

# Interior Announces Milestone for Wind Energy Development Offshore North Carolina

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## Proposes Lease Sale for 122,405-Acre Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area; Companies asked to respond to Proposed Notice of Sale

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**WASHINGTON, DC** — As part of President Obama's [Climate Action Plan](#) to create American jobs, develop domestic clean energy sources and cut carbon pollution, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Abigail Ross Hopper today announced a proposed lease sale for 122,405 acres offshore North Carolina for commercial wind energy leasing.

The proposed lease is for the Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area, which BOEM identified in consultation with members of its North Carolina Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. The task force includes membership from federal, state, tribal, and local government partners. In addition, BOEM considered information gathered through outreach with stakeholders.

“This is an important and exciting milestone in our ongoing efforts to tap the vast wind energy resources along the Atlantic Coast,” said Secretary Jewell. “The proposed lease sale is the result of thoughtful collaboration at all levels to identify areas offshore North Carolina with great wind energy potential, while minimizing conflicts with other important uses. We will continue to work with the North Carolina Renewable Energy Task Force, local communities and key stakeholders as we move forward with harnessing clean energy resources, generating jobs and stimulating local economies.”

The area proposed for leasing is the same as the Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area (WEA) that BOEM announced on August 11, 2014. This WEA begins about 24 nautical miles from shore and extends about 25.7 nautical miles in a general southeast direction. Its seaward extent ranges from 13.5 nautical miles in the north to .6 of a nautical mile in the south. It contains 21.5 Outer Continental Shelf blocks. BOEM has also announced the Wilmington East and Wilmington West WEAs, which, due to their proximity and shared attributes, have been coupled with the planning and leasing process for the South Carolina Call Areas. More information about South Carolina’s leasing process can be found here: <http://www.boem.gov/South-Carolina/>.

A “Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) and Request for Interest (RFI) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore North Carolina” will be published in the Federal Register on August 16, 2016, and will include a 60-day public comment period ending on October 17, 2016.

This document provides detailed information concerning the area available for leasing, the proposed lease provisions and conditions, auction details (e.g., criteria for evaluating competing bids and award procedures) and lease execution. It includes an RFI to assess whether there has been a change in competitive interest in the area since the publication of the North Carolina Call for Information and Nominations (“Call”) in 2012.

“This is a great day for North Carolina and our country as we continue to make progress on diversifying our nation’s energy portfolio,” said Director Hopper. “With the completion

of a successful lease sale, North Carolina will move closer to obtaining substantial contributions to the region's energy supply from offshore wind. Additionally, such supply will assist local governments in achieving their renewable energy goals.”

In order to participate in the lease sale, potential bidders whom BOEM has determined are qualified to hold an OCS lease for commercial wind offshore North Carolina must submit a response to this notice by the end of the 60-day comment period, affirming their continued interest in the area being offered for leasing.

Companies interested in participating in the lease sale that have not been qualified by BOEM must submit the required qualification materials by the end of the 60-day comment period for this notice. Companies planning to submit a qualification package are strongly encouraged to submit as early as possible during the comment period to ensure adequate time for processing. The PSN provides additional information about qualification requirements.

To be eligible to participate in the lease sale, each company must have been notified by BOEM that it is legally, technically and financially qualified by the time the Final Sale Notice is published.

If BOEM determines that competitive interest in the proposed lease area still exists, BOEM will proceed with the competitive process. If BOEM determines competitive interest in the proposed lease area no longer exists because only one potential lessee is interested in the area, BOEM may proceed with the non-competitive process and negotiate the terms of the lease directly with the interested company.

Comments received electronically or postmarked by October 17, 2016, will be made available to the public and considered before the publication of the Final Sale Notice, which will announce the time and date of the lease sale.

BOEM will host a public seminar in mid-September in Raleigh, N.C., to describe the auction format, explain the auction rules, and demonstrate the auction process through

meaningful examples. BOEM will also host a public meeting in Kitty Hawk, N.C., in mid-September. The time, venue, and related materials for the seminar and public meeting will be posted online at <http://www.boem.gov/North-Carolina>.

Today's announcement builds on BOEM's work to foster offshore renewable energy development through a collaborative state-federal process to identify Wind Energy Areas and hold competitive lease sales. To date, BOEM has awarded 11 commercial offshore wind leases, including nine through the competitive lease sale process (two offshore New Jersey, two in an area offshore Rhode Island-Massachusetts, another two offshore Massachusetts, two offshore Maryland and one offshore Virginia). These lease sales have generated approximately \$16 million in winning bids for more than a million acres in federal waters.