Policy & Research Manager
Lovinia Reynolds	Energy Democracy Coordinator
Samuel Schacht	Research Associate

Peter Silva

GPWS Member and Shinnecock Tribal Nation Elder

State and Local Agencies

Melissa Abatemarco	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Rehanna Azimi	NJDEP
Nicole Jean Christian	New York State Department of State (NYDOS) Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure
Meghan Henry MacLeod	NJDEP Office of Permitting and Project Navigation
Tyler Hepner	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Janna Herndon	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
Julia Kortrey	New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)
Jordan Koster	NYDOS
Laura McLean	NYDOS
Melissa Miles	New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA)
Katherine Nolan	NJDEP
Kandyce Perry	NJDEP
Myla Ramirez	NJDEP
Sameer Ranade	NYSERDA
Aiden Rogers	New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

Federal Agencies

Kathleen Bell	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2
Matthew Cutler	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Nelle D'Aversa	NOAA Office of Coastal Management
David Kluesner	U.S. EPA Region 2
Mary Krueger	National Park Service
Candace Nachman	U.S. Coast Guard
Samantha Nyer	U.S. EPA
Joy Page	Department of Energy (DOE)
Jared Pritts	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tara Shifflett	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Lessees

Andrea Bonilla	Vineyard Mid-Atlantic
John Dempsey	Bluepoint Wind
Eleanor Evans	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Laura George	Vineyard Mid-Atlantic
Favio German	Attentive Energy
Joshua Gomez	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Oriana Holmes-Price	Attentive Energy
Kori Ktona	Bluepoint Wind
Paul Phifer	Attentive Energy
Michael Porto	Leading Light Wind
Crystal Pruitt	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Alanna Russo	Community Offshore Wind

Kearns & West Facilitation Team

Caisey Hoffman, Briana Moseley, Leigh Osterhus, Hannah Silverfine, Jenna Tourje-Maldonado.

3. Bulletin Board Announcements

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is launching a technical working group on environmental justice concerns

- NYSERDA is adding an Environmental Justice Technical Working Group. The purpose is to align developers and EJ organizations and increase transparency for communities, reduce burdens on communities and developers, share success and barriers for collaboration in the environmental justice ecosystem, conduct research and innovation, and provide resources for information sharing.
- NYSERDA has three other technical working groups: Fisheries, Marine, Environmental, Jobs and Supply Chain.

The Empire Wind project is hosting two open houses

- The Empire Wind project is hosting two open houses, one in Island Park on May 3rd and one in Long Beach on June 8th.
- [Event Registration](#)

4. Discussion Highlights

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

The meeting facilitator welcomed participants to the EIJF and expressed gratitude for their attendance. This third EIJF is designed from an ongoing series of iterative conversations on how BOEM can serve the needs of environmental justice and underserved communities through the process of developing offshore wind.

State agency member shared an opening blessing for the group.

The facilitator reviewed the agenda, and the objectives for the meeting were to:

- Grow relationships and improve coordination across agencies, governments, lessees, and community-based organizations.
 - Provide space for community-based organizations and members to talk with New York Bight lessees.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding of challenges affecting and efforts to engage environmental justice populations and underserved communities on offshore wind issues across New York and New Jersey.
- Provide updates on how previous input is being processed for consideration in BOEM's and others' decision-making processes so far and invite feedback to continue refining next steps.

BOEM staff provided opening remarks from BOEM's Directorate. The opening remarks highlighted that today's conversation between community-based organizations and lessees is a direct result of feedback from EIJF participants over the last nine months. BOEM looks forward to continuing to co-design this series.

BOEM core staff introduced themselves on video while participants introduced themselves in the chat.

Updates from BOEM

Status update on draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

BOEM is currently working on the draft PEIS for the six lease areas in the New York Bight auctioned in 2022. These EJFs are tied directly to the six lease areas covered by this PEIS, while there are additional leases in the broader area.

The purpose of the PEIS is to analyze regional environmental impacts, and is focused on a cumulative analysis with programmatic avoidance and mitigation measures.

The first EJF was designed from an Environmental Justice Roundtable event in July 2022, and has evolved based on feedback. There will be another EJF in July 2023 before Draft PEIS is published.

