

BOEM Environmental Justice Forums for New York & New Jersey

Input Status Report for New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: November 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, July 26, 2023, and November 8, 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 EJF 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 EJF 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.

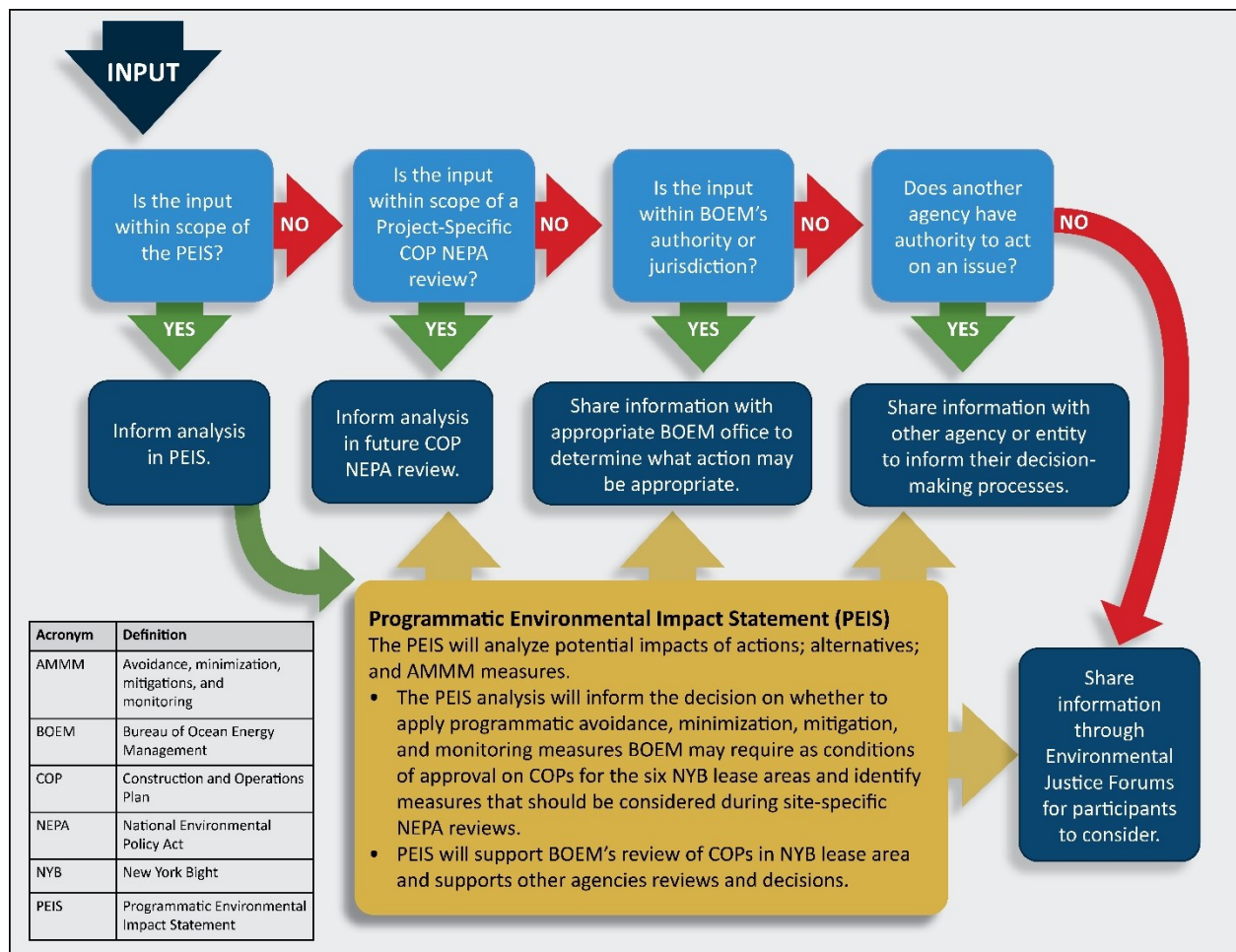


Figure 1: Information Flow Process for Input Provided for the New York Bight PEIS

