

# BOEM New York/New Jersey Environmental Justice Roundtable and Forum Input Progress Report for New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

## Introduction

BOEM is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for offshore wind development in the New York Bight lease areas. To support the PEIS and to inform decision making on offshore wind planning and development in the New York / New Jersey area, BOEM hosted an Environmental Justice (EJ) Roundtable Convening on Offshore Wind in the New York/New Jersey Region on July 21, 2022. Following the Roundtable, BOEM established a series of quarterly forum meetings to continue engagement on environmental justice issues.

At the Roundtable, BOEM heard from federal and state partners and community-based organizations who serve or work with environmental justice and underserved communities. Participants shared ideas on potential issues and impacts that may affect environmental justice and underserved communities from offshore wind energy development in the New York / New Jersey area.

Much of information provided in the Environmental Justice Roundtable Convening and Forums will inform the New York Bight PEIS. Other information and concerns shared through the series will likely be applicable to BOEM's reviews of Construction and Operations Plans submitted by lessees, and some information will likely be of interest to other federal and state partners.

## Purpose

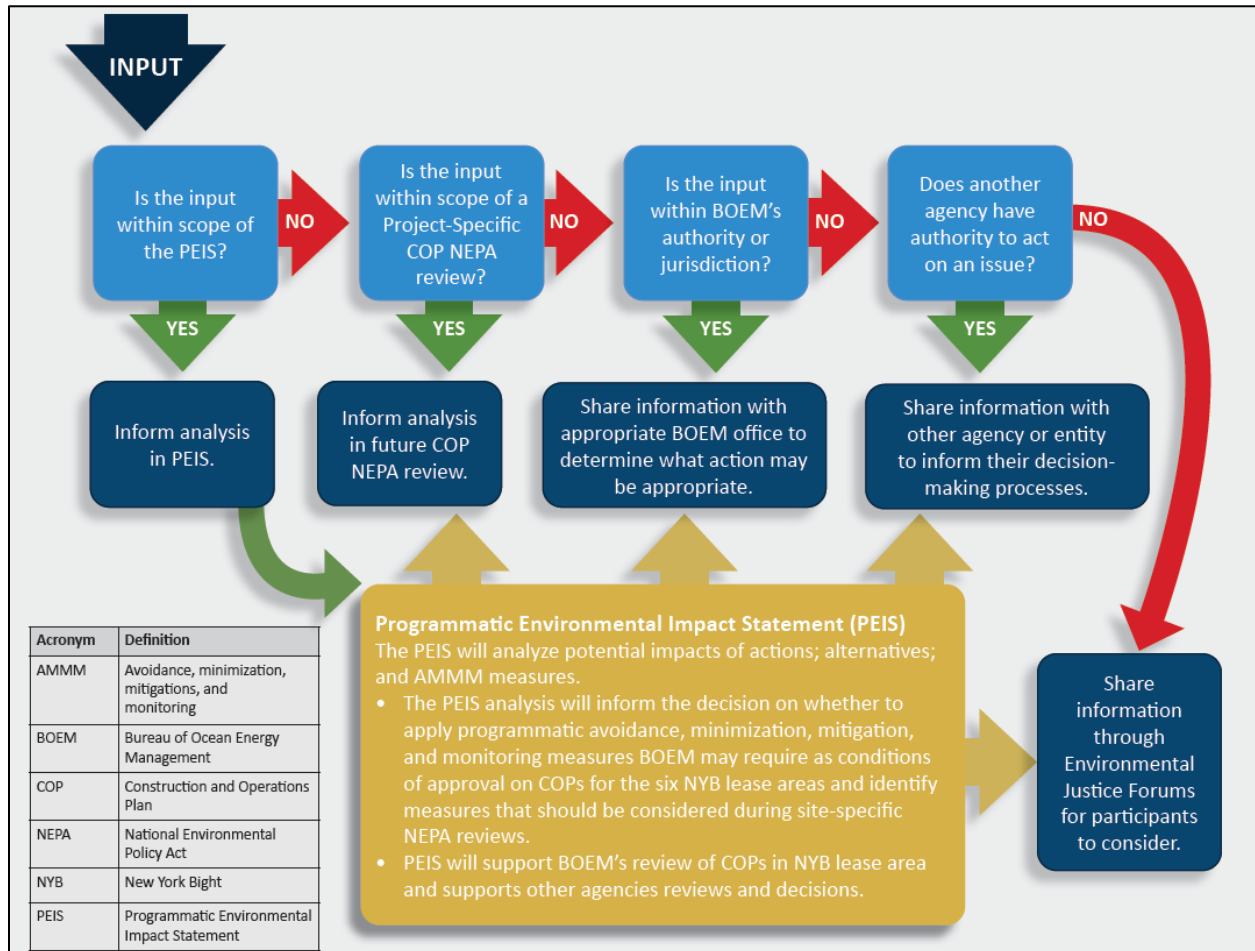
This Input-Action Report is intended to communicate to EJ Roundtable and Forum participants how information they share with BOEM is incorporated into decision-making processes. This initial status report reflects information on potential environmental justice impacts identified during the July 2022 New York / New Jersey Environmental Justice Roundtable Convening. Subsequent status reports will include additional information provided at quarterly forums.

