

BOEM Environmental Justice Forums for New York & New Jersey

Input Status Report for New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: July 2023 Environmental Justice Forum

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 — referred to as the Environmental Justice Forums, or EJF — to continue engagement on environmental justice issues.

At the Roundtable and the first EJF, BOEM heard from federal and state partners and community-based organizations who serve or work with environmental justice and underserved communities. Participants provided input on how BOEM should pursue engagement with environmental justice and underserved communities in the region moving forward. They also 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 the information provided in the Environmental Justice Roundtable Convening and EJFs 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

The input-status report communicates to Roundtable and EJF participants how information they share during engagement efforts is processed by BOEM. The status report captures potential environmental justice impacts identified during the July 2022 New York & New Jersey Environmental Justice Roundtable Convening, the first quarterly forum held on October 26, 2022, and the subsequent quarterly forums held on January 25, 2023, April 26, 2023 and July 26, 2023. Subsequent status reports will include additional information provided at quarterly forums and updates on how BOEM is handling identified topics or issues.

Information Flow Process

BOEM intends that all input shared in the New York & New Jersey Roundtable and EJP is 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 the environment and human setting of the New York Bight or to potential impacts in the area of analysis. Some input may be more relevant to reviews of 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, should address an issue under its mission and authority. Additionally, some of the information shared in the Roundtable and EJP 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.

