



Siting and Permitting of Renewable Energy Projects on the Outer Continental Shelf

Summary: The purpose of this initiative is to examine issues and processes relating to the siting of OCS wind and hydrokinetic projects to facilitate and expedite deployment of commercial-scale renewable energy technologies. The key goals are to:

- 1) identify and implement measures to harmonize and synchronize Federal and State authorization processes in order to establish reasonable and efficient permitting timeframes;
- 2) coordinate studies and other activities in support of research leases;
- 3) identify high-potential sites for priority leasing and development;
- 4) develop environmental monitoring and mitigation protocols and collaborative environmental study efforts (see separate description of this specific undertaking) and;
- 5) incorporate useful information (e.g., resource potential, transmission routes, multiple uses) into the coordinated OCS mapping initiative—Multipurpose Marine Cadastre—established in accordance with section 388(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

As we implement the siting and permitting initiative and pursue these goals, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) will consult broadly with interested and affected parties. One prominent consultation effort is to involve the affected States through DOI intergovernmental task forces, as well through the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (AOWEC) established by the Secretary of the Interior and the Governors of the Atlantic coast States.

Targeted Stakeholders: In addition to the States, DOE and DOI plan to reach out to Federal, local, and tribal governments, private industry, academia, and nongovernment organizations in implementing this initiative.

Status/Next Steps: DOE and DOI have been consulting with stakeholders to identify and effect regulatory efficiencies, propose relevant studies and plans, identify priorities, and acquire useful data. We will continue these efforts with the goal of announcing key findings, proposals, and plans for moving forward by the end of this year.

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