Input and Progress

Input from November 8, 2023 Environmental Justice Forum

During the EJF on November 8, 2023, participants joined both in person and virtually. The in person participants attended a site visit at UPROSE and the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The in person and virtual participants heard from CBO representatives for a panel discussion on the impacts of offshore

wind development in their communities. Participants then participated in breakout group discussions on specific topics including workforce development, PEIS engagement, state and federal partnerships, and stakeholder best practices. The presentation and meeting summary from the forum are available on the [Environmental Justice Forums webpage](#). The following input was shared:

Workforce Development

- Clarify which jobs created by offshore wind are considered “direct jobs” or “indirect jobs.” [A.25]
- Increase transparency of when OSW jobs will be available (e.g., share that most jobs won’t be offered for years). [A.26]
- There needs to be work done to clearly identify the entry-level jobs in the OSW industry, and then clearly communicate this to communities. [A.27]
- Prepare workers for jobs in offshore wind and explore pathways and capacity building to train the needed offshore wind workforce now and into the future. For example: [B.39]
 - Develop bridge programs.
 - Create career readiness programs.
 - Demonstrate how careers fit into offshore wind.
 - Design programs which illustrate transferrable skills.
 - Develop apprenticeship programs. Support unions in setting realistic expectations.
 - Partnerships with minority and low-income serving institutions that are already structured to support career development.
 - Connecting with elementary and middle schools to build programs that will help develop skills for students early on.

Accessibility and Materials

- All materials related to the NEPA and PEIS comment process should be translated into multiple languages to reach a broad audience. [B.02]
- Materials related to the PEIS need to be written accessibly and in layman’s terms, avoiding jargon. [B.20]
- BOEM should consider parsing out which parts of the PEIS document are most relevant to environmental justice, and provide summaries of each appendix in the PEIS in a way that is more readily accessible to communities. [B.21]
- BOEM should consider articulating more clearly to the general public what is NEPA, what is a PEIS, and why it matters that people take the time to provide public comment, in addition to making clear what parts of the PEIS might be influenced by public comment, and which pieces are set. [B.22]
- BOEM should consider working to make the website more user-friendly, both online and on mobile. [B.23]
- BOEM should consider developing a graphic or flow chart that explains all opportunities available for public feedback related to the lease areas, and how the PEIS process fits into other feedback processes. [B.24]

Improving Education & Outreach

- To improve outreach to communities, BOEM and other federal agencies should consider: [B.25]
 - Hiring someone with an organizing background to lead this work.

- Providing support for local institutions (CBOs, libraries, places of worship) to canvas where community members already convene, to spread the word about the PEIS process.
- Developing communications that look to OSW success stories in other countries, which can build enthusiasm within local communities around the potential benefits of OSW.
- Developing a “Know Your Rights” style campaign to increase public awareness and civic engagement through the NEPA process.
- Expanding outreach beyond legal placements and leverage social media.
- Running an outreach campaign targeting CBOs who can act as intermediaries and ‘translators’ of information to their communities. These CBOs will need financial support to take on this labor. **[B.17]**
- “Street teams” should be utilized to get information out to communities.
- The 45-day comment period is too short – outreach and education around the PEIS need to happen far in advance, so people feel prepared once the comment period begins. **[B.08, B.19, B.26]**
- Multiple ways of engagement should be offered, such as forums, pop-up events, summits, flyers, learning circles (UPROSE), creative engagement that incorporates arts, as well as existing engagement pathways that community members are already familiar with. **[B.32]**
- BOEM should consider how input status reports can be used for education. **[B.38]**