Capacity-building

BOEM has launched a fellowship program through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) that will offer an opportunity for current or recent students with lived experiences in New York and New Jersey environmental justice communities to contribute to the EJF.

- Please share the opportunity with your networks, applications may be submitted through the [ORISE Opportunity](#) webpage.
- The opportunity is part-time (20 hours per week) and the participants will receive a stipend.
- BOEM also welcomes ideas for activities fellows could contribute to.
- Contact Laura Mansfield, Laura.Mansfield@boem.gov for further discussion.

The State of New York Public Service Department has funding for certain transmission projects to defray costs of development.

- [NY State's Article VII Intervenor Funding in Transmission Siting Review Process](#)

Discussion with Lessees

BOEM staff shared background on the history of EJFs, input from participants, and the role of lessees in the EJF. The Input Status Report provides an update on how input is tracked and the process of information sharing.

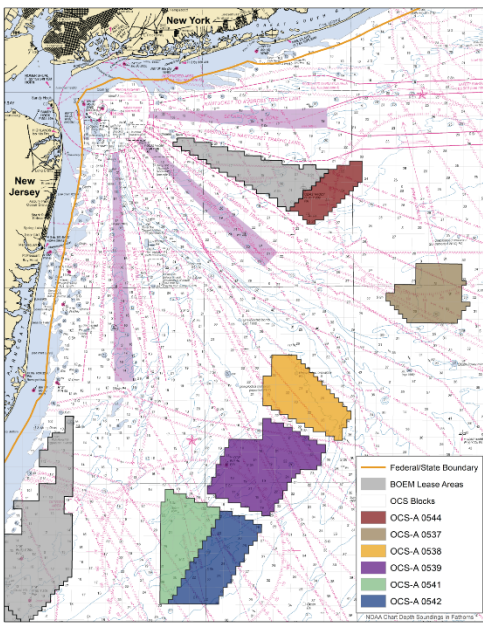
Lessees previously attended EJFs in a listen-only mode. Participant feedback from previous forums included a request from participants to have an opportunity to engage directly with lessees. In response, BOEM invited representatives from all six lease areas to participate in the April EJF.

BOEM reviewed the stages of the offshore wind planning and leasing process, and the multiple entities who engage in each step.

The New York Bight leases are still early in the planning process. One stipulation of the New York Bight lease areas is for lessees to submit a progress report to BOEM every six months as part of the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) development process. The intent is to improve communication and transparency, and engage with stakeholders and underserved/ environmental justice communities.

- The first round of Lessee Progress Reports are available under the "[Lessee Activities](#)" tab.

The lessees went through a round of brief introductions.



New York Bight Lease Areas

OCS-A 0544	Vineyard Mid-Atlantic, LLC
OCS-A 0537	Bluepoint Wind, LLC
OCS-A 0538	Attentive Energy, LLC
OCS-A 0539	Community Offshore Wind, LLC
OCS-A 0541	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Bight, LLC
OCS-A 0542	Invenergy Wind Offshore LLC



Vineyard Mid-Atlantic

- Andrea Bonilla, Laura George

Bluepoint Wind

- John Dempsey, Kori Ktona, Lisa Wood

Attentive Energy

- Favio German, Oriana Holmes-Price, Paul Phifer

Community Offshore Wind

- Alanna Russo

Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind

- Eleanor Evans, Joshua Gomez, Crystal Pruitt

Leading Light Wind

- Michael Porto

Update on how the input lessees are hearing in the EJFs informs their planning

Lessees were invited to respond to the prompt, how do you integrate environmental justice feedback into your project development?

- **Lessees** shared that they start with conversations, and build from input rather than prescribing initiatives. They also recognized underlying issues and noted that power development has historically impacted overburdened communities and wants offshore wind to be a positive opportunity.
- **Lessees** reflected that most developers do not have projects in the New York Bight lease area yet. It is important to have an understanding of the communities they may be working in and to manage expectations of how much and where they will be working. Communities have their own expertise, and establishing relationships with organizations that know their communities best should be used to inform future and potential plans.

