



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Julie Crocker  
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Dear Ms. Crocker:

The Department of the Interior (DOI or the Department), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), as the lead agency for offshore wind development under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act,<sup>1</sup> is requesting emergency consultation (pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 402.05) from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service in relation to actions DOI may take in response to an incident that occurred offshore Massachusetts. On Saturday, July 13, 2024, a Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) AW-38 blade failure incident occurred on Vineyard Wind 1 LLC (Vineyard Wind)'s Offshore Wind Energy Project (commercial lease OCS-A 0501). Emergency response and clean up actions and efforts associated with this incident may affect listed species and/or critical habitat.

As part of its federal, state, and local agency approvals and permits, Vineyard Wind has detailed plans and protocols to guide a response to incidents such as this.<sup>2</sup> Vineyard Wind assures BOEM that it will continue working with federal, state, tribal, and local stakeholders to ensure the health and safety of its workforce, mariners, and the environment. As described in the attached incident background, debris from WTG AW-38 blade failure has resulted in debris from the failed blade, as well sections from the failed blade, dropping into the surrounding ocean waters, drifting in the water, and washing ashore on various locations in Massachusetts, including Nantucket, Muskeget, and Tuckernuck islands. Debris may also potentially wash ashore on Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod, including Cape Cod National Seashore and Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Vineyard Wind's clean-up activities onshore and offshore are on-going and will continue until the response effort is complete. BOEM is aiding the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) in ensuring that efforts to mitigate and minimize adverse effects are being used, as is reasonably practicable and safe – for the environment, listed species, and those involved in the response and clean-up effort for the duration of this emergency response.

---

<sup>1</sup> 43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> BOEM regulations (30 C.F.R. Part 585.810) require the lessee to submit a description of the Safety Management Plan, including a Safety Management System (SMS) component with communication protocols and roles and responsibilities, and procedures for emergency events.

Please see the attached information for additional details regarding the ongoing emergency response and clean-up activities for which BOEM is seeking emergency consultation. We look forward to hearing from you with any recommended monitoring or mitigation measures that BOEM and Vineyard Wind could incorporate into the emergency response to minimize adverse effects to listed species and/or critical habitat.

At this time BOEM is still considering the full scope of its action(s) in response to this incident, which could range from a revision to the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to reviewing additional plans submitted in response to existing terms and conditions of BOEM's COP approval. BOEM is coordinating with BSEE about what actions the Department might take.

If you have questions regarding this response, please contact Nicole Turner ([nicole.turner@boem.gov](mailto:nicole.turner@boem.gov)).

Sincerely,

David B. Diamond  
Deputy Chief for Operations,  
Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf  
Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Enclosure

Electronic cc:

Nick Sisson, Consultation Biologist-Offshore Wind, NMFS GARFO [nick.sisson@noaa.gov](mailto:nick.sisson@noaa.gov)  
Chris Vaccaro, ESA Section 7 Branch Chief, NMFS GARFO [christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov](mailto:christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov)  
Lisa Landers, NEPA Section Chief, BOEM-OREP [lisa.landiers@boem.gov](mailto:lisa.landiers@boem.gov)  
Brian Hooker, Biology Section Chief, BOEM-OREP, [brian.hooker@boem.gov](mailto:brian.hooker@boem.gov)  
Nicole Turner, Marine Biologist, BOEM-OREP, [nicole.turner@boem.gov](mailto:nicole.turner@boem.gov)  
Tamara Arzt, Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist, BSEE [tamara.arzt@bsee.gov](mailto:tamara.arzt@bsee.gov)  
Cheri Hunter, Renewable Energy Operations Director, BSEE [cheri.hunter@bsee.gov](mailto:cheri.hunter@bsee.gov)  
Graham Tuttle, Environmental Protection Specialist, BSEE [graham.tuttle@bsee.gov](mailto:graham.tuttle@bsee.gov)