

Beach Haven Taxpayers 'Association Offshore Wind Energy Alternative Solutions in Sight

Letter to the Editor

The Beach Haven Taxpayers Association held an offshore wind energy forum via Zoom on April 9. The Hudson South wind energy area (WEA) alternative posed by the public not addressed due to time constraints, was asked of the panelists. The response was the federal agency of the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) has not formally identified and auctioned a lease area in Hudson South. Developers have not had a chance to bid on that lease area or determine how large a project can be built there. An Intergovernmental Task Force, led by BOEM that the state of New Jersey participated, on leasing the Hudson South areas and others in the NY Bight, was held April 14th and April 16th. This meeting will inform BOEM on which areas in the NY Bight should be identified to move forward towards establishing lease areas for auction.

BHTA participated in said meeting. The President of BHTA posed the question of BOEM of why isn't Hudson South considered in serving the Long Beach Island community since it will be much further out from the shoreline. Why isn't Hudson South considered an option for Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind lease area or another competitor to serve the LBI community? While we understand the regulatory process for Hudson South is incomplete, if and when the lease is awarded, how is it determined which lease area will serve LBI?

On May 21st, an Energy Program Specialist from the US Department of the Interior of BOEM responded that "it is possible for a potential lease area in the Hudson South Wind Energy Area to serve LBI. The process which determines that is based upon where a potential developer who wins the rights to the lease is able to find offtake, or a place to purchase the power. That is outside of the federal process. The developer will conduct studies and field surveys to gather the necessary information to meet BOEMs plan requirements. They will then submit a plan to BOEM, which we will then consider as part of our review process."

Regarding the regulatory process, of the Hudson South Wind Energy Area ("WEA") and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind ("Atlantic Shores"), The Hudson South WEA is at the very beginning of the regulatory process. BOEM has confirmed that the area has not been offered for sale, and there is no lessee. BOEM is preparing a Proposed Sale Notice that includes portions of the Hudson South WEA in preparation for a forthcoming lease sale. Should that sale occur, the winners will become lease holders and initiate a series of surveys to inform plans to be submitted to BOEM for review.

BOEM has indicated on May 17th that "in order for a current lessee offshore New Jersey (OCS-A 0498 – Ocean Wind LLC) and (OCS-A 0499 – Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC), to move their

proposed project to a potential lease area in the New York Bight, the lessee(s) would first need to win the rights to a lease area in the New York Bight auction. Please note that even if one or both of the lessees were to win those rights at auction they would still retain their existing leases (OCS -A 0498 and OCS- A0499) ***unless the Lessee chooses to relinquish the lease.*** Those existing leases allow a lessee to submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for a wind facility in the leases described geographic extent. For all proposed wind facilities, including those offshore New Jersey and in the New York Bight, BOEM would conduct an environmental impact statement which will analyze the impact of the proposed project on environmental and socioeconomic resources. After completion of the environmental review BOEM would approve, disapprove or approve the COP with modifications”.

To the best of our knowledge, this was the first response we have received related to an alternative of a lease that would be further removed from the shoreline.

John Hailperin, President BHTA