



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Ocean Wind Construction & Operations Plan

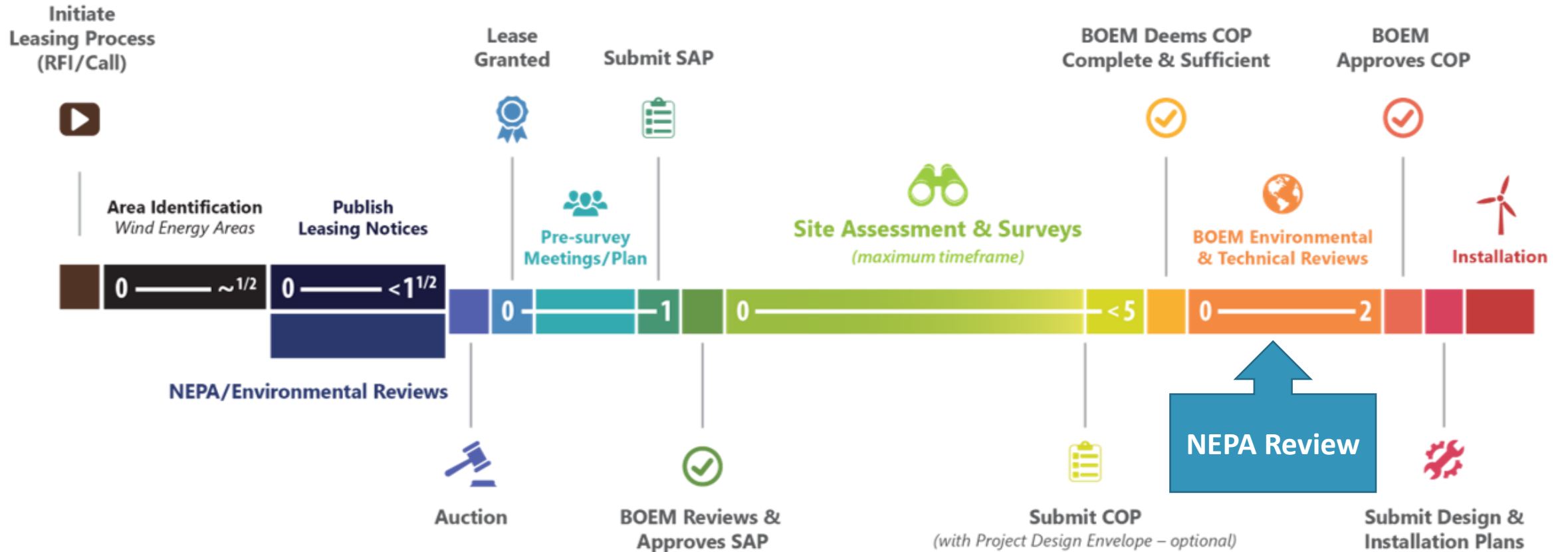
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Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

April 13, 15, and 20, 2021

Brian Krevor, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist | Ocean Wind Public Scoping Meetings

