



March 30, 2021

Lucy Samuelson
City Clerk
Somers Point City
1 West New Jersey Avenue
Somers Point, NJ 08244

RE: Invitation to Consult on the Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm Construction and Operations Plan, Notification of Using the NEPA Process to Fulfill Section 106 Obligations, and Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; ***response requested by no later than 30 days of receipt of this letter***

Dear Lucy Samuelson,

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), serving as lead federal agency under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is reviewing the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submitted by Ocean Wind, LLC, proposing the Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project (the Project). If approved, the Project will consist of up to 98 wind turbine generators (WTGs), up to three offshore substations, inter-array cables linking the individual turbines to the offshore substations, substation interconnector cables linking the substations to each other, offshore export cables, an onshore export cable system, two onshore substations, and connections to the existing electrical grid in New Jersey. The WTGs and offshore substations, array cables, and substation interconnector cables would be located in federal waters approximately 13 nautical miles (15 statute miles) southeast of Atlantic City. The offshore export cables would be buried below the seabed surface within federal and state waters. The onshore export cables, substations, and grid connections would be located in Ocean and Cape May Counties, New Jersey. The Project location is depicted on Figure 1.

This letter has three purposes:

- first, to invite Somers Point City to be a Consulting Party to the Section 106 review;
- second, to inform you that BOEM plans to use the NEPA process to fulfill our Section 106 obligations; and
- third, to inform you that the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been issued, and as such the scoping comment period is open.

Invitation to Consult Under Section 106 of the NHPA

BOEM has determined that approval, approval with modification, or disapproval of the COP constitutes an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the NHPA. BOEM has assigned ICF as the third-party contractor to facilitate the Section 106 consultation process. All federal oversight and decisions will remain with BOEM. ICF's role in this Section 106 review is administrative. ICF will coordinate communication with the consulting parties; facilitate distribution of BOEM-approved documents; provide technical assistance; and arrange and lead meetings, webinars, or calls with consulting parties.

With this letter, BOEM invites you to be a consulting party to this Project regarding potential impacts on cultural resources. Consulting parties have certain rights and obligations under the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800 and under NEPA and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508. These regulations provide for a review process, known under the NHPA as Section 106 review.

By becoming a consulting party, you will be actively informed of steps in the review process, including public meetings, and your views will be actively sought. If you would like to be a consulting party to this project, please respond to January Tavel at OceanWindSection106@icf.com or (415) 677-7107.

Please submit your request to become a consulting party ***no later than 30 days of receipt of this letter.*** BOEM will not send any subsequent communication on this project undertaking without this request. While you may also request to be a consulting party at a later date, the Project may advance without your input, and your opportunity to fully comment on each step of the process may be affected. If you are requesting consulting party status, please designate one representative and one alternate from your organization to receive correspondence and attend meetings. We also request that you indicate your preferred correspondence method – hard copy correspondence by mail, via email, or both.

Notification of Using the NEPA Process to Fulfill Section 106 Obligations

BOEM intends to use the NEPA process for NHPA Section 106 purposes, as described in 36 CFR 800.8(c), during its review of the Project. The regulations at 36 CFR 800.8(c) provide for use of the NEPA process to fulfill a federal agency's NHPA Section 106 review obligations in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Both processes allow for participation of consulting parties, and BOEM intends to use this process for the Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project. The NEPA substitution process is described at: https://www.achp.gov/integrating_nepa_106. To aid those Consulting Parties who may not be familiar with the NEPA substitution process, BOEM has developed a *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Substitution for Section 106 Consulting Party Guide* which is attached for your reference.

As a part of this process, consultation with Somers Point City will occur during preparation of the Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm EIS in accordance with NEPA regulations and 36 CFR 800.8(c)(1), during NEPA scoping, environmental analysis, and the preparation of NEPA documents.

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

BOEM has issued an NOI to prepare an EIS for the Project in the *Federal Register*. The NOI can be found at <https://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Wind>. This NOI commences the public scoping process for identifying issues and potential alternatives for consideration in the Project.

Through this notice, BOEM seeks comment and input regarding the identification of historic properties and/or potential effects on historic properties from activities associated with approval of the Project, reasonable alternatives (e.g., size, geographic, or other restrictions on construction and siting of facilities and activities), and potential mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as providing additional information.

Scoping comments may be submitted through the following ways:

Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. BOEM-2021-0024. Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit.”

OR

In written form by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled “Ocean Wind COP EIS” and addressed to the Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166.

