

Renewable Energy Uses of the Outer Continental Shelf
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
Maine Renewable Energy Task Force Charter
DRAFT, September 8, 2010

Introduction

On April 22, 2009, President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) had finalized the framework for renewable energy generation on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The framework establishes a BOEMRE program to issue leases, easements, and rights-of-way for orderly, safe, and environmentally responsible renewable energy development activities, such as the siting and construction of wind generation facilities on the OCS. The BOEMRE is initiating a commercial leasing process offshore the State of Maine. This charter establishes a Maine Federal-State-local-tribal government task force to assist government decision-making regarding renewable energy leasing and development on the OCS off the coast of Maine.

Authority

Subsection 8(p)(7) of the OCS Lands Act, as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct), directs the BOEMRE to coordinate and consult with the Governor of any state or the executive of any local government that may be affected by a renewable energy lease, easement, or right-of-way on the OCS. The BOEMRE is establishing the BOEMRE Maine Task Force to help fulfill this obligation in its consideration of potential leasing activities on the OCS offshore Maine.

This charter does not expand or alter the scope of the task force members' respective authorities, nor shall it be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of any task force member or any private right or cause of action for or by any person or entity.

Purpose

The BOEMRE Maine Task Force is chartered by the BOEMRE Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management (OEMM) to facilitate coordination and consultation on commercial leasing proposals on the OCS offshore Maine as stipulated in EPAAct 2005. This Task Force is not chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Numerous local, state, and Federal governmental agencies have statutory roles related to OCS renewable energy projects. To the extent practicable, the task force will work to ensure the most efficient and effective review of proposed projects to support the Administration's goal of broadening the energy resource portfolio for the nation and the State of Maine's goal of meeting its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and developing renewable energy resources off its coast.

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Immediate Charge – to be presented at the first BOEMRE Maine Task Force meeting in September 2010:

- o Review and adopt charter;
- o Explain the BOEMRE leasing processes for OCS renewable energy and discuss in detail the specific steps proposed for leasing off Maine beginning with a planned Request for Interest as the first step;
- o Detail specific actions or categories of actions required by both the BOEMRE and the State to support Maine's stated goal of developing offshore renewable energy in meeting its RPS, and the associated timeframe with each;
- o Identify additional appropriate Federal, tribal, and/or state/local government representatives/points of contact to serve as initial participants on the task force;
- o Adopt operating and communication procedures for the task force; and
- o Identify additional topics that need to be addressed by the task force.

Subsequent Activities – to be considered by the BOEMRE Maine Task Force in future meetings, possibly to include the following:

- o Summarize present status, immediate future, and long-range timeframes regarding proposed projects;
- o Develop a process for communicating and streamlining the plan and review process for proposed projects;
- o Identify any regulatory uncertainties that may become issues of concern during the review of proposed projects; and
- o Identify data gaps that require further study.

Membership

Members of the BOEMRE Maine Task Force include Federal agencies, tribal governments and Maine State and local agencies that have a role in permitting, reviewing, and/or regulating resources or activities that could be affected by or have an effect on renewable energy development on the OCS. The BOEMRE recognizes that the participants in the task force may change over time as the status of project review progresses, and that the membership list will not be static. The Governor has designated Ms. Karin Tilberg to act on the Governor's behalf on the task force to lead efforts on behalf of state and local agencies. The BOEMRE will also work with tribal and Federal agencies to identify a primary point of contact for each distinct government body represented. These primary points of contact will be responsible for rallying participation from all possible participating functional units within their respective organizations and cultivating an open exchange of information throughout the process.

Initial Schedule

- o September 14, 2010 – Convene the first Maine Task Force meeting to introduce the task force and discuss the draft charter. The meeting location is below:

The Hutchinson Center
80 Belmont Avenue (Route #3)
Belfast, Maine 04915