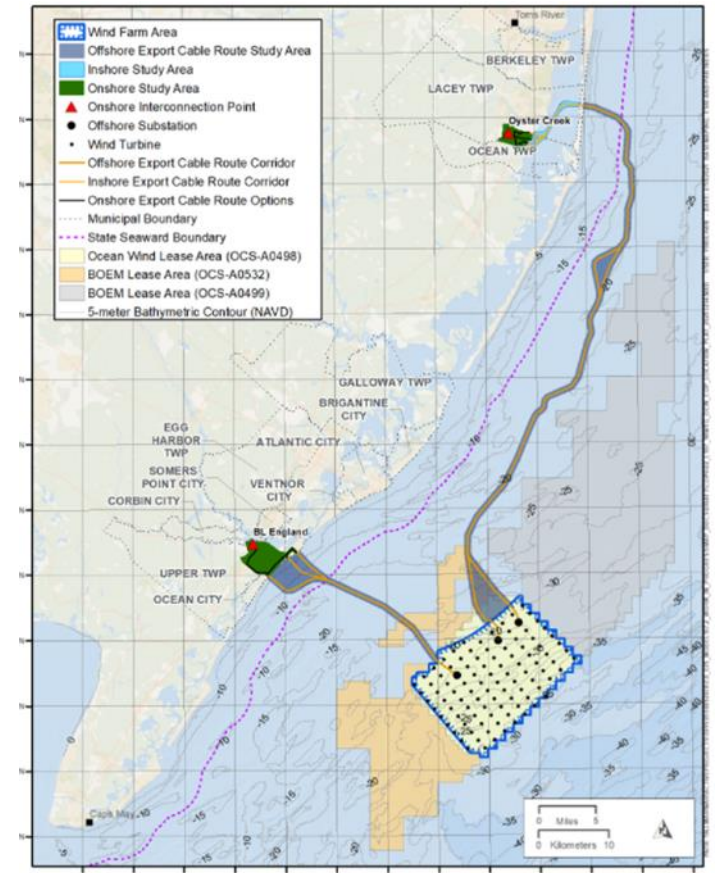
# Leasing and Development Process





# Ocean Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP)

- Ocean Wind LLC submitted their COP on October 1, 2019
- COP is currently available at: [www.boem.gov/ocean-wind](http://www.boem.gov/ocean-wind)
- BOEM can approve, disapprove, or approve with modifications
  - Will happen after environmental impact statement (EIS) is complete and will be documented by the Record of Decision (ROD)



# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA is a procedural law requiring Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action(s), and reasonable alternatives, prior to making decisions.

- Major Actions/Decision Points
  - Lease Issuance (Survey Work)
  - Plan Approval (Site Assessment, Construction & Operation, or General Activities)
  - Decommissioning Activities



# Environmental Review and Approval Process for COP

~2 YEARS OR LONGER

## COP Submittal

- Completeness and sufficiency review

## Public Scoping

- Publish Notice of Intent in *Federal Register*
- 30-day public comment period
- Hold public meetings
- Receive input on issues and alternatives

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Prepare with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*
- 45-day public comment period
- Hold public hearings

## Final Environmental Impact Statement

- Address public comments with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*

## Record of Decision

- Minimum 30-day wait period

24 MONTHS



# Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

- Published in the *Federal Register* on March 30, 2021
  - 86-FR-16630 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/30/2021-06520/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-ocean-wind-llcs-proposed-wind>)
  - Starts the EIS process
- 30-day public comment period, ending April 29, 2021





# Public Comment on NOI

- Very Important element of NEPA
- Local expertise and perspective help guide environmental analysis and results in more informed decisions
- Types of information BOEM is looking for:
  - Significant issues to be analyzed in EIS
  - Effects on historic properties
  - Reasonable alternatives
  - Mitigation measures
  - Comments due **April 29, 2021**



# Scoping Meetings

## Three virtual public scoping meetings:

- Tuesday, April 13, 2021; 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 15, 2021; 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 20, 2021; 5:30 p.m.

## Virtual Meeting Room:

<https://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Wind-Scoping-Virtual-Meetings>

- Facts Sheets
- Project Posters
- Meeting Information
- How to Comment





# How to Comment



## At this meeting!

Register to speak at:

<https://www.boem.gov/ocean-wind>

## In writing:

Program Manager  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Office of Renewable Energy Programs  
45600 Woodland Road (VAM-OREP)  
Sterling, VA 20166

