

Appendix A: Required Environmental Permits and Consultations

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A.1 Introduction

This appendix discusses required permitting and public, agency, and Tribal involvement in the preparation of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This involvement included formal consultations, cooperating agency exchanges, and a public scoping comment period. Authorizations and permits are listed in **Table A-1** and cooperating or participating federal agencies are described below.

A.2 Required Environmental Permits

Table A-1 identifies the environmental permits and approvals that are required for implementation of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project and the status of each permit or approval.

Table A-1. Required environmental permits and approvals for the proposed Projects

Agency/Regulatory Authority	Permit/Approval	Status
Federal		
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	Construction and Operations Plan (COP) Approval	COP filed with BOEM in July 2020. The latest update to the COP was submitted in July 2023.
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)	Oil Spill Response Plan Safety Management System (SMS) Facility Design Report (FDR) Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR) Decommissioning Application	Planned
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Tribes, and the State Historic Preservation Office (ACHP, THPO, SHPO)	National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation	Consultations initiated
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Obstruction Evaluation/ Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) "Determination of No Hazard"	The FAA has issued a Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation on May 22, 2023.
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	MMPA Section 101(a)(5) Incidental Harassment Authorization or Letter of Authorization (LOA)	US Wind submitted the initial LOA application on August 31, 2022 NMFS deemed US Wind's MMPA Incidental Take Request deemed complete April 3, 2023.

Agency/Regulatory Authority	Permit/Approval	Status
		Notice of Receipt of Application published in the Federal Register on May 2, 2023
NMFS	Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation	Consultations initiated
NMFS	Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation	Consultations initiated
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404, Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) Section 10 Individual Permit, and Section 408 Permission	US submitted initial draft application materials in February 2023. US Wind will submit permit application materials in August 2023.
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Private Aids to Navigation authorization	Planned
USCG	Local Notice to Mariners per Ports and Waterways Safety Act	Planned
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Section 7 ESA consultation	Consultations initiated
State of Maryland		
Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) (delegated authority from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)	Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Clean Air Act Permit	US Wind filed a Notice of Intent to apply for an OCS Air Permit on August 5, 2022. Air Dispersion Modelling Protocol submitted to MDE September 16, 2022. Revised Air Dispersion Modeling Protocol and Alternative Model Request submitted to MDE March 10, 2023.
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR)	Maryland Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Consistency (per federal Coastal Zone Management Act)	MD DNR and US Wind executed a stay of review on July 8, 2022. Six-month review restarts no later than August 9, 2023.
MDE	Tidal Wetlands License	Planned

Agency/Regulatory Authority	Permit/Approval	Status
MDE	Water Quality Certification	Planned
State of Delaware		
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) – Division of Water	Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Permit Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Planned
DNREC – Division of Water	Subaqueous Lands Lease (renewable on 10-year term)	Pre-application submitted to DNREC on June 16, 2023. US Wind intends to submit application materials in August 2023.
Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs Office/State Historic Preservation Office	Delaware Antiquities Act permit (state-owned land)	Planned
Delaware Coastal Management Program	Delaware CZM Consistency Certification (per federal CZMA)	DNREC and US Wind executed a stay of review on July 8, 2022. Six-month review restarts no later than August 9, 2023. DNREC is proposing an extension of the stay of review.
DNREC – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Environmental Review for Species of Special Concern	US Wind intends to conduct a review with DNREC in August 2023.
DNREC – Division of Watershed Stewardship	Sediment and Stormwater Management Plan	Planned
DNREC – Division of Parks and Recreation	Special Use Permit/Land Use Agreement Public Lands, Parks and Memorials – State Park	Planned
DNREC – Division of Watershed Stewardship	Permit or Letter of Approval – Beach Preservation Act	Planned
Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office	Office Site Plan Approval	Planned
Delaware Department of Transportation	Entrance permit	Planned

A.3 Consultation and Coordination

A.3.1 Overview

This section discusses public and agency involvement leading up to the preparation and publication of the Draft EIS, including formal consultations, cooperating agency exchanges, the public scoping comment period, and correspondence. This section discusses public involvement in the preparation of this EIS, including BOEM's consideration of public scoping comments, formal consultations, and cooperating agency exchanges. Interagency consultation, coordination, and correspondence throughout the development of this Draft EIS occurred primarily through virtual meetings, teleconferences, and written communications (including email). BOEM coordinated with numerous agencies throughout the development of this document, as listed in Section A.3.3.2, *Cooperating Agencies*.