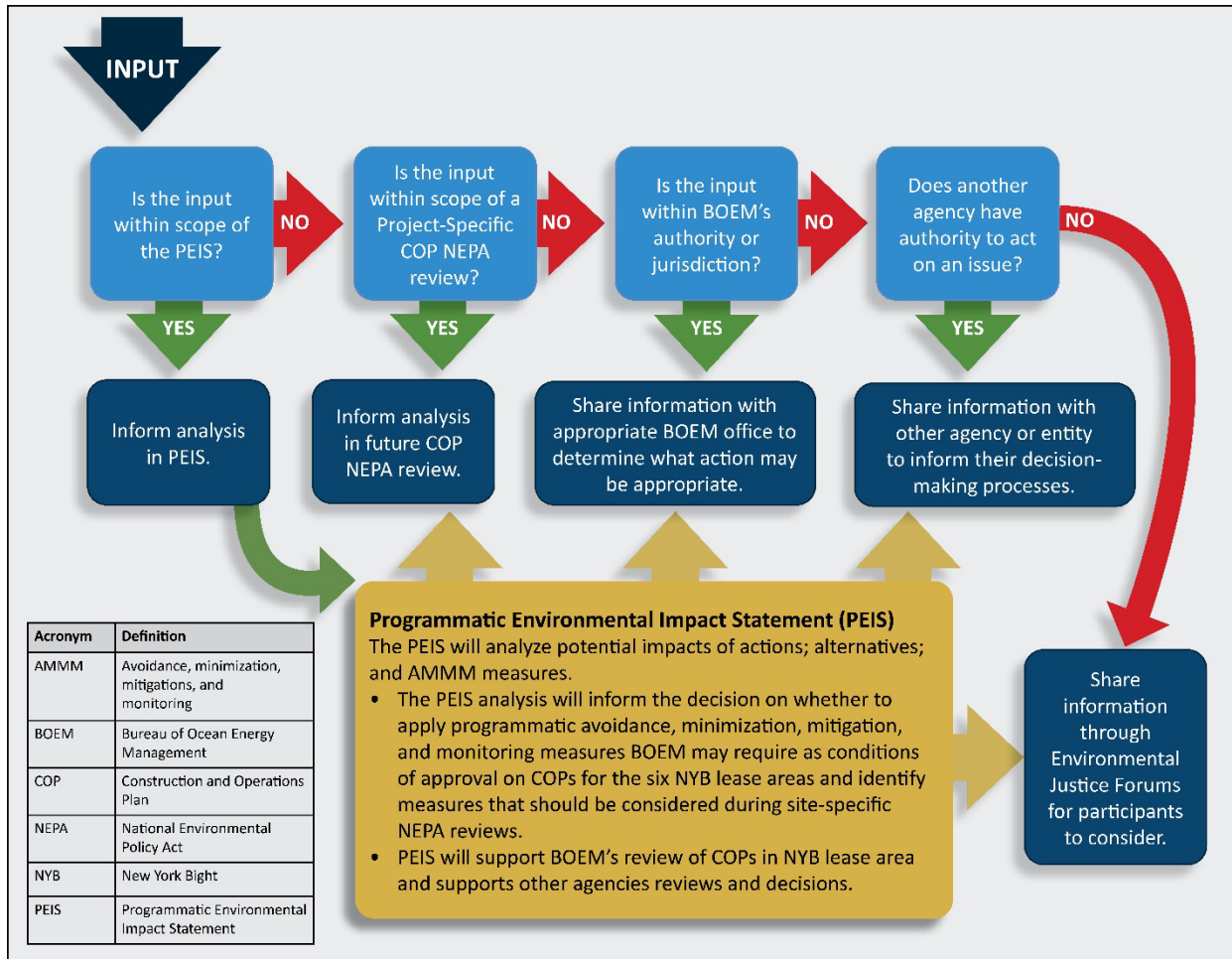


Figure 1: Information Flow Process for Input Provided for the New York Bight PEIS

Input and Progress

Input from July 26, 2023 Environmental Justice Forum

During the EJP on July 26, 2023, participants heard from several federal agencies who shared their roles and responsibilities pertaining to offshore wind and environmental justice as well as explored ideas for topics and formats of a potential in-person Fall EJP. The presentation and meeting summary from the forum are available at on the [Environmental Justice Forums webpage](#). The following input was shared:

- Tribes should be engaged in all aspects of offshore wind development including planning analysis, site assessment, leasing permitting, construction and operations, and decommissioning. **(A.23; B.19)**
- Lessees should be in contact with all Tribal Nations involved. **(B.19)**
- Remove barriers to participation in an in-person EJP by providing childcare, transportation, and food. **(C.05)**
- Clearly identify the value proposition of an in-person EJP. **(C.06)**
- Consider providing compensation for attendees at an in-person EJP. **(C.07)**
- Provide space to hear directly from environmental justice groups and community members at an in-person EJP. **(C.08)**
- Provide time for meaningful networking and casual conversations with BOEM and other participants at an in-person EJP. **(C.09)**
- An in-person EJP should consider the following topics:
 - Workforce development within EJ communities. **(A.10)**
 - Inclusion of Tribal communities throughout the offshore wind development process. **(B.19)**
 - Strategizing on better engagement, including minimizing stakeholder fatigue. **(B.04)**
 - Collaboration between community-based organizations and developers. **(A.23; B.13)**
 - Identifying key community-specific concerns and actionable steps to address them. **(A.02)**
 - Addressing cumulative impacts. **(A.19)**

Input Tracking and Status

BOEM shared the above issues, along with themes and issues from the April 2023, January 2023, and October 2022 quarterly forums and the July 21, 2022 EJ Roundtable, with the New York Bight PEIS team and is working through addressing many of the concepts, as applicable. The following table indicates progress and status of BOEM's processing of the issues identified during the Roundtable, October 2022 EJP, January 2023 EJP, April EJP, and July EJP. BOEM will update the status of these issues and additional input and issues from each EJP throughout the development of the PEIS.

Relevant for Programmatic Impact Statement - Impacts, Benefits, and AMMM measures* (A)