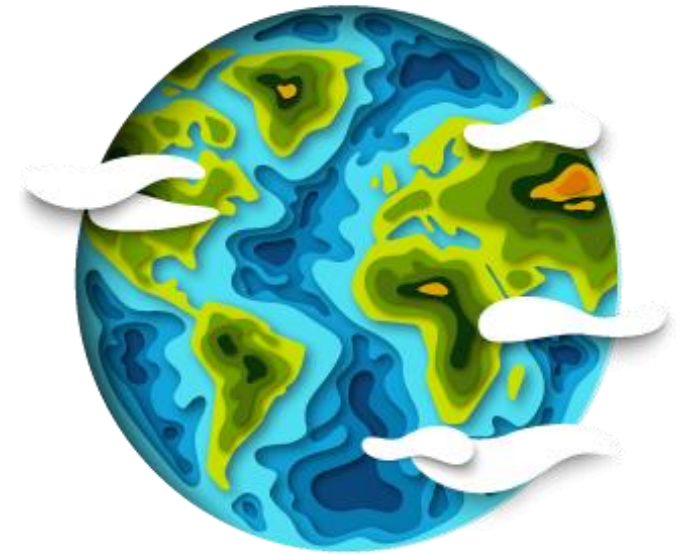
Online at  
*[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)*

Enter **BOEM-2021-0024**; click “search.” Use the “Comment Now!” button on the right side of the screen



# What's in an EIS?

- **Proposed Action**
  - Action being analyzed
- **Alternatives**
  - Provide reasonable alternatives which may reduce or eliminate impacts. At a minimum, proposed action and no action alternative.
- **Effects**
  - The description of the affected environment in the EIS will include reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned actions other than the Project
  - Effects include beneficial and adverse



# Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

## Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Fish and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Coastal Habitats
- Benthic Resources
- Avian and Bat Species



## Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

## Socioeconomic

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Military Uses
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Tourism and Recreation
- Demographics and Employment





# Environmental Review of COP

- Review to run concurrent with consultations
- Design Envelope
  - Maximum impacting parameters for each resource
  - Avoids pausing or restarting environmental review due to project changes
  - Reduces or eliminates the need for subsequent environmental reviews as project is refined/revised after approval
  - Revisions outside of the design envelope would require additional environmental review and consultations



# EIS Schedule



**Spring 2022**

Publish Draft EIS – (45-day public comment period)