A.3.2 Consultations and Authorizations

A.3.2.1 Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act requires that federal actions within the coastal zone or within the geographic location descriptions (i.e., areas outside the coastal zone in which an activity would have reasonably foreseeable coastal effects) affecting any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program. Because the Lease Area is geographically off the coast of Maryland and Delaware and certain Project elements would occur within Maryland and Delaware State waters, consistency certifications with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and the Delaware Coastal Management Program will be submitted. US Wind executed a stay of review with the MD DNR on July 8, 2022 that identifies a six-month review will restart no later than August 9, 2023. The state's concurrence is required before BOEM may approve or approve with conditions the COP per 30 CFR 585.628(f) and 15 CFR 930.130(1).

A.3.2.2 Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), requires that each federal agency ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of those species. When the action of a federal agency may affect a protected species or its critical habitat, that agency is required to consult with either the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), depending upon the jurisdiction of the agencies. Pursuant to 50 CFR 402.07, BOEM has accepted designation as the lead federal agency for the purposes of fulfilling interagency consultation under Section 7 of the ESA for listed species under the jurisdiction of NMFS and USFWS. BOEM is consulting on the proposed activities considered in this Draft EIS with both NMFS and USFWS and has prepared BAs for listed species under their respective jurisdictions.

A.3.2.3 Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation

Executive Order 13175 commits federal agencies to engage in government-to-government consultation with tribes when federal actions have tribal implications, and Secretarial Order No. 3317 requires U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies to develop and participate in meaningful consultation with federally recognized tribes where a tribal implication may arise. A June 29, 2018, memorandum outlines BOEM’s current tribal consultation policy (BOEM 2018). This memorandum states that “consultation is a deliberative process that aims to create effective collaboration and informed federal decision-making” and is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive and Secretarial Orders, and DOI Policy (BOEM 2018). BOEM implements tribal consultation policies through formal government-to-government consultation, informal dialogue, collaboration, and other engagement.

On June 7, 2022, BOEM initiated formal consultation with tribal nations under the NHPA and invited them to be NHPA Section 106 consulting parties to the Projects through individual letters mailed and emailed to tribal leaders. This letter also served to notify the tribes that the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Project was issued that day and noted that the scoping comment period was open until July 8, 2022. BOEM then sent an email to tribal leaders on August 4, 2022 and September 14, 2022 offering a government-to-government consultation meeting to discuss the public scoping information for the Projects. BOEM held a government-to-government meeting with the tribal nations on September 30, 2022.

A.3.2.4 National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the NHPA (54 USC 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) require federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. BOEM has determined that the proposed Projects is an undertaking subject to Section 106 review. The construction of wind turbine generators (WTGs) and offshore substations (OSSs), installation of inter-array cables, and development of staging areas are ground- or seabed-disturbing activities that may adversely affect archaeological resources. The presence of WTGs may also introduce visual elements out of character with the historic setting of historic structures or landscapes; in cases where historic setting is a contributing element of historic properties’ eligibility for the NRHP, the Projects may adversely affect those historic properties.

The Section 106 regulations at 36 CFR 800.8 provide for use of the NEPA substitution process to fulfill a federal agency’s NHPA Section 106 review obligations in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. This process is commonly known as “NEPA substitution for Section 106” and BOEM is using this process and documentation required for the preparation of this EIS and the Record of Decision (ROD) to comply with Section 106. Appendix J of this Draft EIS contains BOEM’s Finding of Adverse Effect, which includes a description and summary of BOEM’s consultation to date. BOEM will continue consulting with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Delaware SHPO, Virginia SHPO, New Jersey SHPO, ACHP, federally recognized tribes, and the consulting parties regarding the Finding of Adverse Effect and the resolution of adverse effects. BOEM has and will be conducting Section 106 consultation meeting(s) on the Finding of Adverse Effect and the resolution of adverse effects, and the

agency will be requesting that the consulting parties review and comment on the Finding of Adverse Effect and proposed resolution measures. BOEM fulfilled public involvement requirements for Section 106 of the NHPA through the NEPA public scoping and public meetings process, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The Scoping Summary Report (BOEM 2022), available on BOEM’s Project-specific website, summarizes comments on historic preservation issues.

