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## OFFSHORE WIND NEW JERSEY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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#### **Introduction and Overview**

- State utility commission-based approval system with environmental permitting for natural resource protection
  - State process under development, but with Governor's support
  - Financial incentives available, but significant regulatory hurdles to surmount
  - State environmental permits required, but regulatory programs are well-established
- Federal resource management program
  - An established, but multi-faceted, complex program
  - Significant data needs, but potentially significant financial returns if successful

### NJ's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act ("OWEDA")

- OWEDA signed into law on August 19, 2010
- Authorized the development of an offshore wind renewable energy certificate ("OREC") program
  - A percentage of energy sold in the state would be from qualified offshore wind projects
  - Electric power suppliers and basic generation service providers would be required to purchase ORECs from qualified offshore wind projects or pay an alternative compliance payment if insufficient ORECs were available
  - Intended to support at least 1,100 MW from qualified offshore wind projects
- The NJ Board of Public Utilities to develop the OREC program
- Allows for BPU approval of a 20 MW to 25 MW projects in territorial waters offshore of Atlantic City if the project obtains approvals from NJDEP and the project meets the other requirements of OWEDA

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#### **OWEDA Application Requirements**

- "An entity seeking to construct an <u>offshore wind project</u> shall submit an application to the board for approval by the board as a <u>qualified offshore wind project</u>..." (N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1 emphasis added)
  - What is a "qualified offshore wind project"?
    - Wind turbine electricity generation facility in the Atlantic Ocean and connected to the electric transmission system in NJ, and includes the associated transmission-related interconnection facilities and equipment, and approved by the BPU.
  - Fourteen topics by statute; sixteen topics with multiple sub-topics by regulation
    - Technical, financial, environmental impacts, benefits to the State
- The BPU shall determine:
  - Consistent with NJ Energy Master Plan
  - Positive economic and environmental net benefits to NJ
  - Financing based on actual electrical output with costs of non-performance borne by shareholders
  - Applicant's demonstrated financial integrity and access to capital
- The BPU announces open and close dates for application periods at its discretion
- Regulatory program incomplete



#### **OWEDA Implementation**

- BPU opened the application window on May 16, 2011 for 30-days for offshore wind projects proposed for territorial waters
  - One application received
    - Five 5MW turbines on monopole foundations 2.8 miles offshore from Atlantic City (subsequently modified)
  - Issues in the proceeding included: requirement to identify one turbine design, finances/economics/fiscal integrity, delays
- Application denied, appeals denied
  - Perceived potential impacts to the ratepayers were key issues for the BPU

#### **Executive Order #8 - January 31, 2018**

- Goal of 3,500 MW of offshore wind generation by 2030.
- BPU and NJDEP to develop Offshore Wind Strategic Plan
- BPU to develop OREC pricing plans and regulations for OREC Funding Mechanism
- BPU to open the application window and solicit 1,100 MW

#### **NJ Environmental**

- DLUR Application
- CAFRA Permit
- Waterfront Development Permit
- Coastal Wetlands Permit
- Tidelands License / Lease
- CZMA / federal consistency determination
- Linear Construction site remediation requirements and guidance
- Permit by Rule, General Permits, Individual Permits, exemptions
- Pre-Application conference!!!



#### **BOEM Offshore Wind Development Process**

#### Planning and Analysis

- BOEM publishes Call for Information and Nominations
- BOEM identifies priority Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) offshore. WEAs are locations that appear most suitable for wind energy development, or
- Processes unsolicited application for lease
- BOEM may prepare an Environmental Assessment for Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities

#### Leasing

- BOEM determines whether Competitive Interest exists
- If Competitive Interest exists, BOEM notifies the public and developers of its intent to lease through Sale Notices before holding a lease sale
- If Competitive Interest does not exist, BOEM negotiates a lease (note: issuance may be combined with plan approval)

#### **Site Assessment**

- Lessee conducts site characterization studies
- Lessee submits Site Assessment Plan (SAP)
- BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews of SAP, eventually deciding to approve with modification, or disapprove the SAP
- If approved, Lessee assesses site (usually with meteorological towers(s) and/or buoy(s))

#### Construction and Operations

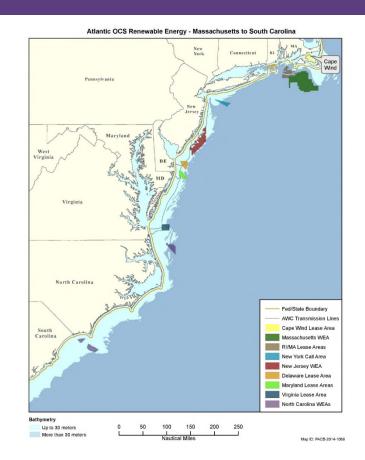
- Lessee may conduct additional site characterization
- Lessee submits
   Construction and
   Operations Plan (COP)
- BOEM conducts
   environmental and
   technical reviews of COP,
   eventually deciding to
   approve, approve with
   modification, or
   disapprove the COP
- If approved, Lessee builds wind facility