Develop Helpful Resources

- Develop a directory or organization chart of the federal and state agency OSW points of contact as a resource for CBOs. **[B.27]**
- Federal and State agencies should work with lessees to gather and provide information about the number of jobs anticipated throughout the lifecycle of a given project and the pathways and skills required to obtain those jobs. **[A.27]**
- Federal and State agencies should publish a granular description of the number and types of jobs anticipated per megawatt of wind energy, on average. **[A.27]**

Stakeholder-specific Partnership/ Engagement Considerations

- Unions should be included in the EJF. **[C.10]**
- Tribes need resources to develop the skillset and time required to review and understand the data provided by offshore wind projects. Suggestions include: **[B.28]**
 - Federal Agencies should provide consultants to interpret the analyses.
 - The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has resources that could support interpreting the data for tribes.

Trust Building

- Federal agencies (mainly BOEM) could do more to build trust with states, communities, and tribes. For example, BOEM should show up to state-led and other community meetings and celebrations, and not show up just when something is needed. **[B.29]**
- Federal government entities can and should utilize existing networks and resources of local groups, which have developed their own hubs for communication and information sharing with the communities they serve. **[B.30]**

- Make the purpose of engagement clear and offer a meaningful connection with people. Communities should have a clear understanding about what they will get out of engaging in the forums and other engagements. **[B.31]**
- There is a need for a two-way dialogue between community organizations and developers. **[B.09]**
- Government entities like BOEM can take a more hands-on role in ensuring accountability from developers. **[B.06]**
- More conversations should be had around community benefits agreements and financial modeling that can ensure that future prosperity from the growth of offshore wind can be more shared and equitable. **[B.05, B.12]**
- Challenge the language developers use in their contracts around “best faith efforts,” and move beyond that to ensure greater accountability. **[B.06]**

Engagement Considerations

- BOEM should conduct further background research on community history, the region, environmental injustices, existing organizations, coalitions, and other relevant contexts. **[B.16]**
- Participants shared that the EJF space should be continued and expanded as much as possible. **[C.12]**
- Capacity building for a diversity of community-based organizations, particularly those that are more representative of the community and may not be knowledgeable of offshore wind, is worth considering. Invest in capacity building for CBOs to get involved to educate about benefits and impacts of offshore wind. **[B.33]**
- BOEM should consider ways to integrate broader Indigenous communities within the process and recognize the foundational environmental injustices towards Tribes. **[B.34]**
- Intergenerational forms of engagement should be considered. **[B.35]**
- Local politicians should be utilized for broader engagement. **[B.36]**
- To keep momentum, work should continue between forums, not only engaging in discrete events. **[C.13]**
- It was suggested that community members be invited to participate in the EJF. **[B.17]**

Partnerships

- Build partnerships with existing networks and coalitions and learn more about community groups and their initiatives. **[B.30]**
- BOEM should conduct asset mapping to determine potential gaps and opportunities for partnerships. **[B.37]**
- BOEM should create space for discussion around developing a shared objective in the EJF. **[C.11]**

Input Tracking and Status

BOEM shared the above issues, along with themes and issues from the July 2023, 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 EJF, January 2023 EJF, April EJF, July 2023 EJF, and November 2023 EJF. BOEM will update

the status of these issues and additional input and issues from each EIJ 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 and legacy hazardous waste, that could be compounded by impacts from development in the PEIS in the discussion of the cumulative impacts	PEIS	For Environmental Justice cumulative impacts, please see Draft PEIS Sections 3.6.4.4.2, 3.6.4.5.3, and 3.6.4.6.3. Also see cumulative impacts discussion in Water Quality (3.4.2) and in other resource sections.
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	Please see Draft PEIS Section 3.6.4.1, Description of the Affected Environment and Future Baseline Conditions, and Appendix B.5, Environmental Justice Supplemental Information and Additional Figures and Tables.
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.	PEIS	This was addressed at the January 2023 EJF. Please see Draft PEIS Section 3.4.1, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and discussions of air emissions in Environmental Justice Sections 3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.5, and 3.6.4.6
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	Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.4.1.6, Environmental Justice Engagement 3.6.4.4, Impacts of the No Action Alternative 3.6.4.5, Impacts of Alternative B – Defer Adoption of AMMM Measures – Environmental Justice Appendix G, Mitigation and Monitoring, measures AQ1-AQ7 and measures EJ-2 and EJ-3.
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 	PEIS	Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.1.1.2, Regional Fisheries Economic Value and Landings