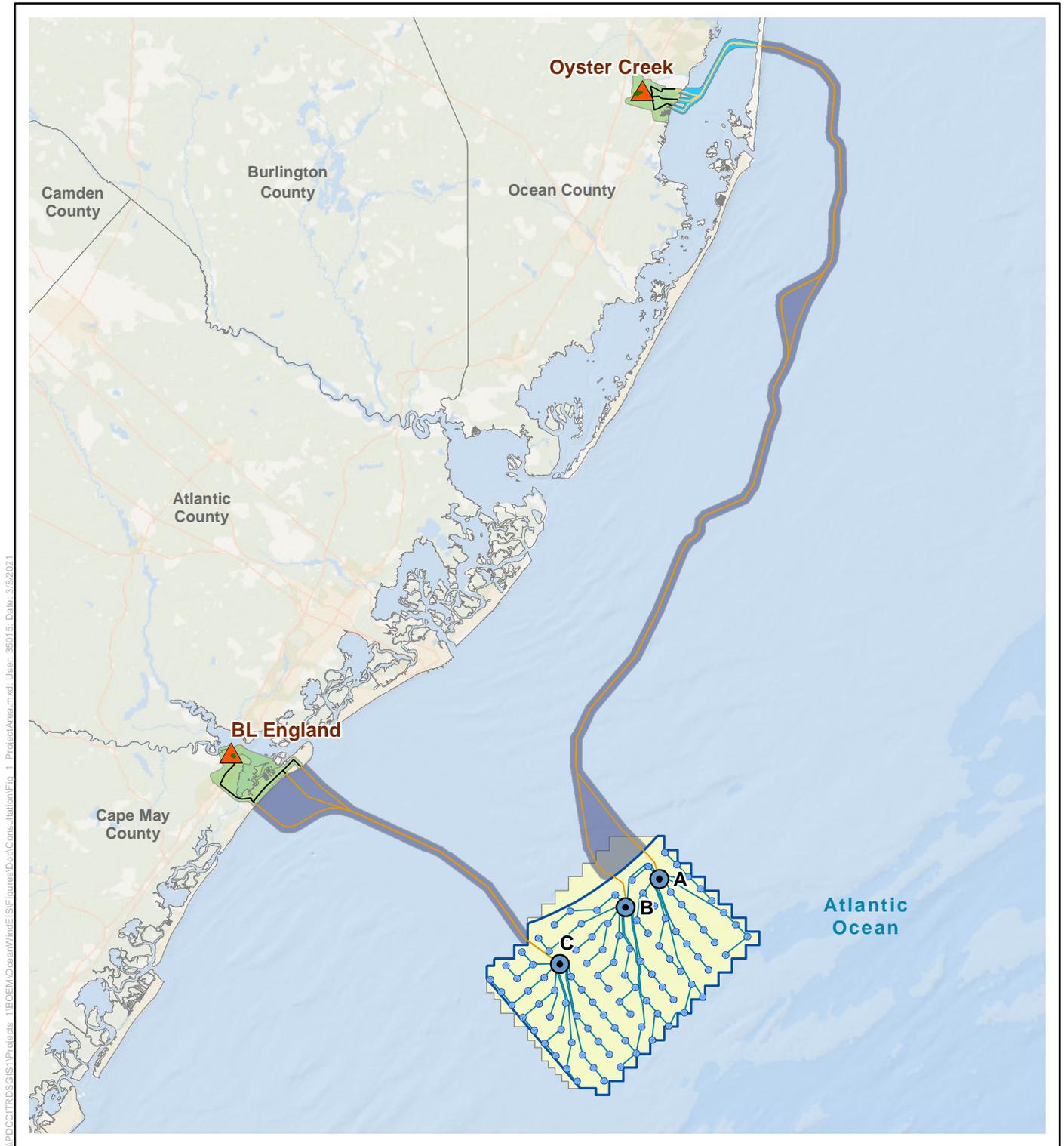
Comments should be received or postmarked no later than April 29, 2021. If your comments contain confidential or sensitive information or to obtain more information on the Project or BOEM’s policies associated with the NOI, please contact January Tavel at OceanWindSection106@icf.com or (415) 677-7107. While comments can be submitted at any time, we encourage you to submit your comments during the scoping comment period, thus allowing BOEM to consider them in the development of the Draft EIS.

Please contact me if you require additional information. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "January Tavel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

January Tavel
Ocean Wind Section 106 Lead
ICF



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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Ocean Wind Proposed Project Area | Onshore Export Cable Route Options |
| Onshore Interconnection Point | Inshore Export Cable Route Corridor |
| Wind Turbine | Offshore Export Cable Route Corridor |
| Indicative Array Cable Layout | Onshore Study Area |
| Offshore Substation | Inshore Study Area |
| Potential Onshore Substation Parcel | Offshore Export Cable Route Study Area |
| | Ocean Wind Lease Area (OCS-A0498) |

Source: BOEM 2021.

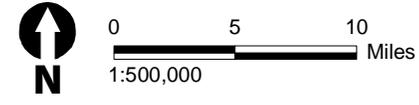


Figure 1
Ocean Wind Project Location