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.01	Existing environmental stressors and legacy pollution and waste	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM will discuss existing stressors (e.g., sewage, mold, flooding from hurricanes) and legacy hazardous waste, that could be compounded by impacts from development in the PEIS.	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.02	Consider impacts to specific communities identified during EJF	Oct. 2022 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM will include the identified communities and areas in the affected environment and discuss impacts in the PEIS, as applicable; more detailed analysis of specific communities may apply to COP NEPA reviews.	PEIS; potentially COP NEPA	Draft PEIS in progress
A.03	Impacts of emissions on air quality	July 2022 Roundtable; Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM is analyzing impacts to EJ communities from emissions in the PEIS, relying on analysis of overall air quality impacts. January 2023 update: This was also addressed at the January 2023 EJF.	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.04	Mitigate impacts on air quality from development-related traffic	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM is exploring mitigation measures related to impacts from development. BOEM will share information with other federal, state, and local authorities with jurisdiction over traffic management.	PEIS; other partners	Draft PEIS in progress
A.05	Impacts on commercial fishing; Impacts to communities from effects on commercial fishing	July 2022 Roundtable	BOEM is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ analyzing impacts on commercial fishing, and ▪ exploring data sources and methods to analyze impacts on fishing communities in the PEIS 	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.06	Coastal access, public use of coastal land, specific uses such as subsistence fishing	Oct. 2022 EJF	The PEIS will include discussion of coastal access and public use of coastal lands, including consideration of access issues from climate change. BOEM is exploring mitigation measures related to coastal access.	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.07	Equitable energy distribution	July 2022 Roundtable	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 EJF.	Other state and federal agencies; outside of BOEM's jurisdiction.	Exploring
A.08	Impacts to port communities	July 2022 Roundtable	BOEM is analyzing impacts to communities near representative ports in the PEIS. Findings from PEIS that are relevant to other federal and state permitting agencies will be shared as applicable.	PEIS; other agencies	PEIS draft in progress. Exploring information sharing.
A.09	Promote green industry and manufacturing at waterfronts, with attention to the impact of the logistics and trucking industries.	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM will explore other partners and agencies with responsibilities or program areas that address manufacturing and working waterfronts. BOEM will explore including this as an agenda item at an EJF.	Other agencies and lessees; outside of BOEM's jurisdiction	Exploring information sharing
A.10	Labor and workforce, equity in contracting; accessibility of training	July 2022 Roundtable Oct. 2022 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM is analyzing economic impacts, including employment, in the PEIS. BOEM will share concerns about contracting equity and workforce development with other entities, including lessees.	PEIS; other agencies; lessees	Draft PEIS in progress. Exploring information sharing.