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ exploring data sources and methods to analyze impacts on fishing communities in the PEIS 		<p>3.6.1.1.3, Commercial Fisheries in the NY Bight Lease Areas 3.6.3.4.3, Cumulative Impacts of Alternative B 3.6.3.4.4, Conclusions 3.6.4.1.3, State of New Jersey Environmental Justice Community Definition / Ocean Economy Considerations Appendix D - D.2.9.2 Fisheries Use and Management Appendix E - E.1.11 Commercial Fisheries and For-Hire Recreational Fishing</p>
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	<p>Coastal access is addressed in Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.6, Environmental Justice Impacts of each alternative, referenced under “Cable emplacement and maintenance” and “Land disturbance”; 3.6.8.3, 3.6.8.4, 3.6.8.5, Recreation and Tourism Impacts of each alternative, under “Cable emplacement and maintenance” and “Land disturbance”; Table 4.1-1, Potential Unavoidable Adverse Impacts of the Proposed Action, Recreation and Tourism; Table G-1, Proposed Action AMMM Measures, EJ-4 EJ compensatory mitigation.</p> <p>Subsistence fishing is addressed in sections: 3.6.4.1.4, Environmental Justice Populations – Ocean Economy Considerations; 3.6.4.1.5, Tribal Communities; 3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.6, Environmental Justice Impacts of each alternative, referenced under “Cable emplacement and maintenance”, “Land</p>

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
					<p>disturbance”, “Noise”, “Presence of structures”; Table 4.1-1, Potential unavoidable Adverse Impacts of the Proposed Action, Environmental Justice</p> <p>Public Access is a common requirement for many municipal laws and regulations the NYB projects would have to comply with (Open ocean, seascape, landscape, and visual resource protection and management laws, ordinances, and regulations summaries are listed in Table H-10, Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations).</p>
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	Exploring information sharing. Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.4.1, Description of the Affected Environment and Baseline Conditions; 3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.6, Impacts of each alternative, under “Port utilization”
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	BOEM is analyzes economic impacts, including employment, in the PEIS.	PEIS; other agencies; lessees	Exploring information sharing.

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
		Oct. 2022 EJF July 2023 EJF	BOEM will share concerns about contracting equity and workforce development with other entities, including lessees.		Please see Draft PEIS Section 3.6.3, Demographics, Employment, and Economics
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	Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.8, Recreation and Tourism; 3.6.1, Commercial Fisheries and For-Hire Recreational Fishing; 3.6.3.3, Impacts of Alternative A – No Action – Demographics, Employment, and Economics; 3.6.3.5, Impacts of Alternative C (Proposed Action) – Adoption of AMMM Measures – Demographics, Employment, and Economics; 3.6.4.1.4, Environmental Justice Populations
A.13	Visual impacts	July 2022 Roundtable	BOEM will consider visual impacts in the PEIS	PEIS	Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.6.8.1.2, Recreation and Tourism 3.6.9, Scenic and Visual Resources
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	AMMM measures analyzed in the PEIS are described in Appendix G.
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	BOEM; other agencies; COP NEPA processes and other consultation processes	Please see Draft PEIS Sections: 3.5.6, Marine Mammals; 4.1, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts of the Proposed Action; E.1.8, Incomplete or Unavailable Information Analysis for Resource Areas, Marine Mammals; Appendix G, Mitigation and Monitoring Measures.