## Information Flow Process

It is BOEM's intent that all input shared in the New York / New Jersey EJ Roundtable and Forums be shared with appropriate entities, whether or not the issues are under BOEM's jurisdiction and authority or are addressed in BOEM's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. In the context of incorporating information into the New York Bight PEIS, BOEM considers whether the input or issue is within the scope of the PEIS; that is, relevant to environment and human setting of the New York Bight or to potential impacts in the area of analysis. The input may be more applicable to address when reviewing project-specific Construction and Operations Plans. BOEM also considers whether it has authority to address an issue or whether another entity such as another federal or state agency can address an issue under its mission and authority. Additionally, some of the information shared in the EJ

Roundtable and Forums may be informative to lessees or to community-based organizations and other organizations working on environmental justice issues.

BOEM considers a number of questions to process input provided through the EJ Roundtable and Forums, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Information Flow Process for Input Provided for the New York Bight PEIS**

## Input and Progress From July 2022 Environmental Justice Roundtable *Input*

During the Roundtable event, participants were asked to provide input on additional potential impacts because of the New York Bight wind energy development leasing process. Participants provided input in a virtual whiteboard brainstorming exercise (Miro board; Figure 2). The potential impacts identified fall into the following general categories:

- Air quality
- Commercial fishing
- Equitable energy distribution
- Impacts to port communities
- Inclusivity of local communities

- Increased emissions
- Labor and workforce, and equity in contracting
- Recreational fishing and boating
- Visual impacts



**Figure 2: Miro Board Ideas Shared at July 21, 2022 EJ Roundtable**

*Input Tracking and Status*

BOEM has shared the above issues, including the Miro board, with the New York Bight PEIS team and is currently working through addressing many of the concepts. The following table indicates progress and status of BOEM’s processing of the issues identified above during the July 21, 2022 EJ Roundtable. BOEM will update status of these issues and additional input and issues from each EJ Forum throughout the development of the PEIS.

Issue	Progress	Reasoning	Status
<b>Impacts of emissions on air quality</b>	BOEM is analyzing impacts to EJ communities from emissions in the PEIS, relying on analysis of overall air quality impacts	Applicable to the PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
<b>Impacts on commercial fishing Impacts to communities from effects on commercial fishing</b>	BOEM is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analyzing impacts on commercial fishing, and</li> <li>• exploring data sources and methods to analyze impacts on fishing communities in the PEIS</li> </ul>	Applicable to the PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress

Issue	Progress	Reasoning	Status
<b>Equitable energy distribution</b>	BOEM will explore other partners and agencies with responsibilities or program areas that address energy distribution and will share the findings at a future NY/NJ EIJF.	Applicable to other state and federal partners, outside of BOEM's jurisdiction.	Exploring
<b>Impacts to port communities</b>	BOEM is analyzing impacts to communities near ports in the PEIS. Findings from PEIS that are relevant to other federal and state permitting agencies will be shared as applicable.	Applicable to PEIS Applicable to other agencies	PEIS draft in progress Exploring information sharing
<b>Inclusivity of local communities</b>	BOEM is exploring and seeking collaboration on methods to increase engagement for future public comment periods	Applicable to all	Continual
<b>Labor and workforce, equity in contracting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOEM is analyzing economic impacts, including employment, PEIS.</li> <li>• BOEM will share concerns about contracting equity and workforce development with other entities, including lessees.</li> </ul>	Applicable to PEIS Applicable to other agencies and lessees	Draft PEIS in progress Exploring information sharing
<b>Recreational fishing and boating</b>	BOEM is analyzing impacts to recreational fishing and boating in the PEIS	Applicable to PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
<b>Visual impacts</b>	BOEM will consider visual impacts in the PEIS	Applicable to PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress