Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Maine

An Overview of the Timelines and Concurrent Development Processes Relevant to New Hampshire

VERSION: APRIL 2023

(SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

This document was produced by the NH Offshore Wind Energy Engagement Initiative Working Group, composed of multiple NH state agencies and local organizations:

CONTENTS: WHAT'S INSIDE?

- An Overview of the Timelines and Concurrent Development Processes Relevant to New Hampshire
- Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine

Who can I contact for updated info?

For an updated version of this document, please email Katy Bland (katy@neracoos.org) for NERACOOS and NH Sea Grant.

About this document

This is a living document that visualizes the timelines of multiple processes (federal and state) that are proceeding in parallel. As such, this document will be periodically updated when milestones and event dates are determined. With this document, we hope to inform New Hampshire stakeholders and enable public participation in the various processes. (This document does not include the monthly meetings of the New Hampshire Commission to Study Offshore Wind and Port Development.)

Acronyms used:

- BOEM: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (U.S. federal)
- COP: Construction Operations Plan
- CZMA: Coastal Zone Management Act
- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- EA: Environmental Assessment
- GLD: Geographic Location Description
- GOM: Gulf of Maine
- FSN: Final Sale Notice
- NOAA: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (U.S. Federal)
- NHDES: NH Department of Environment Services (N.H. State)
- NHCP: NH Coastal Program (within NHDES)
- NHDOE: NH Department of Energy (N.H. State)
- NHF&G: NH Fish & Game (N.H. State)
- NHSG: NH Sea Grant
- PSN: Proposed Sale Notice
- RFI: Request for Information
- SAP: Site Assessment Plan
- WEA: Wind Energy Area

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Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine

BOEM’s Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine consists of four phases:

1. Planning and Analysis
2. Leasing
3. Site Assessment
4. Construction and Operations

The Planning and Analysis phase and the Leasing phase are further detailed in the centerfold and will conclude with a lease auction, anticipated for late 2024.

Graphic adapted from SIOW & AWEA Offshore Wind Public Participation Guide

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CONTENTS: WHAT’S INSIDE?

- Centerfold 2022-2024 Federal Offshore Wind Energy Area Siting Approach in the Gulf of Maine
- New Hampshire Geographic Location Description (GLD) Development
- Fishery Impact Mitigation Guidance and Nine State RFI
- NH Department of Energy Consultant’s Assessment Activities

Back Page 2022-2030 Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine
Federal Wind Energy Area Siting Approach in the Gulf of Maine & Related New Hampshire Activities

**Actions that the NH Offshore Wind Engagement Initiative Working Group are taking, related to WEA siting, are outlined below the timeline [sky blue] and will be compiled on a website in the future.**

**NH Geographic Location Description (GLD) Development:**
Through the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), New Hampshire has the authority to review certain federal actions that take place within the state’s coastal zone (extends 3nm offshore) through the “federal consistency” review process in order to make sure they align with the state’s enforceable policies. Federal activities outside NH’s coastal zone aren’t subject to federal consistency review unless: 1) the applicant voluntarily submits to the NH Coastal Program (NHCP); 2) NHCP submits a request to NOAA to review the activity under federal consistency and NOAA approves the request; or 3) NHCP develops and NOAA approves a Geographic Location Description (GLD). More information: [https://www.des.nh.gov/water/coastal-waters/federal-consistency](https://www.des.nh.gov/water/coastal-waters/federal-consistency)

**Concurrent processes:**

  - BOEM: • June 23, 2022: Draft Guidance Published (public comment period closes Aug. 22, 2022) • Early 2023: Final Guidance Published
  - Multi-State Fisheries Mitigation Project: In parallel, nine east coast states have formed the Fisheries Mitigation Project to establish a regional fund administrator for fisheries compensatory mitigation, through the Special Initiative for Offshore Wind. More information: [https://offshorewindpower.org/fisheries-mitigation-project](https://offshorewindpower.org/fisheries-mitigation-project)

**What is depicted on this timeline?**
- Federal Wind Energy Area (WEA) Siting Approach: The siting approach for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the federal agency authorized to oversee offshore wind energy development, is outlined above the timeline [steel blue]. More information: [https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maine/gulf-maine](https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maine/gulf-maine)

**Timeline Updated April 25, 2023**
**Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine**

BOEM’s Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine consists of four phases:

1. **Planning and Analysis** [Dark Blue]  
2. **Leasing** [Light Blue]  
3. **Site Assessment** [Green]  
4. **Construction and Operations** [Yellow, Orange, Red]

The **Planning and Analysis** phase and the **Leasing** phase are further detailed in the centerfold, and will conclude with a lease area auction, anticipated for late 2024.

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