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			<p>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.</p>		
A.16	Impacts of low frequency sound waves on migrating animals	Jan. 2023 EJF	<p>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.</p>	BOEM; other agencies; COP NEPA processes and other consultation processes	Please see Draft PEIS discussions of impacts from “Noise” under Alternatives A, B, and C in the Sections 3.5.1, Bats; 3.5.2, Benthic Resources; 3.5.3, Birds; 3.5.5, Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat; 3.5.6, Marine Mammals; 3.5.7, Sea Turtles.
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	<p>Information provided by BOEM water quality SME shared directly with the individual requesting information. Water quality will be analyzed in the PEIS.</p>	BOEM	Complete
A.18	Impacts of atmospheric pressure waves caused by windmills on resiliency of saltmarsh vegetation	Jan. 2023 EJF	<p>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.</p>	BOEM	Please see Draft PEIS Section 3.5.8, Wetlands and Table 2-3, Alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail.

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
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	Please see Draft PEIS Table 2-4, Summary and comparison of impacts among alternatives; Section 3.2, AMMM Measures Identified for Analysis in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; and Appendix G, Mitigation and Monitoring
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	The Draft PEIS analyzes potential programmatic AMMM measures under Alternative C, Adoptions of AMMM Measures. AMMM Measures are detailed in Appendix G.
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	All AMMM measures considered in Draft PEIS are described in Appendix G, Table G-1. Table G-1 indicates whether AMMM measures have been previously applied as terms and conditions of COP approvals.

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
A.25	Clarify if the jobs created by offshore wind are considered "direct jobs" or "indirect jobs."	November 2023 EJF	The PEIS explains at a high-level that offshore wind development in the NY and NJ region would likely generate a mix of direct and indirect jobs. Direct jobs would be greatest during construction and conceptual decommissioning when the most jobs and economic activity at ports supporting the NY Bight project would occur.	BOEM	See Draft PEIS Section 3.6.3, Demographics, Employment, and Economics
A.26	Increase transparency that most jobs won't be offered for years.	November 2023 EJF	The PEIS will include high-level discussion of timing of employment during construction and operations. Opportunities may exist for States, lessees, and local organizations to support messaging on jobs.	BOEM; States; lessees; CBOs	See Draft PEIS Section 3.6.3, Demographics, Employment, and Economics
A.27	Need for clear identification of jobs (number and types of jobs	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will work to share resource information with EJF. The EJFs can	Other agencies;	Exploring information sharing

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
	anticipated per megawatt of wind energy, on average) throughout lifecycle of projects and overall for OSW industry, particularly entry level. To include more info about pathways and skills required to obtain these jobs. In addition, a need to develop a communication campaign that provides a reality check on what offshore wind jobs are.		serve as one venue for organizations working in this space to connect.	lessees; CBOs; outside of BOEM's jurisdiction	

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

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
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 Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM is continuing to develop engagement strategies and materials including language access considerations. Social media materials BOEM has created for the Draft PEIS public comment period are available in English and Spanish.	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	All EJF participants	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			support EJ or underserved communities.		
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 Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring ways to promote inter-agency coordination and communication around EJ 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 Nov. 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 Nov. 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	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM is exploring approaches to addressing this topic, including through	BOEM	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
	potential impacts and make decisions is sourced from a diverse range of scientists and knowledge holders.		BOEM’s Environmental Studies Program.		
B.08	Prioritize engaging environmental justice communities as early in the process as possible	Jan. 2023 EJF April 2023 EJF Nov. 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 Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM is releasing a social media toolkit related to the Draft PEIS open comment period to develop better communication about public engagement opportunities, and potentially increase attendance at public meetings to create opportunities for community and BOEM staff to discuss in person. BOEM has hired two Fellows with a main responsibility to think more about this topic and how to partner better with people and organizations with established communication channels. BOEM is 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

