

New York & New Jersey Offshore Wind Environmental Justice Forums

Overview

January 25th, 2023

October 26th, 2022

Summer 2022

Additional Information

Upcoming Meeting

Apr. 26, 2023 - April Environmental Justice Forum. Register at:

<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcuusrj0pGt1vjEHc1G3rZDM7KWf1kWY1>

Background

To advance meaningful engagement with environmental justice and underserved communities and improve the inclusivity of our public participation process, BOEM has designed and is carrying out a pilot effort tied to the New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). BOEM held quarterly Environmental Justice Forums for New York & New Jersey over the course of the PEIS development period. These forums were intended to be bidirectional information sharing sessions, co-designed with participants, including federal agencies whose work overlaps with the BOEM activities, state agencies, and community-based organizations.

On Feb. 25, 2022, the Department of the Interior announced the results of the nation's highest-grossing competitive offshore energy lease sale in history, including oil and gas lease sales, with the New York Bight offshore wind sale. The lease sale offered six lease areas totaling over 488,000 acres in the New York Bight (an area of the Outer Continental Shelf between New York and New Jersey) for potential wind energy development and drew competitive winning bids from six companies totaling approximately \$4.37 billion.

On July 15, 2022, BOEM issued a Notice of Intent to Develop a PEIS. The PEIS analyzes potential impacts from wind energy development activities in the leases awarded as a result of the Feb. 25, 2022, sale. The PEIS also examines ways to avoid or minimize the potential impacts associated with development of offshore wind in this area and considers whether those avoidance or minimization measures should be required as a condition of approval of development of these areas.

Subsequent reviews for individual Construction and Operations Plans (COPs) in the lease areas will tier to the analysis in the PEIS. BOEM expects at least six individual COPs to be submitted for wind projects in the New York Bight lease areas. Project-specific environmental reviews of each submitted COP will include additional opportunities for engagement.

The public scoping period for the PEIS was open for public comments from July 15 to August 30, 2022. Next steps include the publication of a Draft PEIS in the second half of 2023, followed by a public comment period. The comment period will be publicized on this page when the dates are announced.

For more information about opportunities for underserved communities and environmental justice populations to engage with BOEM about offshore wind in the New York/New Jersey region, please email Environmental.justice@boem.gov. Materials related to Environmental Justice Forums can be found in the tabs above, sorted by engagement event.