- **Lessees** shared an example of a project in New York where the lessee is partnering with a community-based organization. They are working towards shared goals related to decommissioning a power plant, reducing pollution in a densely populated housing area, and transitioning to renewable energy.
- **Lessees** acknowledged that they don't have all the answers but will build on relationships to work with others and utilize best practices for outreach. They are thinking about opportunities such as advisory committees and task forces. Offshore wind is going through a tumultuous time and the case for economic benefits and jobs needs a broad coalition of support, with help from everyone across the EJF.
- **Lessees** emphasized the approach of being in communities, not being prescriptive, and engaging actively and early. They also reflected that it was great to hear that developers are on the same page about environmental justice community engagement.
- **Lessees** echoed that projects are very early in the development phase and this is a good time for engaging communities. They also cautioned that stakeholder fatigue is real. Identifying liaisons who can speak to community needs and help developers with their plans can reduce some of the fatigue. They emphasized the importance of being available and transparent.

Group exploration of community benefit mechanisms

The facilitator and **BOEM staff** provided background on the discussion of how BOEM, states, and lessees can all drive benefits to communities impacted by offshore wind. They shared that the term community benefit mechanism encompasses a broad range of ways that benefits can be provided to communities, including but not limited to the following.

- Direct investments, such as a training program at a community college or a community park.
- Negotiated agreements, such as between a local entity/local government and host community benefit programs. This could include Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs), Host Community Agreements, or other formal structured agreements between and developer/lessee and a community organization(s).

BOEM staff clarified that BOEM does not have the authority to mandate or enforce community benefits but can convene spaces like the EJF to explore ideas. Furthermore, they clarified that mitigation measures are not community benefit mechanisms. Mitigation measures have been discussed at previous EJFs and are analyzed in the draft PEIS considering how to address impacts.

- **BOEM** offered to explore the topic of community benefits and mitigation measures further at future EJFs if there is interest from participants.

The facilitator invited participants to explore different types of community benefit mechanisms using a virtual whiteboard tool, sharing verbal comments, or adding ideas to the chat.

Virtual Whiteboard Input

The following outlines input shared by participants via the virtual whiteboard. A screenshot of the actual whiteboard can be found in Appendix A.

- Explore projects that support long-term investment in communities (e.g., funding under-resourced K-12 public schools).
 - Allow for community control of shaping investments.
- Ensure communities with less capacity have the resources to negotiate community benefit agreements (CBA).

- Prioritize long-term accountability where developers are engaged throughout the entire process.
- Encourage developers to meet with community members through existing events and invite them to charettes/workshops.
- Leverage existing community plans based upon inclusive processes (e.g., comprehensive plans).
- Consider best practices for establishing community advisory committees (with guidance and input from all levels).
- Learn about and understand the communities lessees are engaging with (including Indigenous communities)
 - Request Tribal liaisons and cultural sensitivity training for lessees/developers.
- Increase engagement with Indigenous communities, and engage earlier in the process.
- Engage community members beyond paid community-based organization staff.
 - Provide stipends to community members for their time and expertise.
- Take into account “follow-on impacts” associated with the supply chain of the projects.
 - Ensure accountability between developers and sub-contractors to communities.
- Be transparent about the timing of impacts and phase of project development.
- Create equitable access to community advisory committees (e.g., stipends/child care/dinner, representation, bring folks with cultural competencies to join in this dialogue).
- Engage with local community colleges to facilitate workforce development programs for students and community members.
- Create enforcement mechanisms for community benefits. CBAs are not always legally binding for developers.

Discussion

- A **community organization member** emphasized that when discussing a process about community, it is important to clarify that this means members of the community rather than paid professionals represented on the EJF call. They recommended that developers assess any existing community plans, and consider how to best build relationships with community-based organizations and base-building organizations. After that, developers should meet with community members directly. They also recommended that developers provide stipends to compensate for expertise contributed to the process, noting that some of the community members who are helping with the planning process may not have access to future jobs or the benefits of wind development.
- A **community organization member** suggested that existing community plans be prioritized. One example of a project that incorporated community plans is “The Grid”, based on 10 years of justice planning in Sunset Park. They suggested that in addition to benefits, community investments should be considered. This includes investments that help build long-term community wealth, and provide the ability for communities to control how funds are used in the long term. In this example developers don’t have the decision-making power over investment decisions, communities do. Developers should also ensure long-term accountability, creating community conversations over the project lifetime, not just a one-off.
- A **community organization member** shared an appreciation for NYSERDA and BOEM working together on processes and best practices. NYSERDA’s plan has tools and lessons learned, and it’s useful to implement the best practices on community advisory committees and engagement informed by BOEM, NYSERDA, and local partners rather than have each project take assorted steps. There is a need to ensure that communities have the resources and capacity to negotiate. A concern to be aware of is that resourced communities get better packages from developers

because they can afford lawyers and experts. This is part of the discussion on how to develop offshore wind equitably.

