**Aditi Mirani** speaks about the task force purpose, backgrounds, rules and membership of the task force

**Aditi Mirani**

Welcome to the first BOEMRE  Maine Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting Go over nuts and bolts of the task force, what it is for, why required to establish the task force,  who the members are, and how we operate the task force

BOEMRE formerly Minerals Management Service.  June 2010 the name changed to BOEMRE by secretarial order.

An agency within the Department of the Interior. It manages the nations mineral resources we are traditionally associated with oil and gas as well as sand and gravel resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

Bureau is responsible for collecting and accounting for $25 million in revenues annually.

Energy Policy Act of 2005.  Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act gave the Secretary the authority to issue a lease easement on the OCS for sources other than oil and gas, ie for renewable energy

Some of the mandates of the Energy Policy Act

Any activities we conduct on the OCS will be conducted in a manner provides for safety, protects environment and coordination with with affected state local and private governments as well as brother federal agencies.

That is why we are gathered here today  is for the coordination effort. Some of the other mandates of the Energy Policy Act

Also to **provide for fair return** for use of OCS lands and provide for **sharing revenue with states**. Will detail who that revenue will be shared.

Regulatory framework is under 30 CFR part 285 . 1 year and a half ago in 2009 that Obama announced the publication of our rule. 30 CFR Part 3

One of the mandates is Coordination. This is very critical mandate. Section 285 part 102 of our rule states that BOEMRE will provide for coordination and consultation with the government of any state or the executive of the local or the Indian tribe that may be affected by a lease easement or right of way

What is the BOEMRE Task Force It is a platform, a forum for us to educate each other. We are here to provide information  on our leasing process on our regulatory framework; explain to you how it works

Also we are here to learn from you all. There are several federal agencies responsible for renewable energy development, as well as state and local entities that we'd like to learn from you all as well

**Second purpose,** what the task force is about. It's really about exchanging data; whether its biological or physical resources or uses, to inform us in making effective renewable energy leasing  and development decisions

**Third purpose** of the task force is to provide for continuing dialog about our process. Starting from the process today,  itself - this is just a knowing each other meeting - but also to inform us to inform you all and also not only us speaking but to learn from you all as well

The BOEMRE will consider a task force input from you all as members of the task force ; the Maine government  makes leasing decisions We'd would like to get this process started from today onwards as part of the process

The task force membership cannot alter the regulatory framework. Because it is important to remember we have an established framework; we have a framework that is already in place. What we are looking to get from you here is how we can improve these processes.

Task force members will be able to provide info on the preparation of BOEM notices.  For example - will detail this later - A Request For Interest is a formal BOEMRE notice that an anouncement  and when we issue an RFI in a

state , we will tap into the expertise of the task force members will  We will run the RFI document with you all to make sure: is there anything missing are there exclusionary areas , any zones we should be aware of?

That is where you will come into play is in the development of the Request For InterestFI

Another possible area where we will tap into you  is to identify potential issues. We all recognize the ocean is  a very busy place with multiple uses, so what are some of the issues we should be aware of whether there .Navigation? Aviation etc

This is what we're looking to get from you all - is to identify the issues and the earlier we do it the better it will be.

**Why are we establishing the task force?**

**The primary reason** establishing the task force is really for efficient and effective decision making. It helps us increase the  regulatory process. So it's not only for us giving info about our regulatory leasing  process, but learning especially state agencies how their permitting and  reg process will fit into ours. How we can mesh them.

**Second reason** is bringing all the interested parties together. There are several federal agencies present here who have a role to play in the leasing process. As well as state, local and tribal entities. Having so many people  together, having them come to the table and hash out the issues and talk about their issues, is really beneficial.

**Third reason** is provide a venue for discussing the benefits the issues and the critical ocean pieces earlier on in the process. What we're really trying to avoid is the situation where we kick off and start this leasing process, are halfway down and then realize "Oh, this is something we missed, or isn't this something we should have  thought of?

This is why we have the task forces, is to share information that's up from up front up close so that we can get all the information we need so we can have this  leasing process conducted in as efficient a manner as possible

**The last one is reducing multiple use conflicts** and identifying information gaps that need to be filled.

**Who are the members of the Task Force?**

The Task Force consists of the relevant federal agencies that have inherent government responsibility for renewable energy leasing. It also consists of state government officials who are designated by the governor,  as well as local and tribal elected government officials.

**How will the Task Force operate?** The Task  Force is as Karen and Mo mentioned is established and based on the  members  for the state received from the governor's office. It is established and coordinated by the BOEMRE.

Ms Karin Tilberg will lead the state participation and act on the governor's behalf

One particular element to recognize is that the task force is a dynamic entity. We recognize people come and go,  people change jobs, administrations change. So for various reasons membership is a dynamic process.

**Finally** the TF is governed by an adopted charter will I will detail in the afternoon session The charter is a mission statement of principles. we will go over that .