



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

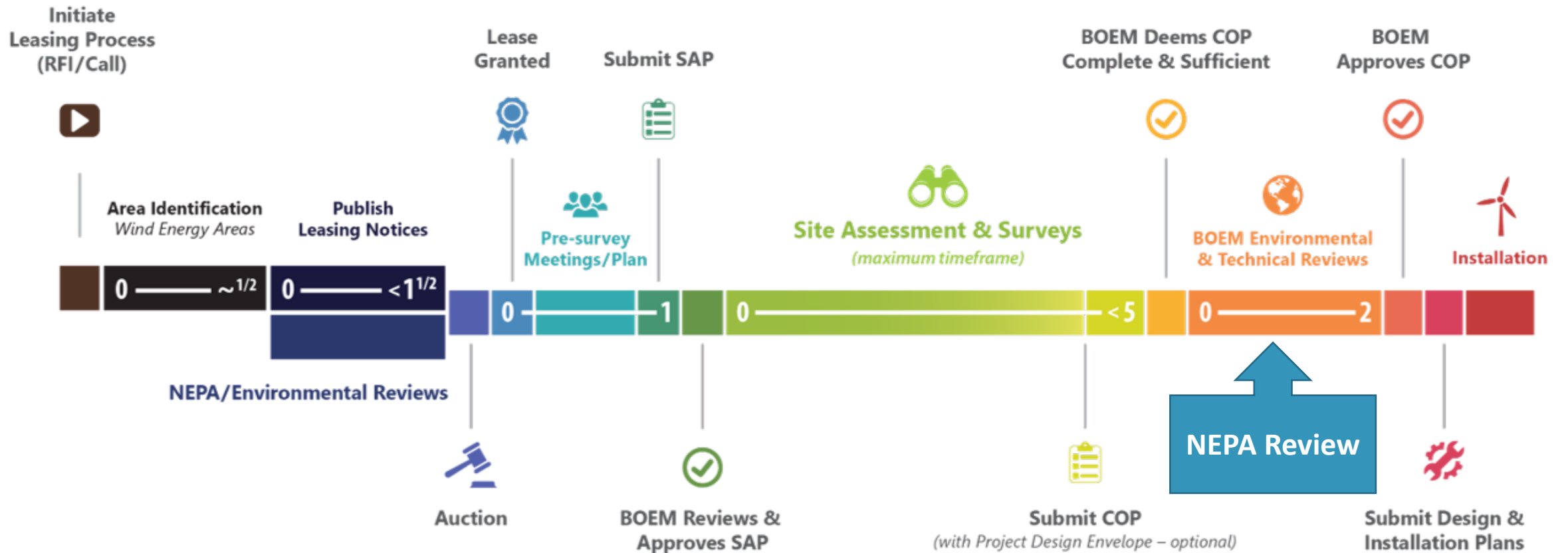
Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind - Commercial Construction & Operations Plan

Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

July 12, 14, and 20, 2021

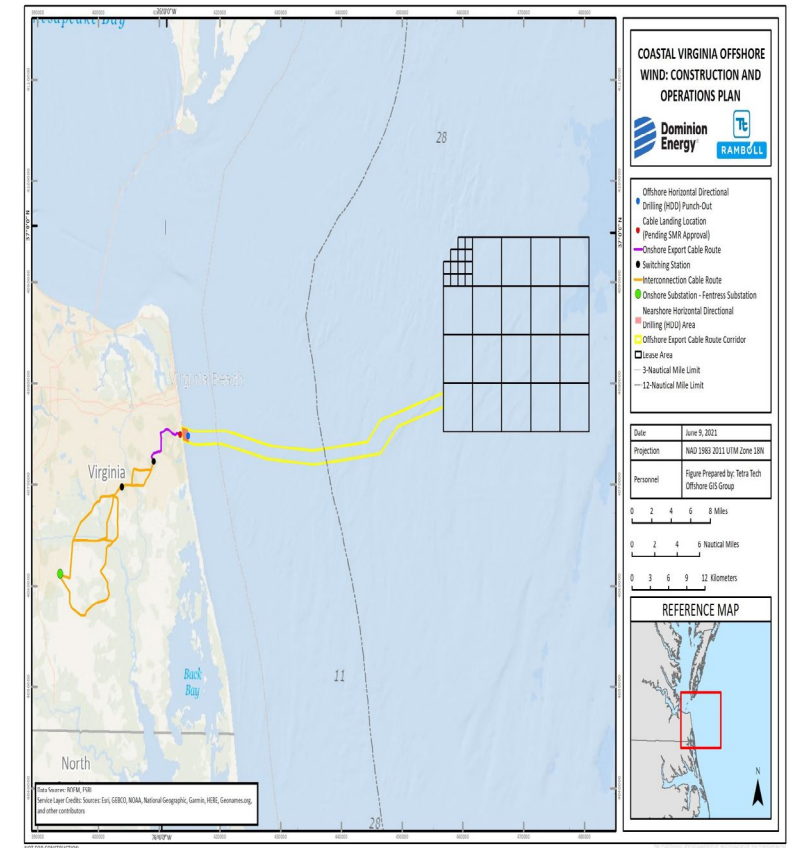
Algene Byrum, Environmental Protection Specialist | CVOW-C Public Scoping Meetings

Leasing and Development Process



CVOW-C Construction and Operations Plan (COP)

- Dominion submitted their COP on December 17, 2020
- COP is currently available at: www.boem.gov/CVOW-C
- 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
- NEPA review will take the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



Environmental Review and Approval Process for COP

~2 YEARS OR LONGER



Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS

- Published in the *Federal Register* on July 2, 2021
 - <https://www.boem.gov/CVOW-C>
 - Starts the EIS process
- 30-day public comment period, closes on August 2, 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 **August 2, 2021**



Scoping Meetings

Three virtual public scoping meetings:

- Monday, July 12, 2021; 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 14, 2021; 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 20, 2021; 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Room:

<https://www.boem.gov/CVOW-C-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/CVOW-C>

In writing:

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

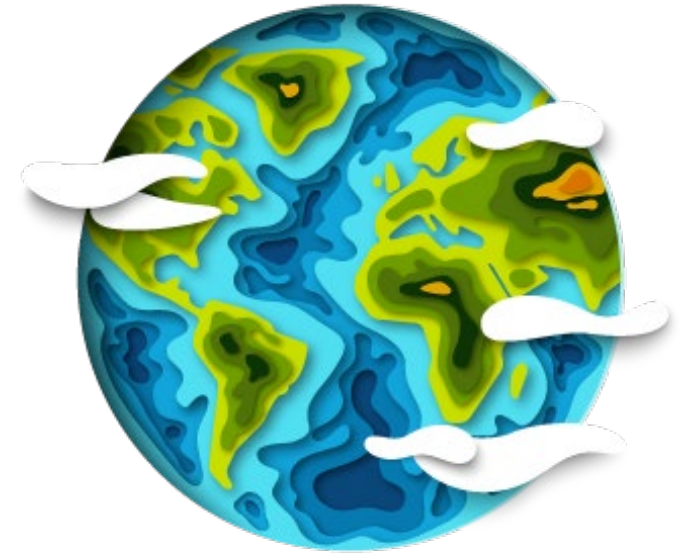
Online at
www.regulations.gov

Enter **BOEM-2021-0040**; click
“search.” Use the “Comment”
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



Summer 2022

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



Spring 2023

Publish Final EIS



Summer 2023

Conclude consultations and issue 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

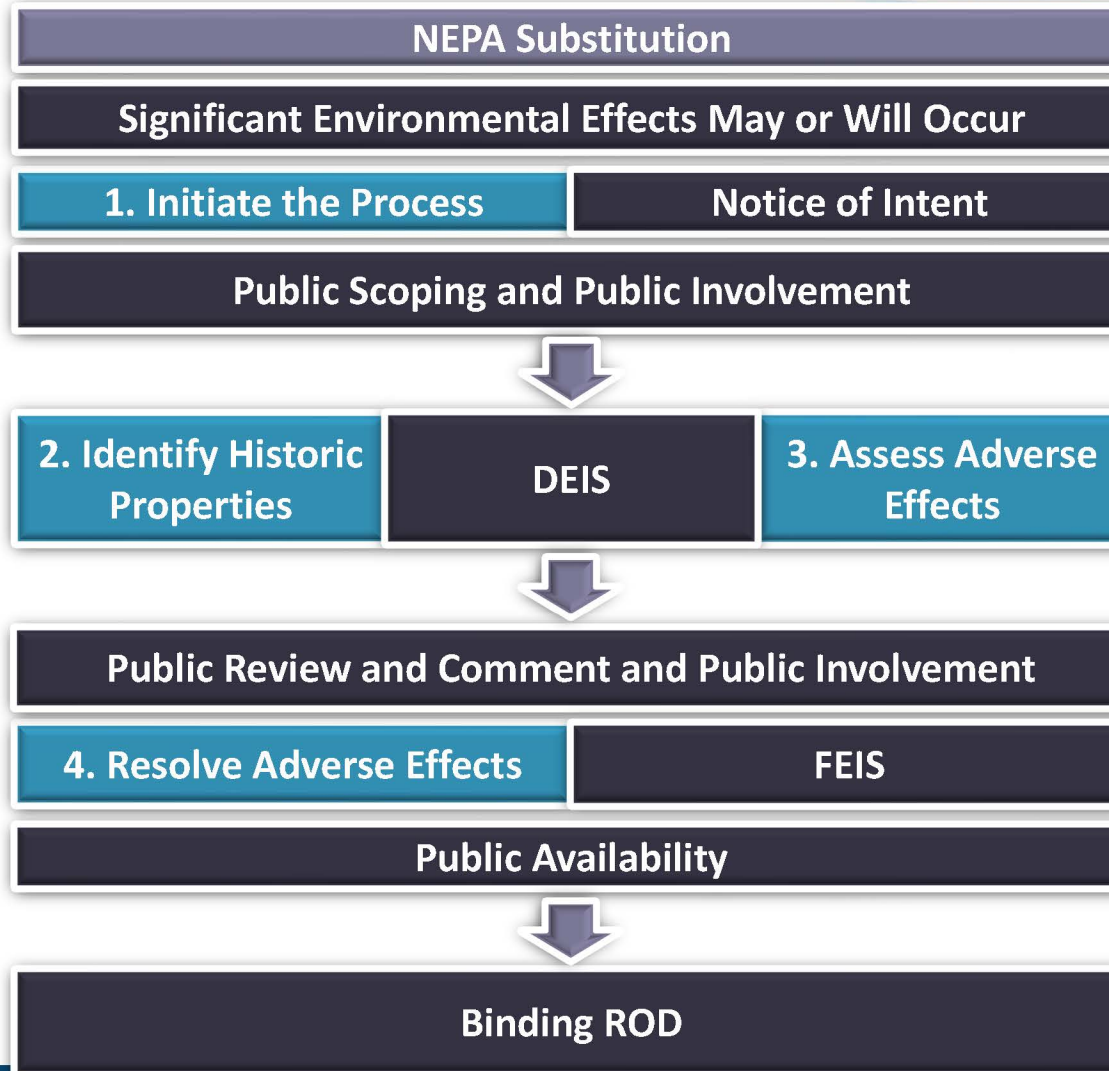


NEPA Substitution for NHPA Section 106 Review

- 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:
 - Field Observation During Offshore Wind Structure Installation and Operations (Vol.1)
(https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2021-025.pdf)
 - Understanding Whale Presence in the Virginia Offshore Wind Energy Area (2019) (https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-007.pdf)



BOEM Environmental Studies Program

- Snapshot of relevant studies (continued):
 - Virginia Ocean Geophysical Survey Phase II Analyses: Offshore Virginia Wind Energy Area (2016)
(<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/environmental-stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Renewable-Energy/VA-WEA-Phase-2-Geophysical-Report.pdf>)
- Visit our website: www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Environmental-Studies



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Management

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For more information on the CVOW-Commercial project, visit:

www.boem.gov/CVOW-C