- A **lessee** brought attention to the need for enforcement mechanisms for community benefit agreements. Tools like letters of intent, contracts, and other ways to break benefits into smaller parts make the content more digestible for local community members. A focus on representation in community engagement, such as cultural/ethnic demographics is also important. He noted that community meetings can be time-consuming, so resources such as access to childcare, multiple language translations, providing food after events, and a strong emphasis on stipends should be considered to allow for more equitable engagement. Viewing communities as networks that can partner with one another is another tool, for example bringing in members of a community that have successfully negotiated an agreement.
- A **community organization member** shared that it is important for lessees to understand the communities they are involved with. Specifically, they need to understand the Indigenous communities in the area, which are typically underrepresented and undercompensated. There is a need for tribal liaisons and cultural sensitivity trainings. They shared that we are all Indigenous, with different cultural approaches and ancestral relationships with water. There is generational trauma from the corporate benefit and profit in ancestral territory. They noted that the US government has historically decided about lease areas going forward without Tribal Consultation and asked for improved acknowledgment.
- A **community organization member** shared an appreciation for and agreement with the previous speaker's words (above). They emphasized the importance of addressing "follow-on impacts", effects beyond what typically gains attention. One place this type of impact is seen is through the wind energy supply chain. For example, they noted a proposal for a wind turbine blade factory proposed in an important cultural site in the Hudson Valley. This location is significant for the Stockbridge-Munsee community. It is not a project directly proposed by leaseholders, but leaseholders will be the purchasers of this product. They posed the question, do leaseholders feel they have a responsibility for follow-on effects of projects developed specifically to support wind energy projects?
- A **state agency member** echoed the previous speaker's comments (above) that conversations with environmental justice communities being impacted includes manufacturing, transmission, ports, and other connected projects/developments. It is important to consider community impacts holistically, with different stages of impact during development. There is a perception that it is unclear who is being accountable, the developer on the project day to day versus the subcontractors, etc. There is a need for transparency in the timing of projects. It is exhausting for communities to go through all the potential environmental/economic impacts, and then five to seven years pass before the turbine is in the water.

Facilitated Q&A Session: What questions do community members have for lessees?

- **Anonymous Question:** Recognizing that the lessees are focused on generating wind energy but eventually that electricity needs to be transmitted to the shore, what role do the lessees have in planning and implementing transmission routes? What role do the lessees have in identifying where the transmission cables come ashore? What role do the lessees have in reducing the burden on communities immediately adjacent to cable landing areas?
 - A **lessee** responded that this depends on the award in the upcoming solicitation. New Jersey and New York have different approaches to transmission. New Jersey has proposed a centralized transmission approach whereas each developer makes their own decision for transmission in New York. They noted they will work with as many

communities/groups as needed. Another **lessee** shared agreement with the remarks (above).