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
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 Nov. 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 . 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 Nov. 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	Lessees	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			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.		
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 EIJ participants.	Lessees; community organizations; local governments, states	Continual
B.16	Learn about and understand the communities in which lessees are operating (including Indigenous communities). Agencies should conduct further background research on community history, the region, environmental injustices, existing organizations, coalitions, and other relevant contexts.	April 2023 EJF Nov. 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	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 hired as	BOEM; other federal agencies; states; lessees	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
	stipends for their time and expertise.	Nov. 2023 EJF	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.		
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 Nov. 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
B.20	Materials related to the PEIS need to be written accessibly and in layman's terms, avoiding jargon.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM strives to use plain language and clear writing in published materials, while presenting information that is often highly technical. BOEM produced fact sheets to address this related to the Draft PEIS public comment period.	BOEM	In progress, continual
B.21	Consider parsing out which parts of the PEIS document are most	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM has created a summary of the Environmental Justice sections of the	BOEM	Complete

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
	relevant to environmental justice. Provide summaries of each appendix in the PEIS in a way that is more readily accessible to communities.		Draft PEIS, to be distributed at the January 2024 EJF and public meetings. BOEM does not currently have the capacity to provide summaries of all sections or each appendix, and will continue to engage with the EJF to determine priorities for summaries.		
B.22	Consider articulating more clearly to the general public what NEPA is, what a PEIS is, and why it matters that people take the time to provide public comment, in addition to making clear what parts of the PEIS might be influenced by public comment, and which pieces are set.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM has prepared factsheets about NEPA, the public comment period, and tips for providing helpful comments that will be distributed at the January 2024 EJF and the Draft PEIS public meetings and posted on the BOEM website. These documents will be available for CBOs to share as part of a social media toolkit provided to EJF participants and posted to the BOEM website. BOEM will continue to consider accessible ways to share information about NEPA processes.	BOEM	In progress; Draft PEIS-related materials complete
B.23	Consider working to make the website more user-friendly, both online and on mobile.	Nov. 2023 EJF	The BOEM EJF team will share this note with the communications team.	BOEM	Continual
B.24	Consider developing a graphic or flow chart that explains all opportunities available for public feedback related to the lease areas, and how the PEIS process fits into other feedback processes.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will take this specific request under consideration. Existing graphical information includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of renewable energy planning processes is available in BOEM’s Citizen’s Guide to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s renewable Energy Authorization Process. • A graphical depiction of the stages of the NYB PEIS process is available 	BOEM	In progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			<p>here (we are currently in step 6 in the graphic).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A chart of the renewable energy timeline of operations is available here. 		
B.25	To improve outreach to communities, BOEM and other federal agencies should consider the specific input items detailed above under item B.25.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM has prepared factsheets about NEPA, the public comment period, and tips for providing helpful comments that will be distributed at the January 2024 EJF and the Draft PEIS public meetings and posted on the BOEM website. These documents will be available for CBOs to share as part of a social media toolkit provided to EJF participants and posted to the BOEM website. See also items: B.09 on communication channels, B.22 on NEPA education, and B.30 on working with CBOs.	BOEM; other Federal agencies	In progress
B.26	The 45-day comment period is too short – outreach and education around the PEIS need to happen far in advance, so people feel prepared once the comment period begins.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM and participants of the EJ Roundtable for NY and NJ discussed this in 2022. This is a core goal of the EJF: to provide consistent engagement throughout the PEIS process, from the Notice of Intent until publication. While the EJF targets organizational-level participants, BOEM will continue to think through with CBO partners the most appropriate ways to integrate community-level participants in the EJF or approach outreach and education.	BOEM	In progress
B.27	Develop a directory or organization chart of the federal and state agency points of contact as a resource for CBOs	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will explore updating the table of Federal agencies with responsibilities around environmental justice and offshore wind to include contact	BOEM	In progress

