

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Oregon Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Task Force**

September 27, 2019, Meeting Summary

I. Meeting in Brief

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened the seventh in-person meeting of the BOEM Oregon Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Task Force at the Portland State Office Building in Portland, Oregon on September 27, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the conversation among Federal, state, local, and Tribal Task Force members regarding potential renewable energy activities on the OCS offshore Oregon.

The meeting included several presentations followed by a discussion with members regarding a potential approach to offshore wind planning in Oregon. Presentations included:

- Opening remarks by Joan Barminski (BOEM OCS Pacific Regional Director) and Jason Miner (Oregon Governor’s Office Natural Resources Policy Advisor),
- State of Oregon Overview by Jason Miner,
- BOEM Overview by Whitney Hauer (BOEM Oregon Task Force Coordinator), and
- Potential Approaches to Offshore Wind Planning by Whitney Hauer with a facilitated discussion by Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West Senior Facilitator).

Action Items

Who	What
BOEM/ Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD)	Develop an engagement plan for offshore wind planning in Oregon to collect data and information to inform a potential lease planning process
BOEM/DLCD	Provide Task Force with reading materials, as appropriate, in order to prepare for the next meeting.

After the meeting adjourned, there was a public input session. All presentations and materials from the meeting are posted on BOEM’s website under State Activities:

<http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/State-Activities/Oregon.aspx>.

II. Key Discussion Points

1. Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Opening Remarks and Meeting Purpose

Key members of agency leadership each provided opening remarks and welcomed the Task Force members and the public. The speakers emphasized that the meeting was the beginning of a conversation among Federal, state, local and Tribal bodies regarding planning for offshore wind in Oregon and that they were interested in Force members' concerns, interests, and perspectives regarding offshore wind in Oregon.

The meeting purpose was to begin a conversation for planning offshore wind activities in Oregon with the following objectives:

- Gain a common understanding of current and potential future processes regarding offshore wind development in Oregon,
- Begin an open conversation on potential approaches to offshore wind planning in Oregon, and
- Discuss how Task Force members and stakeholders might engage throughout the process.

2. State of Oregon Overview

An overview of the State's role in offshore renewable energy leases was provided with a summary of the reasoning behind convening the Task Force for this meeting. The Governor's Office is a co-convenor of this planning exercise and it has a shared responsibility for how the conversation moves forward. The Governor's Office viewed the meeting as the "conversation before the conversation" to frame how the State can evaluate offshore wind activities in Oregon.

3. BOEM Overview

BOEM presented on its renewable energy authorization process for leasing on the OCS, a summary of its nationwide renewable energy activities, and an overview of current and past BOEM activities in Oregon related to offshore renewable energy. The Oregon offshore wind study results from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) were presented and the final report, which was not published at the time of the meeting, is available at:

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/regions/pacific-ocs-region/environmental-science/BOEM-2019-046.pdf>.

BOEM presented on the Task Force structure itself. The purpose of the Task Force is to facilitate coordination with federal, state, local, and tribal governments to provide input to BOEM's renewable energy leasing decisions.

4. Discussion on Potential Approaches to Offshore Wind Planning in Oregon

Overview of a Potential Planning Approach

One of the key questions for the discussion was whether Oregon should be proactive and engage in a planning approach for offshore wind activities or be reactive by awaiting receipt of an unsolicited lease request for an offshore wind project at a specific location(s) to trigger the BOEM leasing process.

A proactive approach could entail the development of an engagement plan on how to (1) inform Federal, state, local and Tribal governments, as well as other interested parties, of offshore wind planning and to (2) gather data and information to inform potential offshore wind energy leasing process. Data and information collected during this process would be publicly accessible through a portal. The plan would identify the groups which BOEM and the State should engage with (e.g., Tribes, coastal communities, industry, research institutions, non-profit organizations, fishing groups) and identify the best way to meet with these groups (e.g., townhall meetings, webinars), as well as provide a schedule to meet the engagement plan objectives.

Task Force Initial Perspectives on Offshore Wind Planning for Oregon

Participants provided inputs on the planning approach and process for offshore wind in Oregon as summarized below.

- **Support for Planning Process:** Many Task Force members expressed general support for a proactive planning process and stressed the importance of involving Tribes, stakeholders and community members to gauge their interest and concerns. Members have an interest in talking through the potential conflicts, synergies, economic benefits and environmental challenges of offshore wind development.
- **Challenges to Offshore Wind Planning Process:** Task Force members identified some challenges and concerns with offshore wind energy development, including potential environmental impacts and adequacy of transmission infrastructure on the Oregon coast.
- **Need for Stakeholder Involvement:** Members noted that a planning process will be an investment in the communities with Federal and state resources. It is critical to hear from Tribes, stakeholders, and other potentially interested parties. Robust public participation is needed. It is important to talk to local governments on the coast.
- **Industry Involvement:** It is important to involve industry early on, so they are aware of local, state and Federal requirements.
- **Clear Expectations:** The process should have clearly defined components to set expectations.
- **Data-driven Discussions:** It is important to have open and data-driven discussions. This will build a foundation of information for future decision-making.

Discussion on Developing an Engagement Plan Outline for Task Force Input

BOEM and DLCD agreed to provide a data gathering and engagement plan for the Task Force to provide input at the next Task Force meeting.

Additional discussions included the following:

- Support for Data Gathering and Engagement Plan: Task Force members generally agreed with the next step of developing a data gathering and engagement plan for Task Force input and discussion.
- Messaging: A Task Force member expressed the importance of being clear in the messaging that is communicated regarding offshore wind activities and where agencies are in the process.
- Information to Include: It would be helpful to include information about the authorization and permitting processes and other aspects of planning an offshore wind project. It is important that the engagement plan build upon existing efforts without duplicating work. There are opportunities to leverage groups and current efforts.
- Local Coastal Communities: Transparency with coastal communities will be critical for outreach and engagement.
- Geographic Focus: Task Force members felt that planning state-wide even if potential offshore wind projects have a regional focus is preferred and engagement should occur along the entire coast.

6. Next Steps

Next steps identified during the meeting included:

- BOEM and DLCDC will work together to develop an data gathering and engagement plan that identifies interested parties, and proposes engagement activities to collect data and information. The plan will include how to collect, store, and visualize information collected in a publicly accessible portal. Both agencies explained that the engagement plan may not be ready for Task Force review until the beginning of 2020.
- BOEM announced they will be attending the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee (OPAC) meeting on October 21, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25 pm.

7. Public Input

Members of the public were invited to provide input after the conclusion of the meeting. Thirteen people provided verbal comments and four people submitted written comment with. the inputs summarized below:

- Importance of collaborating with the wind industry: The wind industry has made tremendous strides and they have been reflected in the NREL cost predictions. Developers appreciate being in conversations with stakeholders and receiving input.
- Data gaps: The Task Force should consider data gaps and the needs of Federally protected species while developing a planning process as there are unknown impacts of

offshore wind development on marine mammals, such as the effects from construction to indirect effects such as displacement.

- Fishing Industry Involvement: It is important that the fishing industry is protected in this process and it will be critical to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Fishermen want to make sure the process is fully vetted and know the impacts to habitats and the ecosystem in advance.
- Meeting Location: Future Task Force meetings should be held on the Oregon Coast to have better participation from the local communities.
- Climate Change: Investment in renewable energy is key to moving away from fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.