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.11	Ensure that small businesses benefit from offshore wind activity	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM will explore other partners and agencies with responsibilities or program areas that address business opportunities related to offshore wind. BOEM will explore including this as an agenda item at an EJF.	Other agencies and lessees; outside of BOEM's jurisdiction	Exploring information sharing
A.12	Recreational fishing and boating	July 2022 Roundtable	BOEM is analyzing impacts to recreational fishing and boating in the PEIS	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.13	Visual impacts	July 2022 Roundtable	BOEM will consider visual impacts in the PEIS	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.14	Explore mitigation beyond compensation mechanisms for losses (e.g., workforce development and employment)	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM is considering mitigation measures to analyze in the PEIS that are within BOEM's authority.	PEIS	Draft PEIS in progress
A.15	Share information and research on how impacts to whales are being addressed either in the PEIS or to the public	Jan. 2023 EJF	Information on approach to acoustic impacts on marine mammals was provided in the March 10, 2023 email to EJF participants. Impacts on marine mammals and potential AMMM measures will be described in the PEIS. Impacts and mitigations are also considered through Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act consultation processes. A March 2023 meeting of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment (COSA) included information from experts at BOEM, NOAA, and others on issues related to marine mammals and acoustics. The meeting recording will be available at the above link.	BOEM; other agencies; COP NEPA processes and other consultation processes	Draft PEIS and consultations in progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.16	Impacts of low frequency sound waves on migrating animals	Jan. 2023 EJF	Impacts on marine mammals and other protected species and potential mitigation measures will be described in the PEIS. Impacts and mitigations are also considered through Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act consultation processes.	BOEM; other agencies; COP NEPA processes and other consultation processes	Draft PEIS in progress
A.17	Share information on studies conducted on the number of pollutants off the coast of the Atlantic or on the impacts of pollutants on waterways near coastal communities	Jan. 2023 EJF	Information provided by BOEM water quality SME shared directly with the individual requesting information. Water quality will be analyzed in the PEIS.	BOEM	Complete
A.18	Impacts of atmospheric pressure waves caused by windmills on resiliency of saltmarsh vegetation	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM’s physical sciences team has been studying topics around air-sea interaction in the vicinity of wind turbines and will incorporate applicable information into PEIS. More detailed response provided to individual in separate email.	BOEM	Draft PEIS in progress
A.19	Share information on how follow-on, long-term impacts are being considered and/ or addressed retroactively	Jan. 2023 EJF April 2023 EJF July 2023 EJF	The PEIS will provide information on how AMMM measures will apply throughout the life of projects. COP reviews will also include AMMMs. BSEE provided information on enforcement at the July 2023 EJF.	BOEM; BSEE; COP NEPA processes	Draft PEIS in progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.20	Acknowledge the varying definitions of ‘marginalized communities’ in planning documents (e.g., communication plans in draft AMMM measure)	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM’s offshore wind NEPA documents acknowledge both state and federal definitions of communities in the environmental justice analysis. BOEM has generally used environmental justice and underserved communities to align with various Federal Executive Orders, as applicable, and welcomes feedback about additional definitions to include.	BOEM	Complete
A.21	Prioritize avoidance and minimization over mitigation	Jan. 2023 EJF	Typically, avoidance and minimization are considered preferable forms of mitigation over mitigating through restoration or compensation. The PEIS considers a range of avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures. Under NEPA, “mitigation” is an overarching term that includes avoidance, minimization, and other forms of addressing impacts (40 CFR § 1508.1(s))	BOEM; COP NEPA processes	Draft PEIS in progress
A.22	Consider compiling and comparing all mitigation measures on projects across the entire NY Bight area and beyond to inform the mitigation proposed for the PEIS	Jan. 2023 EJF	Compilation of mitigations measures for all Atlantic offshore wind COPs, and consideration of the applicability of those measures to the NYB leases, is part of BOEM’s process of developing AMMM measures to include in the Draft PEIS	BOEM	Draft PEIS in progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
A.23	Encourage developers to work with Tribes to determine mitigation strategies	Jan. 2023 EJF July 2023 EJF	Based on feedback during discussions with Tribes, the New York Bight lease required lessees to develop Tribal Communications Plans in 2022 (shortly after the lease sale) and submit progress reports to BOEM every six months until approval of a Construction and Operations Plan. Lessees must report to BOEM about how input from Tribes influenced the project, including mitigations. Progress Reports are available on BOEM's New York Bight website (follow link to individual projects and see "progress report" tab).	BOEM; lessees; COP review processes	Continual
A.24	Expand draft communications plan AMMM measure beyond construction and operations	Jan. 2023 EJF	The draft communications plan AMMM measure would apply through project decommissioning.	BOEM	Complete

Relevant to Offshore Wind Beyond Programmatic Environment Impact Statement or EJ & Engagement Process Related Issues (B)

B.01	Inclusivity of local communities	July 2022 Roundtable April 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring and seeking collaboration on methods to increase engagement for future public comment periods.	BOEM; federal agencies; state agencies; community organizations	Continual
B.02	Multi-language communications	Oct. 2022 EJF	BOEM is continuing to develop engagement strategies and materials including language access considerations.	BOEM	Continual

B.03	Information about existing outreach activities	Oct. 2022 EJF April 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to provide space for announcements of other engagement activities at the EJFs and supporting materials. This space is welcome to all who identify as or support EJ or underserved communities.	All EJF participants	Continual
B.04	Coordination and communication among federal and state agencies; avoid duplicating outreach and engagement efforts with state efforts	Oct. 2022 EJF Jan. 2023 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring ways to promote inter-agency coordination and communication around environmental justice and underserved community issues, including through the EJF, the New York & New Jersey Working Groups, and the All-of-Government Offshore Wind Workplan. BOEM will continue seeking information on state outreach and engagement efforts and ways to avoid duplication, and welcomes coordination with state partners.	Federal and state agencies	Continual
B.05	Enforcement of CBAs and PLAs	Oct. 2022 EJF Jan. 2023 EJF April 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring measures around community benefits and workforce equity. BOEM does not have enforcement authority in this space but will share information with states and lessees and collaborate to advance this item.	BOEM; other federal agencies; state agencies; lessees	In progress