- A New Jersey **state agency member** provided information on the New Jersey transmission approach. They used the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) state agreement approach for the transmission of the next 3 projects. All projects go into the same onshore interconnection point, Larrabee Tri-Collector. They shared the following resources on NJ's approach for the next 3 projects:
 - [Mid-Atlantic Offshore Development](#) website
 - [PJM State Agreement Approach](#)
 - *Enables New Jersey to reach its previous goal of 7.5 GW by 2035 and is incorporated in the 3rd solicitation.*
 - *Larrabee Tri-Collector Solution (LTCS) offers a single onshore interconnection point while leveraging existing right of ways.*
 - *Also awarded onshore grid upgrade projects to enable the capacity injection to Atlantic City Electric, BGE, LS Power, PECO, PPL, PSE&G, and Transource.*
 - *Will save NJ ratepayers \$900 million compared to the cost of transmission without utilizing this coordinated approach through State Agreement Approach (SAA).*
- A New York **state agency member** added that New York State is working to advance offshore wind transmission planning. The Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment is the initial step towards this.
 - The full detailed study can be downloaded from the [NYSERDA Offshore Wind](#) website.
- **Anonymous Question:** Recognizing that some environmental justice groups/community-based organizations may be approached by multiple developers, what are ways that community-based organizations suggest developers respond to community-based organization engagement fatigue?
 - A **lessee** shared that there are efforts at the state level to consolidate engagement, such as the EJFs. Everyone is competing for solicitation, but exclusivity with environmental justice communities is short-sighted. They encouraged community-based organizations to meet with all developers, and for everyone to focus on the shared vision.
 - A **lessee** noted that they are here to take the lead from community-based organizations on how they would like to engage and that this is a partnership.
 - A **lessee** added that this is an opportunity for community-based organizations to be involved in how the project is designed. These are megaprojects with political and engineering issues, and the developers need spaces like the EJV to help address engagement fatigue.
- **Lessee Question:** How would EJV participants like to be engaged during waiting periods? Right now, as we're waiting for the next round of awards, how can developers add value to community-based organizations in the time between the projects being awarded?
 - A **lessee** noted this type of conversation can devolve into lessee posturing.
 - A **community organization member** emphasized the importance of lessees continuing to engage. One lower-effort option is to attend the events of community-based organizations and work with community members to discuss offshore wind over the coming years, on specific projects and as an industry overall.
- **Community Organization Member Question:** What is the expected lifespan of the wind infrastructure, and is there a maintenance plan for the future?

- A **lessee** replied that they are expecting and planning for 30-year projects, which will be decommissioned at the end of the 30 years, but noted the operations/maintenance technology is always advancing which could change the lifespan of projects that are awarded.
- A **community organization member** shared that for the Empire Wind/Beacon project, a decommissioning plan is required for developers in addition to the Construction and Operations Plans. The plans include how communities can access jobs and how this will support New York/New Jersey for decades. They have personal relationships and spaces such as charrettes so that community members can approach the lessees with questions.
- A **lessee** shared that in Europe there are longer durations for projects, and a best practice is to “leave the land like you found it” as part of the decommissioning. There are some outstanding industry questions such as if the turbine ends up creating a new habitat, should that be removed or left in.
- **Jenna Tourje-Maldonado (Facilitator) Question:** Where can people find more information?
 - **Community Offshore Wind**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Alanna Russo, alanna.russo@nationalgrid.com
 - **Leading Light Wind**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Michael Porto, mporto@invenenergy.com
 - **Vineyard Mid-Atlantic**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Andrea Bonilla, abonilla@vineyardoffshore.com
 - **Attentive Energy**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Favio German, Favio.german@totalenergies.com
 - Announcement: Attentive Energy will soon be releasing a survey in New Jersey about challenges with nonprofits/supply chains to better understand how to position project/industry.
 - **Bluepoint Wind**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Lisa Wood, lisa.wood@bluepointwind.com or contactus@bluepointwind.com
 - **Atlantic Shores**
 - [Website](#)
 - Contact: Joshua Gomez, joshua.gomez@atlanticshoreswind.com
 - **Discussion of Mohican Heritage Sites**
 - A **community organization member** shared contact information for leaseholders to follow up about the Vestas wind turbine factory proposal and its impact on historic Mohican heritage sites.
 - Contact: Jeff Bendremer, jeff.bendremer@mohican-nsn.gov

5. Next Steps

The date for the next EJF is July 26, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET. Participants were invited to share their feedback on the event format, pre- and post- EJF activities, meeting goals, future agenda topics, and any other suggestions.

- [Feedback form](#)

The contact information for the EJF was shared:

- For further input and discussion, email environmental.justice@boem.gov
- New York and New Jersey offshore wind environmental justice engagement team:
 - Laura Mansfield, Laura.Mansfield@boem.gov
 - Meghan Cornelison, Meghan.Cornelison@boem.gov
 - Chloe VanderMolen, Chloe.Vandermolen@boem.gov
 - Holly Fowler, Holly.Fowler@boem.gov

The facilitator closed by thanking participants for their participation and inviting participants to an optional social conversation directly following the forum.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm ET.

Appendix A: Virtual Whiteboard Activity

Virtual Whiteboard Exploring Community Benefit Mechanisms

