

## ACHP ENTERS INTO AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE WINDPOWER DEVELOPMENT IN MID-ATLANTIC, GREAT LAKES REGIONS

The ACHP has recently entered into two agreement documents that will foster development of offshore windpower. The ACHP has recently executed a Programmatic Agreement with the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM), the State Historic Preservation Officers of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia, and the Narragansett and Shinnecock Tribes, to implement the administration's "Smart from the Start" (SFTS) Atlantic Wind Energy Initiative for the development of wind energy resources on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Each of the states have identified accessible wind energy areas where winds are constant and predictable, and not in the shipping lanes or migratory bird or aircraft routes, or in the way of Navy exercises.

Each of the WEA lease blocks (Delaware: 122 square miles; Maryland: 94 square miles; New Jersey: 418 square miles; Virginia: 164 square miles) is at least 10 miles out to sea, so that the wind farm turbines will be visible from land areas near the coasts. The WEAs were identified by state-level task forces (comprised of elected state, local, and tribal officials).

The second agreement document the ACHP recently entered into is a Memorandum of Understanding with nine other Federal Agencies and 8 states to streamline environmental review of proposed new offshore wind resources in the Great Lakes. The ACHP has joined the Council on Environmental Quality, the Departments of Energy and Defense, the Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, EPA, FWS, the FAA, and NOAA and the states Of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in a MOU to enhance and streamline environmental review of offshore wind farms in the Great Lakes. In the case of the Great Lakes, the lake bottomlands are owned by each State, while the water itself is "owned" by the federal government. For this reason, both Federal and State regulatory authorities apply, making inter-and intra-state and federal coordination all the more essential to the viability of offshore wind development.

This MOU will provide for a greater degree of predictability, transparency, and significantly less duplication in review of environmental documents in the approval process, which should reduce significantly the long lead times (up to 10 years) between initial conception and actual power generation. Reducing this approval period, even by a year, would generate cost savings, increase accessibility to renewable energy and jumpstart job creation.