B.06	Increase accountability and transparency from developers	Oct. 2022 EJF April 2023 EJF	BOEM will share this concern with lessees and think about discussion questions to ask at a future EJF that will help BOEM and lessees better understand community expectations around accountability and transparency, potentially through the coordinated engagement reporting requirement for lessees. At the April EJF, BOEM invited lessees to more actively participate on this topic.	BOEM and lessees	Continual
B.07	Consider whether scientific information BOEM uses to analyze potential impacts and make decisions is sourced from a diverse range of scientists and knowledge holders.	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring approaches to addressing this topic, including through BOEM’s Environmental Studies Program.	BOEM	Continual
B.08	Prioritize engaging environmental justice communities as early in the process as possible	Jan. 2023 EJF April 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to explore ways to engage with communities as early as possible; this is a long-term issue that goes beyond the scope of the NYB PEIS. Lessees participate in the EJFs, and NYB lessees are required to provide semi-annual reports on engagement activities, including efforts to engage with underserved communities.	BOEM; lessees	Continual
B.09	Develop better communication channels (and more transparent/trustworthy) flowing into communities	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM in final stages of setting up a contract to bring on two Fellows with a main responsibility to think about this topic and how to partner better with people and organizations with established communication channels. BOEM also exploring a potential role for Sea Grant’s Offshore Wind Liaison Initiative.	BOEM	In Progress

B.10	Consider jointly developing and implementing engagement plans earlier than the Construction and Operations Plans (COPs), ideally in the area identification phase.	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM will communicate this request internally to inform planning for future processes; this is a long-term issue outside the scope of the NYB leases. Also see B.08.	BOEM	Exploring
B.11	Explore projects that support long-term investment in communities and allow for community control of shaping investments. Prioritize long-term accountability where developers are engaged throughout the entire process.	April 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to share resources on community benefits and invites other federal and state agencies to share resources through the EJFs. BOEM aims to facilitate exploration of these types of projects directly with communities and required lessees, through a lease sale stipulation, to advance enhanced engagement and coordination with Tribes and other parties throughout the project planning phase, specifically requiring semi-annual Progress Reports available on BOEM’s New York Bight website . BOEM will continue to explore ways to embed long-term accountability, especially as applicable to the Draft PEIS and AMMM measures. (Also see A.24)	Lessees; BOEM; other EJF participants	Continual
B.12	Ensure communities with less capacity have the resources to negotiate community benefit agreements (CBAs) or other community benefit mechanisms.	April 2023 EJF	This is a long-term effort that needs involvement by lessees, local and state governments, community-based organizations, and others. The U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, offers a Community Benefit Agreement Toolkit . BOEM is considering a study on community benefit mechanisms for offshore wind . Other federal and state agencies are developing tools and resources and are encouraged to share them with EJF participants.	Lessees; states, BOEM and other agencies (providing resources)	Continual

B.13	Encourage developers to meet with community members through existing community events and invite them to charettes/workshops.	April 2023 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to provide time during the EJFs for participants to share announcements about engagement events and invites other EJF participants to share events through the EJFs. BOEM will review Lessee Progress Reports related to engagement activities to remain aware of the level of Lessee involvement in existing community events or local charettes/workshops, and provide feedback to Lessees whenever possible.	Lessees	Continual
B.14	Leverage existing community plans that were developed based on inclusive processes (e.g., comprehensive plans).	April 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to provide an avenue for community organizations to connect with lessees through the EJFs.	Lessees; local governments; community organizations	Continual
B.15	Consider best practices for establishing community advisory committees related to community benefit mechanisms, with guidance and input from all levels.	April 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to provide an avenue for community organizations to connect with lessees through the EJFs. The U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, offers a Community Benefit Agreement Toolkit for communities and project proponents. Other federal and state agencies are developing tools and resources and are encouraged to share them with EJF participants.	Lessees; community organizations; local governments, states	Continual
B.16	Learn about and understand the communities in which lessees are operating (including Indigenous communities).	April 2023 EJF	BOEM will encourage lessees and project proponents to build locally appropriate historical and cultural awareness for the communities they may impact.	BOEM; other federal agencies; states; lessees	Continual