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			information. BOEM developed the table based on input from the EJFs. BOEM will explore adding state agency information.		
B.28	Tribes need resources to develop the skillset and time required to review and understand the data provided by offshore wind projects. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Agencies should provide consultants to interpret the analyses. • The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has resources that could support interpreting the data for tribes. 	Nov. 2023 EJJ	BOEM is providing scientific and technical support to Federally recognized Tribes with ties to the New York and New Jersey area by funding third-party contractors to assist Tribes in their review and evaluation of the New York Bight PEIS and related documents, such as reviews required under the National Historic Preservation Act.	BOEM; other Federal agencies	In progress
B.29	Federal agencies (mainly BOEM) could do more to build trust with states, communities, and tribes. For example, BOEM should show up to state-led and other community meetings and celebrations, and not show up just when something is needed.	Nov. 2023 EJJ	BOEM will continue to seek opportunities to do more of this. BOEM agrees this is needed, and has taken initial actions to do more. For example, BOEM staff attend NYSEDA's EJ Technical Working Group meetings, and have presented at the New Jersey Commission on American Indian Affairs in order to enhance communications and coordination and begin building relationships. We hope EJJ participants will invite BOEM to meetings and celebrations when appropriate.	BOEM; federal agencies; EJJ participants	In Progress, Continual
B.30	Federal government entities can and should utilize existing networks and resources of local groups, which have developed their own hubs for communication and information sharing with the communities they	Nov. 2023 EJJ	BOEM will continue to seek opportunities to work with CBOs and other entities to utilize existing networks. BOEM developed a social media toolkit for CBOs to use to spread	BOEM; other Federal agencies	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
	serve. Build partnerships with existing networks and coalitions to learn more about community groups and their initiatives.		the word about the PEIS (see also item B.09).		
B.31	Make the purpose of engagement clear and offer a meaningful connection with people. Communities should have a clear understanding about what they will get out of engaging in the forums and other engagements.	Nov. 2023 EIJ	BOEM is working to provide an opportunity for purposeful engagement and to build meaningful connections with participants through the EIJs.	BOEM; federal agencies; State agencies; lessees	Continual
B.32	Multiple ways of engagement should be offered, such as forums, pop-up events, summits, flyers, learning circles (UPROSE), creative engagement that incorporates arts, as well as existing engagement pathways that community members are already familiar with.	Nov. 2023 EIJ	While the EJ Forum targets organizational-level participants, BOEM will continue to think through with CBO partners the most appropriate ways to integrate community-level participants in the EIJ or approach outreach and education. (See also B.09, B.17, B.30)	BOEM; federal agencies; State agencies; lessees	In progress
B.33	Consider capacity building for a diversity of CBOs, particularly those that are more representative of the community and may not be knowledgeable of offshore wind. Invest in capacity building for CBOs to get involved to educate about benefits and impacts of offshore wind.	Nov. 2023 EIJ	BOEM continues to explore ways to support the capacity of CBOs and community members to engage during BOEM's processes. Two Fellows were hired as one action toward capacity-building, and they will focus on thinking through next steps for engaging diverse CBOs and beyond CBO staff. BOEM has prepared a social media toolkit with information about the Draft PEIS public comment period that will be available for CBOs to share with their networks. The EIJs also provide an opportunity for this recommendation to be shared with other agencies and lessees for their engagement planning.	BOEM	Ongoing

