

Coastal Zone Management Program—Enhancement Grant Assessments and Strategies

ENERGY AND GOVERNMENT FACILITY SITING**State Assessment and Strategy Overview**

The Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), encourages states and territories to conduct self-assessments of their Coastal Management Programs and develop strategies to improve management of the following areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management planning, ocean/Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. Every five years, states assess their management of all nine areas and develop enhancement strategies for their highest priority issues. The assessments highlight past successes and identify needs that will help improve coastal resource management.

We hope these summaries will be used to generate discussion and new ideas, target existing products and services, guide new project development in NOAA and the states, and promote partnerships and information sharing. Please use the contact information at the end to follow up with any ideas or questions.

Assessment Findings and Recent Trends

Since the last assessments in 2001, energy supply and new energy facilities have become a growing issue due to an escalating demand to find more domestic supplies. In addition, recent increases in energy costs have made the development of alternative energy sources more economic.

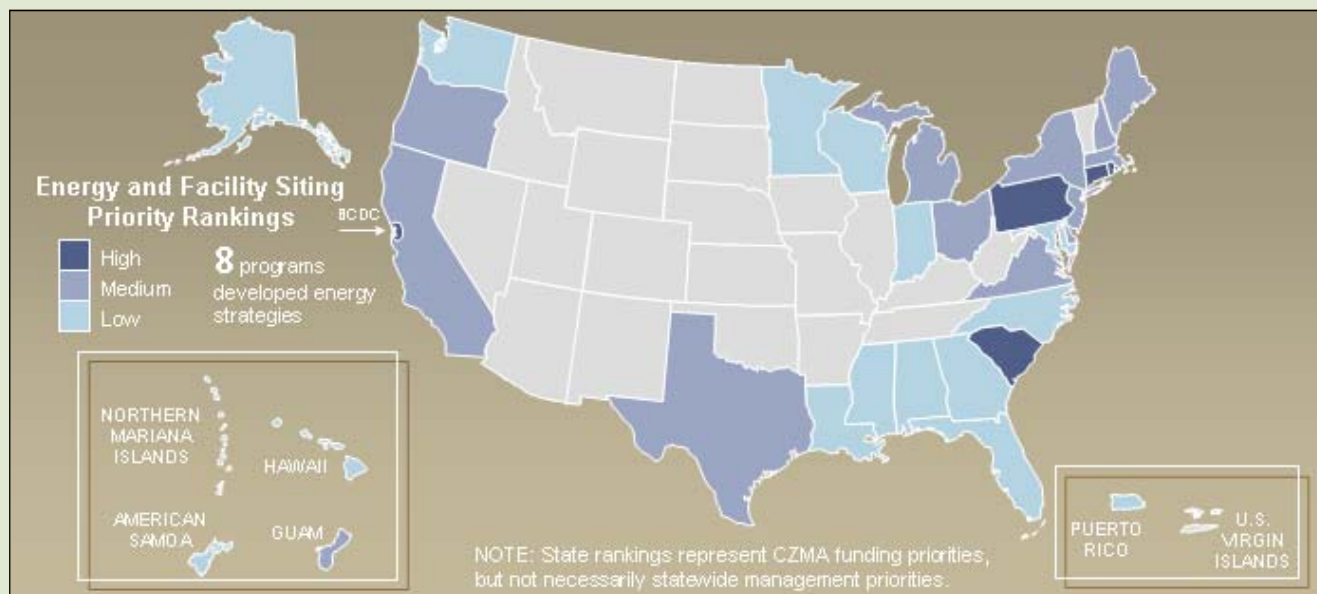
Consequently, energy facility siting issues are a higher priority issue in a number of states. Since 2001, new energy facilities were proposed or permitted in the coastal zones of the majority (27 of the 34) of the coastal states and territories. The facilities include both traditional energy (e.g. oil and gas, electric, coal, nuclear, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)) and alternative facilities, such as offshore wind farms, and tidal and wave powered facilities.

The greatest increase in proposed or permitted facilities was for LNG transport, transfer, conversion or storage facilities, and for offshore wind farms. In addition, a number of deepwater ports were proposed or constructed in several states to accommodate the LNG tankers. Regionally, the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, Gulf and Great Lakes states were most likely to report proposed or newly constructed facilities.

Primary Needs and Information Gaps

State Coastal Zone Management Programs were asked to identify their primary needs and information gaps for energy and facility siting. The following is a list of the most commonly identified needs:

- Need for new or revised **coastal policies to better address energy facility siting** — especially in situations where state law is pre-empted and only federal consistency applies
- Need to expand, revise or consolidate **state**



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regulatory jurisdiction to better address energy facility siting

- Need **impact assessments** for energy projects
- Need to **identify regional or state wide energy needs** to better balance siting of energy facilities
- Need to conduct **resource inventories**

Recent Successes

For most state coastal management programs, 2005-2006 was the fourth cycle of self assessments and strategy development. Below are two examples of strategies implemented by the states that demonstrate successes in managing energy and facility siting:

- In response to proposed wind farms in coastal waters the **Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program** took a leadership role in initiating an Ocean Resources Task Force (ORTF) to address issues surrounding the siting of alternative energy facilities and other uses in state ocean waters. In response to the ORTF recommendations, the coastal program spearheaded drafting legislation to establish a framework for managing offshore ocean development. The proposed ocean legislation includes modifications to existing state law relating to offshore development of power-related facilities. Proposed modifications include: extending the longstanding prohibition on building conventional electric generating stations in the ocean to include all state waters (rather than limited to waters designated as Ocean Sanctuaries); power generation utilizing renewable energy sources would no longer be prohibited (except in the Cape Cod Ocean Sanctuary); and the laying of electric transmission or distribution cables would be subject to the requirement of conformance with the Ocean Plan.
- In 1999, the **State of New Jersey** passed the “Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act” which among other things, revised its Coastal Management Rules to better address energy facility siting. The Act amended previous siting standards to reference the new standards to review energy projects within a comprehensive environmental design strategy that preserves the most ecologically sensitive and fragile areas from inappropriate development, and provides adequate environmental safeguards for the construction of any developments in the coastal area.

Promising Strategies for 2006–2010

As part of the State Enhancement Grant Program, state coastal management programs are asked to develop strategies to address their high priority resource management issues identified in the assessment. Below are a couple examples of strategies proposed for energy and facility siting:

- **Connecticut** is proposing to develop a program of submerged lands leasing or management, which will in part address energy facility siting in Long Island Sound. As part of that program they plan to work with other states to establish a regional ocean resources institution, to identify and move on priority regional issues. They will also be working to develop or obtain critical information for this effort, including seafloor mapping (sedimentary environments and habitats) and an assessment of uses and use areas of the Sound (e.g. commercial trawling areas, navigation routes of commercial traffic). The final task will be to establish a submerged lands leasing or management program (also referred to as ocean governance or “marine zoning”) based on the State’s proprietary interest in public trust submerged lands and waters.

- The **Maine Department of Environmental Protection**, in consultation with a number of offices and agencies, will lead a review of the efficacy of the Maine Waters Development and Conservation Act, Site Location of Development Act, Natural Resources Protection Act, state water quality standards and other pertinent state energy policies in managing alternative energy development activities (e.g. wind and tidal power). This review and analysis will inform the development or revision of guidelines, procedures and regulations to address foreseeable alternative energy projects (particularly tidal and wind energy facilities) in coastal waters and adjacent outer continental shelf areas, thus helping to advance state goals related to both renewable energy and traditional industries.



An oil rig sits offshore southern California, near the Channel Islands.

Questions, ideas or for more information:
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