

Overview of the Federal Offshore Wind Development Process

Opportunities to Participate

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Interested in the federal offshore wind siting, leasing, and permitting process? This guide covers the different phases of development and highlights when and how community members can participate. Community members can participate by attending public meetings (👥) or providing comments (📧) at various stages in the process.

Planning and Analysis (2 years)

1. A State or offshore wind developer expresses interest in offshore wind energy and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) creates an Intergovernmental Task Force. 👥
2. BOEM may publish a Request for Interest to determine if other developers want to pursue offshore wind energy in the region. 📧
3. BOEM starts the leasing process with a Call for Information and Nominations to collect information about the conditions and existing uses in the area. 📧 👥
4. BOEM organizes public meetings to identify Wind Energy Areas (WEAS). 👥

👥 — Public Meetings

📧 — Written Comment

Environmental Review for Site Assessments (NEPA)

5. BOEM publishes Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the impacts of site assessment activities in the WEAs or Call Areas. 📧
6. BOEM publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) of draft EA for public comment. 📧
7. BOEM publishes final EA.
If the EA results in finding a significant impact, an Environmental Impact Statement is conducted according to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Leasing (1 – 2 years)

8. BOEM publishes Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). 📧
9. BOEM publishes Final Sale Notice (FSN).
10. BOEM holds Lease Auction.
11. BOEM issues Lease.

Site Assessment (up to 5 years)

12. Developer submits Site Assessment Plan (SAP), which outlines how they propose to survey the area and what the impacts of those site assessments will be.
13. BOEM approves SAP.
14. Developer conducts project site assessments and surveys according to SAP.
15. Developer submits Construction and Operations Plan (COP).
16. BOEM deems COP complete and sufficient to start the next phase of the NEPA Review.

Environmental Review for Construction and Operations (NEPA)

17. BOEM publishes NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the COP. 📧 👥
18. BOEM publishes Draft EIS. 📧 👥
19. BOEM publishes final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD).

20. BOEM approves COP.

Construction (2 years) and Operations (25 years)

21. Developer submits Design and Installation Plans.
22. Construction and Operations begin.



For more detailed information, visit
NewYork Sea Grant's full guide at:
www.nyseagrant.org/OWEparticipation

Frequently Asked Questions

These commenting periods are short – how can I stay informed about opportunities to comment on proposed federal actions?

Subscribe to [BOEM's email listserv](#) to stay up to date on commenting opportunities. BOEM also posts updates on their [facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) pages, though these announcements are interspersed with social media posts and are easier to miss.

I'm interested in a specific offshore wind energy project – where does it fall in the federal leasing and permitting process?

To determine where a specific project falls in the federal leasing and permitting process, you can locate the offshore wind project on the Federal Infrastructure Project Map, found at <http://www.permits.performance.gov/>. Additionally, you can search for the project on [BOEM's website](#). If you know the project name, use the search tool in the top right corner and select the result that is categorized as either a "basic page" or a "landing page." If you do not know the project name, head to [BOEM's State Activities page](#). Each state's activity refers to proximity to the lease area, not energy procurement. Select the state that is closest to the area you are interested in. Once you navigate to the project's page, explore the tabs and "What's New" section to determine what step the project is on.

How can I comment?

All comments for BOEM's actions are collected in the Federal Register. Each action has its own docket that you can navigate to on either www.regulations.gov or www.federalregister.gov. The easiest way is to search by Docket ID on regulations.gov if you have that information available. If you do not have the ID, the Federal Register is a bit easier to search. The page housing all of BOEM's documents is here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/ocean-energy-management-bureau>. Scroll down to "Recently Published Documents" and select "View ### more results." Now you can search for the document you are looking for and it will already be filtered for BOEM. For example, searching "NY Bight" results in all the published documents so far - from the Call for Information and Nominations, to the lease sale notice, to documents about the Programmatic EIS.

When you select a document, there will be a banner on the top indicating that you can submit a formal comment if the commenting period is open. Select the green button to type your comment or upload a file.

Things to remember:

- Comments are public and will be posted online in association with the document.
- You must include your first and last name in order for the comment to be accepted. If you are commenting on behalf of your organization, you must include the organization's name and type (ex: company, organization, state, etc.). If posting your name, address, and personally identifiable information could result in harmful consequences to you, describe your concerns for BOEM's consideration. BOEM does not guarantee that all information will be withheld.
- BOEM does not consider anonymous comments.

Can I submit comments in writing?

Yes – during open commenting periods, you can mail your comment to BOEM. It must be postmarked by the comment closing period. The address and closing date are included in the docket.

What should be included in a comment?

When there is an open commenting period for an action, BOEM will list exactly what information they are looking for within the body of the document. Generally, comments that include facts, link to data or research that support the comment, and provide specifics are considered most helpful by BOEM. Sometimes, BOEM publishes a supplementary fact sheet highlighting what comments they would find helpful. Here are links to past guides: [NY Bight PEIS](#), [South Fork DEIS](#).



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