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
B.34	BOEM should consider ways to integrate broader Indigenous communities within the process and recognize the foundational environmental injustices towards Tribes.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to explore ways to connect with broader Indigenous communities through the EJF process. (See also Items A.23 and B.19)	BOEM	Continual
B.35	Intergenerational forms of engagement should be considered.	Nov. 2023 EJF	While the EJF targets organizational-level participants, BOEM will continue to think through with CBO partners about the most appropriate ways to integrate diverse community-level participants in the EJF. (See also B.17, B.32)	BOEM; federal agencies; State agencies; lessees	Continual
B.36	Local politicians should be utilized for broader engagement.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM is working to identify local and municipal contacts to share information about the EJF and the potential for future COP-stage engagement.	BOEM	In progress
B.37	BOEM should conduct asset mapping to determine potential gaps and opportunities for partnerships.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM is continually working to improve engagement strategies and will consider this recommendation within the bureau's capacity and authorities.	BOEM	In progress
B.38	BOEM should consider how input status reports can be used for education.	Nov. 2023 EJF	The purpose of the input status report is to support meaningful engagement and demonstrate responsiveness to input. BOEM and other EJF participants can consider how this report may be useful for other educational purposes.	BOEM; EJF participants	In progress
B.39	Prepare workers for jobs in offshore wind and explore pathways and capacity building to train the needed offshore wind workforce now and into the future (see details above for item B.39).	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will explore connecting with other partners and agencies with responsibilities or program areas that address workforce development.	Other agencies; lessees; CBOs; outside of BOEM's jurisdiction	Exploring information sharing

EJF Process Related Input (C)

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
C.01**	Consider hosting future EJFs in person	Jan. 2023 EJF	BOEM plans to host the Fall 2023 EJF in person.	BOEM	Complete
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	Travel support offered for Fall 2023 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-	BOEM	Complete

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			person forum where CBOs can present their information and can have discussions with BOEM, lessees, and others, would be valuable.		
C.07**	Consider providing compensation for attendees at an in-person EJF	July 2023 EJF	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 EJFs.	BOEM	Implemented at Fall 2023 EJF; exploring additional actions for future
C.08**	Provide space to hear directly from environmental justice groups and community members at an in-person EJF.	July 2023 EJF	The agenda for the planned in-person Fall EJF includes a panel discussion for EJ groups and CBOs to speak directly to EIJ participants.	BOEM	Implemented at Fall 2023 EIJ
C.09**	Provide time for meaningful networking and casual conversations with BOEM and other participants at an in-person EIJ.	July 2023 EIJ	BOEM is integrating time for networking and informal discussions into the agenda for the in-person EIJ.	BOEM	Implemented at Fall 2023 EIJ
C.10	Unions should be included in the EIJ.	Nov. 2023 EIJ	BOEM welcomes additions to the EIJ invite list; please send organization names or individual contacts to environmental.justice@boem.gov . To increase inclusion of Unions, BOEM has conducted research on Union contacts to invite, and spoken with NYSERDA about appropriate outreach to New York based Unions. BOEM plans to notify these contacts about the PEIS availability, and potentially invite Unions to the April 2024 EIJ.	BOEM	In Progress; Increased outreach to Unions planned for January 2024 through April 2024
C.11	BOEM should create space for discussion around developing a shared objective in the EIJ.	Nov. 2023 EIJ	Shared objectives of the EIJ were developed at the Roundtable engagements held before the EIJ began; shared objectives were also a main focus of the first EIJ. BOEM will consider how to integrate more	BOEM	Continual

Issue Code	Issue	Source	Progress	Applicable to	Status
			consistent check-ins on previously identified shared objectives and the creation of new ones.		
C.12	Participants shared that the EJF space should be continued and expanded as much as possible.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM will continue to hold the NY & NJ Offshore Wind EJF through late summer 2024, as the EJFs align with the NYB PEIS timeline. BOEM is implementing the EJFs as a pilot approach to engaging on environmental justice and is working to develop resources and lessons learned through the pilot for application to other BOEM processes. BOEM is happy to engage with other agencies or organizations to share information about the process.	BOEM; other Federal and State agencies	Continual
C.13	To keep momentum, work should continue between forums, not only engaging in discrete events.	Nov. 2023 EJF	BOEM continues to connect with other entities involved with the EJFs as appropriate between forums and welcomes questions and input at environmental.justice@boem.gov at any time.	BOEM	Continual

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

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