



# Update: OCS Renewable Energy

*Environmental Business Council  
New England, Inc.  
Boston, Massachusetts*

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**Maureen A. Bornholdt**

Program Manager

Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs

Minerals Management Service



# Energy Policy Act of 2005

- Section 388 amended Section 8 of OCSLA
- Authority to regulate a broad spectrum of activities:
  - **Renewable energy** (e.g., wind, ocean wave, ocean current, solar, hydrogen production)
  - **Alternate use** of existing facilities (e.g., research and offshore support stations, recreation opportunities)

# New Directions

February 10 Announcement:

- Adopt a **comprehensive approach** to offshore energy development
- Report on offshore energy resources within 45 days
- Hold 4 **regional meetings**: Apr 6 (NJ), Apr 8 (LA), Apr 14 (AK), Apr 16 (CA)

March 11 **Secretarial Order 3285** establishing Energy & Climate Change Taskforce to develop:

- Strategies to **increase development and transmission**
- **Best management practices** to ensure environmentally responsible development and delivery

March 17 **DOI & FERC agreement** covering jurisdiction for offshore OCS wave and current resources

# Status of the MMS Rulemaking

- ✓ Sent proposed rule to OMB (*Mar 2008*)
- ✓ Published proposed rule (*July 2008*)
- ✓ Held rule workshops (*Aug 2008*)
- ✓ Closed comment period (*September 2008*)
- ✓ Sent final rule to OMB (*Nov 2008*)
- **Ready to move the rule forward**



# Rulemaking Comments

- 280 comments focused on alternative energy process
- **Most Common Topics:**
  - State and Local Consultation
  - Bonding
  - Confidentiality
  - Jurisdiction
  - Revenue Sharing
  - Environmental Review Processes
- Comments addressed in the final Rule

# Related Initiatives: Interim Policy

- Interim Policy currently in effect for **limited leasing** before final regulations
- Covers resource **data collection** and **technology testing** activities
- Will authorize **5-year term**
- Will **not** give priority rights for subsequent commercial development



# Interim Policy

- Currently considering 10 wind limited lease areas
  - 6 offshore NJ
  - 1 offshore DE
  - 3 offshore GA
- Held public stakeholder workshops in Nov 2008
- Anticipate issuing several limited leases within the next couple of months

# Status of Cape Wind Energy Project Proposal

- ✓ Published draft EIS (*Jan 2008*)
- ✓ Held draft EIS public hearings  
(*Mar 2008*)
- ✓ Published final EIS (*Jan 2009*)
- Continuing regulatory compliance

# New England State Initiatives

- √Massachusetts—Oceans Act of 2008; Governor's wind production goal of 2,000 MW by 2020
- √Rhode Island—SAMP; plans for OCS project in 2015
- √Maine—established task force; issued bond proposal; set offshore wind goal
- Be in a position to support State plans and goals

# Looking Ahead

- Implement the Rule
- Continue to work closely with State, local, and tribal governments
- Issue Interim Policy leases and review project plans
- Complete review of CW Project
- Identify challenges and baseline data needs using an adaptive management philosophy
- Continue education and outreach efforts



# More Information...



On the Web at:

[www.mms.gov/offshore/alternativeenergy](http://www.mms.gov/offshore/alternativeenergy)

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703-787-1300