On June 8, 2022, BOEM initiated consultation with federally recognized tribes: Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation, Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, Shawnee Tribe, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, and the Shinnecock Indian Nation. BOEM requested information on sites of religious and cultural significance to the tribes that the proposed Projects could affect and BOEM offered its assistance in providing additional details and information on the proposed Projects to the tribes.

On June 8, 2022, BOEM contacted representatives of local governments, state and local historical societies, and other federal agencies to solicit information on historic properties and determine their interest in participating as consulting parties. Participants that have accepted consulting party status for the NHPA Section 106 Consultation are listed in **Table A-2**.

Table A-2. Participating consulting parties for NHPA Section 106 Consultation

Participants in the Section 106 Process	Participating Consulting Parties
State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and state agencies	Delaware Department of Natural Resources Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation Delaware Historical & Cultural Affairs Maryland Department of Natural Resources Maryland Environmental Trust Maryland Historical Trust New Jersey Historic Preservation Office New Jersey State Park Service - Cape May State Park Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Participants in the Section 106 Process	Participating Consulting Parties
Federal agencies	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Department of Defense (Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Fort Story Wallops Island, Virginia) Department of Defense (National Guard Training Site Bethany Beach Training Site) Department of Defense (Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment), Environmental Compliance and Planning) Environmental Protection Agency Federal Aviation Administration National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Wallops Flight Facility National Park Service Natural Resources Conservation Service (Delaware) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Coast Guard
Federally and state recognized tribes	Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Chickahominy Indian Tribe Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division Delaware Nation Delaware Tribe of Indians Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Lenape Tribe of Delaware Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Monacan Indian Nation Nansemond Indian Nation Nanticoke Indian Association Narragansett Indian Tribe Pamunkey Indian Tribe Rappahannock Tribe Seneca-Cayuga Nation Shawnee Tribe Shinnecock Indian Nation Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians Tuscarora Nation Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Participants in the Section 106 Process	Participating Consulting Parties
Local governments	Accomack County, Virginia Borough of Stone Harbor, New Jersey Cape May County Division of Culture and Heritage Cape May County, New Jersey City of Cape May, New Jersey City of North Wildwood, New Jersey City of Rehoboth, Delaware Lower Township, New Jersey Sussex County, Delaware Sussex County Historic Preservation Town of Bethany Beach, Delaware Town of Chincoteague, Virginia Town of Dewey Beach, Delaware Town of Fenwick Island, Delaware Town of Millville, Delaware Town of Ocean City, Maryland Town of Selbyville, Delaware Town of South Bethany, Delaware Town of Wildwood, New Jersey Wildwood Crest Borough, New Jersey Worcester County, Maryland
Nongovernmental organizations or groups	Beach to Bay Heritage Area Cape May County Historical Society Cape May County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Delaware Historical Society Greater Cape May Historical Society Historical Society of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Lower Shore Land Trust Lower Sussex NAACP Chapter Maryland Environmental Trust Navy Lakehurst Historical Society Preservation Maryland Preservation New Jersey Wildwood Crest Historical Society Wildwood Historical Society Worcester County Historical Society Worcester County NAACP Branch

A.3.2.5 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Pursuant to Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), federal agencies are required to consult with NMFS on any action that may result in adverse effects on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS regulations implementing the EFH provisions of the MSA can be found at 50 CFR 600. As provided for in 50 CFR 600.920(b), BOEM has accepted designation as the lead agency for the purposes of fulfilling EFH consultation obligations under Section 305(b) of the MSA. Certain OCS activities authorized by BOEM

may result in adverse effects on EFH and, therefore, require consultation with NMFS. BOEM developed an EFH Assessment concurrent with the Draft EIS and transmitted the EFH Assessment to NMFS on June 2, 2023. NMFS anticipates receipt of the complete EFH Assessment from BOEM and initiation of the EFH consultation on April 1, 2024.