#### **Intergovernmental Task Force Engagement**

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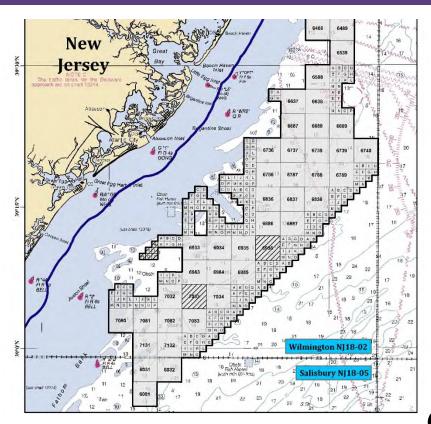
#### **Wind Development Areas**

- 15 GW potential
- Wind energy development
  - Massachusetts WEA
  - Rhode Island/Massachusetts WEA
  - New York Bight
  - New Jersey WEA
  - Delaware WEA
  - Maryland WEA
  - Virginia WEA
  - North Carolina



#### **New Jersey WEA**

- Approximately 418 square miles
- Begins 7 nm from the shore and extends roughly 23 nm seaward
- Extends 53 nm along the Federal/state boundary from Seaside Park south to Hereford Inlet



#### **Commercial Leases**

- Competitive or Noncompetitive
- Exclusive right to seek approval for the development of the leasehold
- No right to construct facilities
- 10 commercial leases issued
- 2 leases issued in New Jersey
   WEA
  - Ocean Wind
  - US Wind



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#### **Site Assessment**

- Details initial activities necessary to characterize a lease site
  - installation of meteorological towers and meteorological buoys
  - resource assessment surveys
  - technology testing activities that involve installation of bottom-founded facilities
- Submitted 12 months from lease issuance
- Contains environmental baseline information and analysis of potential impacts
- BOEM must approve before activities commence
- Four SAPs approved; two pending (including NJ-Ocean Wind)

#### **Construction and Operations Plan**

- Key decision document
- Detailed plan for the construction and operation of the wind project
- Includes extensive analysis of baseline environmental conditions and analysis of potential project impacts
- BOEM prepares Environmental Impact Statement to inform COP decision
- Cape Wind received COP approval in 2011
- Vineyard Wind submitted COP in December 2017
  - Notice of Intent to prepare EIS March 30, 2018

#### Federal Regulatory Framework

- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Endangered Species Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries
   Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Clean Air Act

- Clean Water Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- US Coast Guard Regulations and navigational safety

#### **Federal Agency Involvement**



















#### **COP Approval**

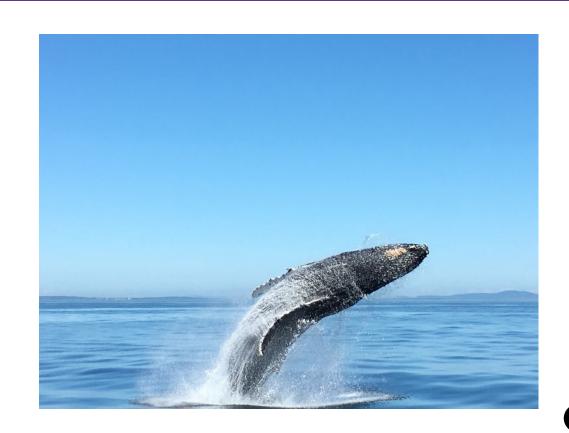
- Executive Order 13807
  - Coordination of federal reviews
  - Complete all environmental reviews and authorization decisions within 2 years
- DOI Secretarial Order 3355
  - FEIS completed within 1 year of NOI
  - 150 to 300 pages
- FAST-41 (42 U.S.C. 4370m)
  - Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
  - Coordinated reviews
  - 2-year statute of limitation
  - PI factors potential effects on public health, safety, and the environment, and the potential for significant negative effects on jobs

#### **Developers Need Flexibility**

- Rapid technological advancements
- Permitting occurs in advance of engineering
- Design Envelop
  - Turbine sizes
  - Foundation design
  - Cable routes
- Environmental Review
  - Maximum design scenario resource by resource

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Commercial fishing
- Protected resources
- Tribal interests
- Historic preservation
- Aesthetic interests
- Navigational interests
- Labor and employment
- Economic interests



#### **Questions?**



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