



Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Construction and Operations Plans NEPA Analysis

What is the purpose of the PEIS?

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) evaluates the potential impacts that could result from wind energy development activities in the six New York Bight lease areas. The PEIS also evaluates changes in those impacts that could result from adopting programmatic avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring (AMMM) measures. This PEIS will inform the decision on whether to adopt programmatic AMMM measures that BOEM would require as conditions of approval for activities proposed by lessees in Construction and Operations Plans (COPs), unless a future COP-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis shows that implementation of such measures is not warranted or effective.

- The PEIS will not result in the approval of any project activities.
- The PEIS presents a regional analysis and does not include project-specific details. The analysis relies on the Representative Project Design Envelope (RPDE). See the next page for more information on the RPDE.
- The PEIS will serve as a first-tier document from which the project-specific environmental analyses of each COP may tier from or incorporate by reference.
- The PEIS will reduce redundancies across New York Bight COP NEPA analyses, including analyses of similar affected environments, impacts, and mitigation measures.

What is the purpose of the COP NEPA?

A COP NEPA analysis assesses the reasonably foreseeable impacts on physical, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural resources that could result from the construction and installation, operations and maintenance, and conceptual decommissioning of a commercial-scale offshore wind energy facility and its transmission cables.

- A COP NEPA analysis will support the approval, disapproval, or approval with modifications of a COP.
- COP NEPA analysis is project-specific. It relies on a Project Design Envelope (PDE) proposed in the COP.
- New York Bight COP NEPA analysis can tier to or incorporate by reference applicable information and analyses from the PEIS.
- COP NEPA analysis will focus on project-specific impacts not considered in the PEIS and impacts that warrant further consideration.





What is the difference between the PEIS RPDE and the COP PDE?

PEIS Representative Project Design Envelope (RPDE):

- Is a range of technical parameters that describes a single, hypothetical wind energy project in the New York Bight.
- Does not include locations and parameters of onshore components (points of interconnection, substations, onshore export cables).

COP Project Design Envelope (PDE):

- Is project-specific and based on proposed activities in the COP.
- Includes locations and parameters of onshore components.

What is the tiering process?

Project-specific environmental analyses for individual COPs in the New York Bight lease areas are expected to tier to and incorporate by reference the PEIS. Each project-specific COP NEPA analysis will focus on the impacts of approving a particular COP, including identification of additional AMMM measures that are not already analyzed in the PEIS. Because the PEIS is regional, there may be additional AMMM measures needed to address site-specific impacts of the New York Bight projects. Tiering to the PEIS will result in greater efficiency and reduce duplication within each New York Bight COP NEPA analysis.

Appendix C of the Draft PEIS provides an overview of information, analyses, and AMMM measures by resource type. Appendix C also outlines what additional assessments are needed for each NY Bight COP NEPA analysis.