A.3.2.6 Marine Mammal Protection Act

Section 101(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 USC 1361) prohibits persons or vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States from taking any marine mammal in waters or on lands under the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas (16 USC 1372(a)(1), (a)(2)). Section 101(a) of the act provides the prohibitions for the incidental taking of marine mammals. The incidental take of a marine mammal falls under three categories: mortality, serious injury, or harassment (i.e., injury and/or disruption of behavioral patterns). Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA provide the exceptions to the prohibition on take, which give NMFS the authority to authorize the incidental but not intentional take of small numbers of marine mammals, provided certain determinations are made and statutory and regulatory procedures are met. Entities seeking to obtain authorization for the incidental take of marine mammals under NMFS jurisdiction must submit such a request (in the form of an application). Incidental Take Authorizations (ITA) may be issued as either (1) regulations and associated letters of authorization (LOA), or (2) an incidental harassment authorization (IHA), depending on which is appropriate for the proposed activity. An IHA may be authorized when a proposed action will not result in a potential for serious injury and/or mortality or where any such potential can be negated through required mitigation measures.

LOAs may be issued for up to a maximum period of 5 years, and IHAs may be issued for a maximum period of 1 year. NMFS has also promulgated regulations to implement the provisions of the MMPA governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR 216) and has published application instructions that prescribe the procedures necessary to apply for an ITA. Applicants seeking to obtain authorization for the incidental take of marine mammals under NMFS' jurisdiction must comply with these regulations and application instructions in addition to the provisions of the MMPA.

Once NMFS determines an application is adequate and complete, NMFS has a corresponding duty to determine whether and how to authorize take of marine mammals incidental to the activities described in the application. To authorize the incidental take of marine mammals, NMFS evaluates the best available scientific information to determine whether the take would have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks and an immitigable impact on their availability for taking for subsistence uses. NMFS must also prescribe the "means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, and on the availability of those species or stocks for subsistence uses, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements.

US Wind submitted an application for LOA to NMFS on August 31, 2022. The application was reviewed, revised and considered complete April 3, 2023, and NMFS published a Notice of Receipt in the Federal Register on May 2, 2023.

A.3.3 Development of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

This section provides an overview of the development of the Draft EIS, including public scoping, cooperating agency involvement, and distribution of the Draft EIS for public review and comment.

A.3.3.1 Scoping

On June 8, 2022, BOEM issued an NOI to prepare an EIS consistent with NEPA regulations (42 USC 4321 et seq.) to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives (87 Federal Register 34901). The NOI commenced a public scoping process for identifying issues and potential alternatives for consideration in the EIS. The formal scoping period was from June 8 through July 8, 2022. BOEM held three virtual public scoping meetings to solicit feedback and to identify issues and potential alternatives for consideration in the EIS. Throughout this timeframe, federal agencies, state and local governments, and the general public had the opportunity to help BOEM identify potential significant resources and issues, impact producing factors (IPFs), reasonable alternatives (e.g., geographic, seasonal, or other restrictions on construction and siting of facilities and activities), and potential mitigation measures to analyze in the EIS, as well as provide additional information. BOEM also used the NEPA scoping process to initiate the Section 106 consultation process under the NHPA (54 USC 300101 et seq.), as permitted by 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), which requires federal agencies to assess the effects of projects on historic properties. Additionally, BOEM informed its Section 106 consultation by seeking public comment and input through the NOI regarding the identification of historic properties or potential effects on historic properties from activities associated with approval of the COP. The NOI requested comments from the public in written form, delivered by hand or by mail, or through the <http://www.regulations.gov> web portal.

BOEM held three virtual scoping meetings on June 21, 23 and 27, 2022. BOEM reviewed and considered all scoping comments in the development of the Draft EIS and used the comments to identify alternatives for analysis. A Scoping Summary Report (BOEM 2022) summarizing the submissions received and the methods for analyzing them is available on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/USWind-Scoping-Report.pdf>. A Scoping Summary Report (BOEM 2022) summarizing the submissions received and the methods for analyzing them is available on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/USWind-Scoping-Report.pdf>. In addition, all public scoping submissions received can be viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov> by typing "BOEM-2022-0025" in the search field. As detailed in the Scoping Summary Report, the resource areas or NEPA topics most referenced in the scoping comments include commercial fisheries and for-hire recreational fishing; mitigation and monitoring; alternatives; birds; NEPA/Public Involvement Process; cumulative effects; climate change; marine mammals; and others.

A.3.3.2 Cooperating Agencies

BOEM invited other federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments to consider becoming cooperating agencies in the preparation of the Draft EIS. According to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines, qualified agencies and governments are those with "jurisdiction by law or special

expertise” (CEQ 1981). BOEM asked potential cooperating agencies to consider their authority and capacity to assume the responsibilities of a cooperating agency, and to be aware that an agency’s role in the environmental analysis neither enlarges nor diminishes the final decision-making authority of any other agency involved in the NEPA process.