B.17	Engage community members beyond paid community-based organization staff and provide stipends for their time and expertise.	April 2023 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM continues to explore ways to support the capacity of community members to engage during BOEM’s processes. Two Fellows were recruited (targeting recent graduates with lived experience in an EJ community) as one action toward capacity-building, and they will focus on thinking through next steps for engaging beyond CBO staff. The EJFs also provide an opportunity for this recommendation to be shared with other agencies and lessees for their engagement planning.	BOEM; other federal agencies; states; lessees	Continual
B.18	Engage with local community colleges to facilitate workforce development programs for students and community members.	April 2023 EJF	Recommendation captured for project proponents’ information.	Lessees	Continual
B.19	Engage earlier and more frequently with Indigenous communities. Lessees should be in contact with all Tribal Nations involved. Engage Tribes in all aspects of offshore wind development including planning analysis, site assessment, leasing permitting, construction and operations, and decommissioning. Provide cultural sensitivity training for lessees/developers and tribal liaisons.	July 2023 EJF	BOEM has a Tribal Liaison Officer and Tribal Liaison Representatives in our regional offices and renewable energy program (currently open). For more information on BOEM’s Tribal engagement program, see the Tribal Engagement page. NYB lessees are required to submit communication plans identifying approaches to engage with Tribes, fishing groups, and agencies (see lease stipulation on page 2450). Lessee progress reports on engagement, including with Tribes, is available on lessee information pages here . See also Item A.23.	BOEM; other federal agencies; states; lessees	Continual

EJF Process Related Input (C)

C.01	Consider hosting future EJFs in person	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM plans to host the Fall 2023 EJF in person.	BOEM	In process
C.02	Adjust the EJF format to provide more time for participant discussion sooner in the meeting. Allow lessees and states to hear community member input. Don't break up participants by sector in the breakout sessions	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM is planning to address this by allowing more time for discussion in the April EJF and adjusting the approach to breakout rooms during the forums. Now a continual consideration in the agenda development process.	BOEM	Implemented at April EJF and to continue at future EJFs
C.03	Consider increasing lessee engagement in the EJF, where lessees can share what they've heard and how they are using that information	Jan. 2023 EJF	The main agenda item for the April EJF included opportunity for lessees and EJF participants to engage directly.	BOEM, lessees	Implemented at April EJF and to continue at future EJFs
C.04	Share lessons learned about community benefits agreements, how the Port Authority of NY and NJ evaluates facilities, and how other states conduct evaluations	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue seeking opportunities to hear and share lessons learned from states and other authorities and welcomes information or events that can be incorporated into future EJF agendas including presentations or announcements.	BOEM; States	In process through agenda development, please submit suggestions on future agendas
C.05**	Remove barriers to participation in an in-person EJF by providing childcare, transportation, and food	July 2023 EJF	BOEM is planning to hold an in-person EJF in Fall 2023, geared towards participants from community-based organizations, and has solicited requests for invitational travel to improve equitable participation.	BOEM	To be implemented at Fall EJF
C.06**	Clearly identify the value proposition of an in-person EJF	July 2023 EJF	BOEM, through its EJF contractor, has held conversations with a number of potential participants from CBOs. Most participants indicated they see an in-person forum where CBOs can present their information and can have discussions with BOEM, lessees, and others, would be valuable.	BOEM	In progress

C.07**	Consider providing compensation for attendees at an in-person EJP	July 2023 EJP	BOEM will provide speaking fees to invited participants with a specific speaking role on the agenda. BOEM will continue to explore compensation mechanisms for future EJPs.	BOEM	To be implemented at Fall EJP; exploring additional actions for future
C.08**	Provide space to hear directly from environmental justice groups and community members at an in-person EJP.	July 2023 EJP	The agenda for the planned in-person Fall EJP includes a panel discussion for EJ groups and CBOs to speak directly to EJP participants.	BOEM	To be implemented at Fall EJP
C.09**	Provide time for meaningful networking and casual conversations with BOEM and other participants at an in-person EJP.	July 2023 EJP	BOEM is integrating time for networking and informal discussions into the agenda for the in-person EJP.	BOEM	To be implemented at Fall EJP

* AMMM = Avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measure

** Input and status information on the in-person EJP will be removed in future iterations of the Input-Status Report following completion of the in-person forum to save space in this document.