

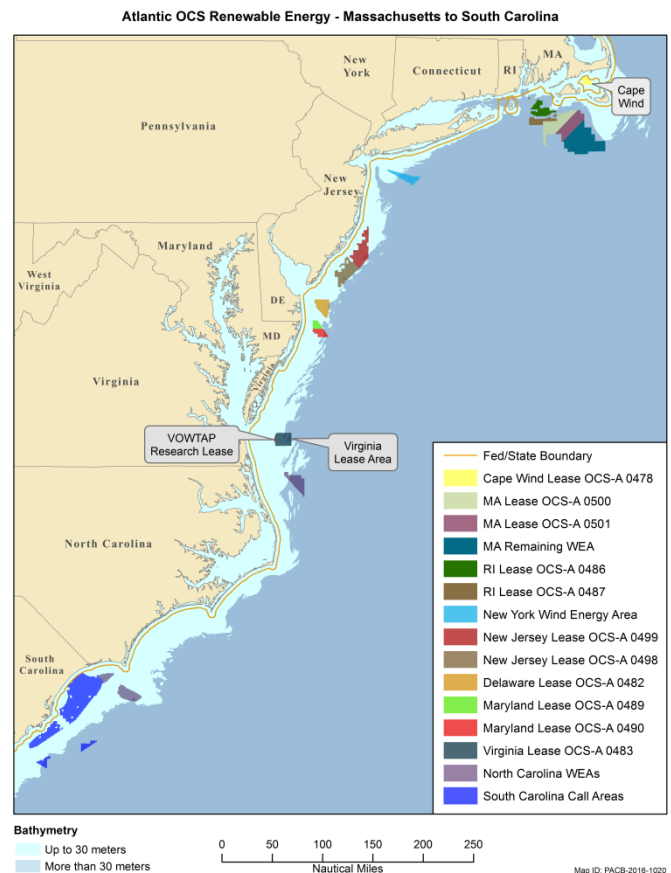
## BOEM's Renewable Energy Program

In 2009, President Barack Obama announced the final regulations for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct). These regulations provide a framework for issuing leases, easements and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters. Since the regulations were enacted, BOEM has worked diligently to oversee responsible renewable energy development.

### Commercial Leasing

A commercial lease gives the lessee the exclusive right to seek BOEM approval for the development of a leasehold. It does not grant the right to construct any facilities. Since 2009, BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) has issued eleven commercial wind energy leases offshore, including those issued to the following companies:

- *Cape Wind Associates, LLC*, for an area totaling 29,425 acres offshore Massachusetts (2010)
- *Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC*, for an area totaling 96,430 acres offshore Delaware (2012)
- *Deepwater Wind New England, LLC*, for two lease areas totaling 164,750 acres offshore Rhode Island/Massachusetts (2013).
- *Virginia Electric and Power Company (dba Dominion Virginia Power)*, for an area totaling 112,799 acres offshore Virginia (2013).
- *US Wind Inc.*, for two lease areas totaling 79,707 acres offshore Maryland (2014), and another lease area totaling 183,353 acres offshore New Jersey (2016).
- *RES America Developments, Inc.* for an area totaling 187,523 acres offshore Massachusetts that was later assigned to *Bay State Wind LLC* (2015), and another area totaling 160,480 acres offshore New Jersey that was later assigned to *Ocean Wind LLC* (2016).
- *OffshoreMW LLC* for an area totaling 166,886 acres offshore Massachusetts (2015).



A competitive lease sale for the Wind Energy Area offshore New York is expected in 2016. BOEM is in the planning stages for areas offshore North Carolina, South Carolina, Oregon, and Hawaii.

### **Limited and Research Leasing**

In November 2007, BOEM (then known as Minerals Management Service) announced an Interim Policy to jumpstart data collection and technology testing activities on the OCS prior to the promulgation of final regulations. Leases issued under the Interim Policy have a five year term and provide no subsequent rights to commercial development. To date, BOEM has issued five Interim Policy leases, three offshore New Jersey (one of which was relinquished in 2012, the other two expired in 2014) and one offshore Delaware (relinquished in 2012) for wind resource data collection, and one offshore Florida for testing of hydrokinetic current devices. BOEM is also considering another limited lease offshore Georgia, also for wind resource data collection.

In addition, BOEM received the following unsolicited research lease applications:

- Two research lease requests from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). In response to both requests, BOEM determined there was no competitive interest. One of the research leases, associated with the proposed Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project (VOWTAP), was executed in March 2015.
- A research lease request for a wave energy test site in Federal waters offshore Oregon was submitted to BOEM by Oregon State University. BOEM determined there was no competitive interest and continues to process the research lease request.

### **Right-of-Way Grants**

BOEM has the authority to issue right-of-way grants that allow developers to build electricity transmission lines that connect renewable energy installations to the onshore electrical grid. BOEM executed a right-of-way grant in 2014 for a cable project that will support the Block Island Wind Farm, a wind project located in Rhode Island state waters.

**For More Information:** Check out the following link to find out what is going on in each of our coastal states: <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-State-Activities/>.