BOEM also asked agencies to consider the “Factors for Determining Cooperating Agency Status” in Attachment 1 to CEQ’s January 30, 2002, Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies (CEQ 2002). BOEM held interagency meetings on May 5, 2022; August 24, 2022; and October 25, 2022, to discuss the environmental review process, schedule, responsibilities, consultation, and potential EIS alternatives.

The following federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments have supported preparation of the Draft EIS as cooperating or participating agencies, or cooperating tribal nations:

Federal Cooperating Agencies

- BSEE
- NMFS
- National Park Service (NPS)
- USACE
- USCG
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Maritime Administration

State Cooperating Agencies

- MD DNR
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)

Federal Participating Agencies

- ACHP
- Department of Navy
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- USFWS

State Participating Agencies

- MD Department of the Environment

Cooperating Tribal Nations

- The Delaware Nation
- The Delaware Tribe of Indians
- The Shinnecock Indian Nation

NMFS is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involve activities that have the potential to affect marine resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise. As applicable, permits and authorizations are issued pursuant to the MMPA, as amended (16 USC 1361 et seq.); the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR 216); the ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.); and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of threatened and endangered species (50 CFR 222–226).

In accordance with 50 CFR 402, NMFS also serves as the Consulting Agency under Section 7 of the ESA for federal agencies proposing action that may affect marine resources listed as threatened or endangered. NMFS has additional responsibilities to conserve and manage fishery resources of the United States, which includes the authority to engage in consultations with other federal agencies pursuant to the MSA and 50 CFR 600 when proposed actions may adversely affect EFH. The MMPA is the only authorization for NMFS that requires NEPA compliance. NMFS intends to adopt BOEM's Final EIS if, after independent review and analysis, NMFS determines the Final EIS to be sufficient to support the authorization.

USACE is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise. As applicable, permits and authorizations are issued pursuant to Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Issuance of Section 10 or Section 404 permits requires NEPA compliance, which will be met via adoption of BOEM's EIS and issuance of the ROD.

BSEE is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect marine resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise.

USEPA is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise, including air quality and water quality.

USCG is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect navigation and safety issues that fall under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise.

The NPS is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect NPS resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise. The NPS, as a bureau within the DOI and cooperating agency for the preparation of this EIS, has special expertise regarding the regulation of uses on NPS units and management of park system resources that includes compliance with the Park System Resource Protection Act (Public Law 113–287, December 2014). The NPS also is participating in the consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA.

ACHP is serving as a participating agency because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect historic properties under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise. ACHP also is participating in the consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA.

USFWS is serving as a participating agency because the scope of the Proposed Action and alternatives involves activities that could affect resources under its jurisdiction by law and special expertise. USFWS also serves as the consulting agency under Section 7 of the ESA for federal agencies proposing actions that may affect terrestrial resources listed as threatened or endangered.

DOD and Department of the Navy are serving as participating agencies because they have special expertise with respect to potential impacts that may occur as a result of the Proposed Action, including regarding potential impacts on special use airspace and radar used for air defense.

MD DNR and DNREC are serving as cooperating state agencies pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8 because it has special expertise with respect to potential impacts that may occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

A.3.3.3 Distribution of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Review and Comment

A list of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the Draft EIS were sent is provided in Appendix N. The Draft EIS is also available in electronic format for public viewing at <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/us-wind>.

Hard copies and/or digital copies of the Draft EIS can be requested by contacting the Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, in Sterling, Virginia. Publication of this Draft EIS initiates a 45-day comment period where government agencies, members of the public, and interested stakeholders can provide comments and input. BOEM will accept comments in any of the following ways:

In hard copy form, delivered by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled “Maryland Offshore Wind COP Draft EIS” and addressed to Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166.

Through the regulations.gov web portal by navigating to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and searching for docket number “BOEM-2023-0050.” Click the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit.”

By attending one of the public hearings at the locations and dates listed in the notice of availability and providing written or verbal comments.

BOEM will use comments received during the public comment period to inform its preparation of the Final EIS, as appropriate.

A.4 References Cited

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