



# Minerals Management Service

*People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy*

## FACT SHEET

January 16, 2009

### Cape Wind Energy Project

- The MMS received a request from Cape Wind Associates, LLC (CWA) for a lease, easement or right-of-way to construct and operate a wind facility located in Federal waters 4.7 miles offshore Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Landfall for the transmission cable would be in Barnstable County.
- The proposal consists of 130, 3.6 megawatt wind turbine generators with the capacity to produce about 468 megawatts. The average anticipated production from the proposed wind facility could provide approximately 75% of the electricity demand for Cape Cod and the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. At average expected production, Cape Wind could produce enough energy to power more than 200,000 homes in Massachusetts.
- Under authority of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, MMS will regulate alternative energy projects and alternate use of facilities on the OCS. Examples include, but are not limited to, wind energy, wave energy, ocean current energy, solar energy, and hydrogen production. Alternate uses of existing facilities may include, but are not limited to, research, education, recreation, and support for offshore operations and facilities.
- Analysis finds impacts are expected to be mostly negligible or minor; some moderate impacts were found.
- The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) plans to publish a Notice of Availability for the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cape Wind Offshore Energy Project in the Federal Register on January 16, 2008.
- The agency filed the final environmental impact statement (EIS) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Friday, January 9th. The final EIS is available for review online at: [www.mms.gov/offshore/AlternativeEnergy/CapeWind.htm](http://www.mms.gov/offshore/AlternativeEnergy/CapeWind.htm).
- The final EIS assesses the physical, biological and social/human impacts of the proposed Cape Wind Offshore Energy Project. The EIS also examines all reasonable alternatives, including a "no action" alternative (e.g., the project is not built), in an objective fashion in order to determine if the proposal is environmentally sound.

- The Final EIS addresses all concerns relating to navigation, transportation, and aviation traffic and facilities. The U.S. Coast Guard is a cooperating agency with regard to maritime navigation and safety, and the Final EIS includes the Coast Guard's terms and conditions to ensure safe vessel operations in and around the wind facility.
- The Coast Guard has given MMS its initial findings with regard to their study and hope to receive a completed version prior to the MMS Record of Decision on Cape Wind.
- The FAA has yet to issue its updated hazard determination. The FAA previously issued "no hazard" determinations, but because the review of the project has taken so long, these have subsequently expired. The FAA has concluded that hazard determinations are excluded from the considerations of NEPA, but a new hazard determination will be needed before construction and operations can occur.
- Federal and State agencies, non-governmental organizations, local communities and the general public were asked to participate in the drafting of the EIS through an extensive public comment process that included public hearings in Hyannis/Yarmouth, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and Boston, Massachusetts.
- MMS received over 42,000 comments throughout the public comment period on the draft EIS. MMS fully considered all oral and written comments received when preparing the final EIS and incorporated responses to comments into the final EIS document.
- By law, once a final EIS is issued, there is a mandatory 30-day waiting period before an agency may issue its Record of Decision (ROD) on a proposed action. When the MMS issues its ROD, there will be a clearly stated decision to either issue a lease or not issue a lease for the proposed project. If a lease is issued, it will include all mandatory stipulations, mitigations, and terms and conditions to ensure that all construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning activities occur in an environmentally and humanly safe manner.
- To obtain a single printed or CD-ROM copy of the EIS, you may e-mail [capewind@mms.gov](mailto:capewind@mms.gov) or write to:

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