**Winter 2023**

Publish Final EIS



**Spring 2023**

Conclude consultations and publish Record of Decision



# Consultations

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act



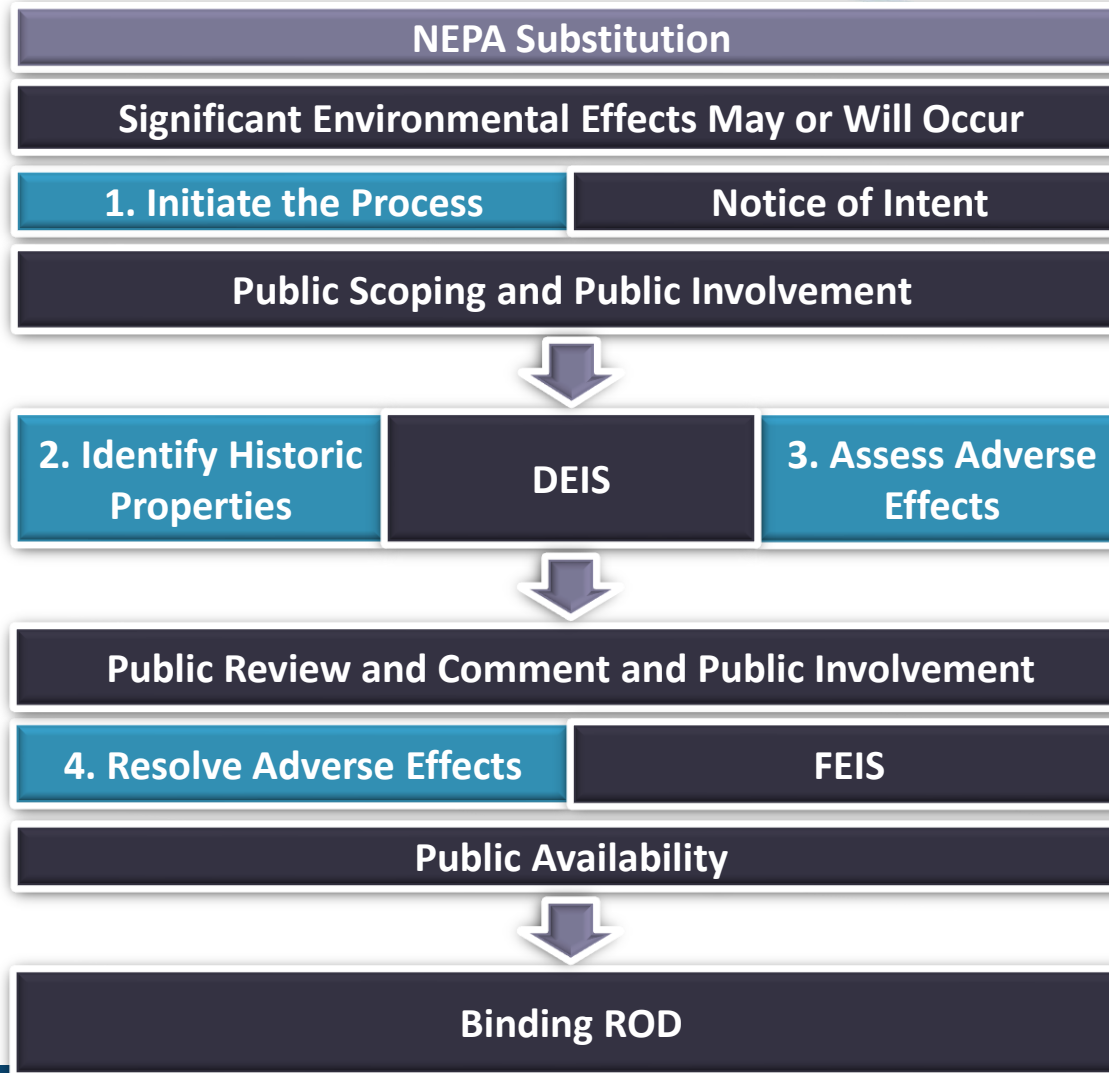


# NEPA Substitution for NHPA Section 106 Review

- BOEM is implementing NEPA Substitution for Section 106 Review mainly due to lessons learned from the earliest COP consultations & reflection of stakeholder needs:
- BOEM needs an efficient, streamlined approach that better integrates NHPA and NEPA reviews both thematically, and in terms of schedule;
- Lessees need clearer expectations of the timeline for environmental review, and costs of mitigations;
- Consulting parties and stakeholders need earlier and more direct input into the selection of alternatives and mitigation measures;
- Tribes need greater focus on government-to-government consultation.



# NEPA Substitution for NHPA Section 106 Review



# BOEM Environmental Studies Program

- Extensive environmental studies program
- Funds and manages scientific research to inform decision-making processes and fill data gaps
- Snapshot of relevant studies:
  - EMF Impacts on Elasmobranch (sharks, rays and skates) and American Lobster Movement and Migration – Led by University of Rhode Island (<https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5659.pdf>)
  - Evaluation of Potential EMF Effects on Fish Species of Commercial or Recreational Fishing Importance in Southern New England ([https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM\\_2019-049.pdf](https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-049.pdf))





# BOEM Environmental Studies Program

- Snapshot of relevant studies:
  - Real-time Opportunity for Development Environmental Observations (RODEO) ([www.boem.gov/RODEO](http://www.boem.gov/RODEO))
  - Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Values and Implication for Recreation and Tourism (<https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5662.pdf>)
- Visit our website: [www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Environmental-Studies](http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Environmental-Studies)



# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

BOEM.gov



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For more information on the Ocean Wind project, visit:  
[www.boem.gov/Ocean-Wind](http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Wind)