



DRAFT

Agency Communications Plan

December 2024

Version 1.0

Submitted to:
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management
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Maine Research Array

DRAFT

Agency Communications Plan

BOEM Lease OCS-A 0553

Version 1.0

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December 2024



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Abbreviations

| | |
|----------|---|
| ACP | Agency Communications Plan |
| BOEM | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management |
| DGC | Diamond Generating Corporation |
| DIFW | Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife |
| DMR | Maine Department of Marine Resources |
| DoD | U.S. Department of Defense |
| DOE | U.S. Department of Energy |
| DOW | Diamond Offshore Wind |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FCP | Fisheries Communications Plan |
| FLiDAR | Floating (buoy-based) light imaging, detection, and ranging |
| ft | feet |
| GEO | Maine Governor's Energy Office |
| GOM | Gulf of Maine |
| GW | gigawatt |
| km | kilometers |
| MeRA | Maine Research Array |
| MESA | Maine Endangered Species Act |
| mi | miles |
| MMPA | Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| MSFCMA | Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act |
| MW | megawatt |
| NATCP | North American Tribes Communications Plan |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NERACOOS | Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| nm | nautical miles |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NREL | National Renewable Energy Laboratory |
| O&M | Operation and Maintenance |
| OCS | Outer Continental Shelf |
| PTOW | Pine Tree Offshore Wind |
| RAP | Research Activities Plan |
| USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| USCG | U.S. Coast Guard |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| UMaine | University of Maine |
| U.S. | United States |
| WTG | wind turbine generator |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The State of Maine (State) was awarded a Research Lease for Lease Area OCS-A 0553 (Lease Area) in the Gulf of Maine by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the purpose of developing and operating the Maine Research Array project (MeRA or Project). Maine has designated Pine Tree Offshore Wind (PTOW) as the Operator and local agent (Designated Operator) for the Project with full authority to act on the State's behalf to perform activities to comply with the OCS Lands Act, terms of the lease, and applicable regulations. Ongoing information about the Project including notices to mariners and updates of survey and pre-construction activities can be found on the MeRA website, <https://www.maineresearcharray.com>.

This Agency Communications Plan (ACP or Plan) is prepared in fulfillment of Condition 4.1.3.3 of the Research Lease Agreement (Lease). The ACP describes the strategies PTOW will use for communicating with federal, state, and local agencies with authority related to the Lease Area (Agencies) and outlines specific methods for engaging with and disseminating information to these Agencies. The purpose of the ACP is to ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion of potential issues, collaborative identification of solutions to improve the quality and efficiency of various Agency decision-making processes, and to promote the sustainable development of offshore wind energy projects.

This ACP is a living document that will be in effect for the life of the Project, from design and planning, construction, operations and maintenance, through decommissioning. The ACP will be periodically updated as the siting and engineering design of the Project progress, and to reflect ongoing Agency feedback. The ACP will be shared with additional permitting, planning, and resource Agencies that become involved over the course of the Project to solicit their input.

Additional communications plans include a Native American Tribal Communications Plan (NATCP) that will be developed with Tribal government input, and a Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) that details outreach and engagement with the commercial and recreational fishing industries.

1.1 ABOUT PINE TREE OFFSHORE WIND

PTOW is a project company established by Diamond Offshore Wind (DOW) specifically to develop and operate the Project. DOW is a wholly owned subsidiary of Diamond Generating Corporation (DGC), which is wholly owned by the Mitsubishi Corporation. DGC, based in Los Angeles, California, has been in the independent power producer business in North America since its inception in 1999, and before that as Diamond Energy since 1988.

As part of DGC, DOW brings significant capabilities in commercial renewable energy development and wholesale energy market services. DGC's development approach is founded on a long-term ownership philosophy that is evident throughout DGC's project development, construction, and

operations strategies. DGC's multi-decade track record in the U.S. market has proven it to be a good neighbor and corporate citizen, with a history of safety and reliability.

Mitsubishi Corporation, DGC's parent company, was an early pioneer in the offshore wind sector, and was the first Japanese company to enter the offshore wind transmission market in Germany and the UK. Diamond Generating Europe, a sister company of DGC, also wholly owned by the Mitsubishi Corporation, has been involved in offshore wind power generation in Europe since 2013 with over 5 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity in over 11 countries. The Dutch utility company Eneco, also active in offshore wind development, was acquired by Mitsubishi Corporation in 2020.

1.2 AGENCY LIAISON

Coordination and engagement with the Agencies will be led by a designated Agency Liaison. This role will be performed by PTOW's Director of Environmental Affairs, whose contact information is provided below:

Dave Cowan
Director of Environmental Affairs
Diamond Offshore Wind
1 International Place
Boston, MA 02110
Email: dcowan@dowind.com
Cell: 857-762-1040

The Agency Liaison will lead the federal and state permitting efforts for the Project and serve as the main point of contact responsible for communicating Project-related information to the Agencies from the PTOW development team. The Agency Liaison is responsible for implementing all aspects of the ACP including:

- Preparing meeting materials (agendas, presentations, meeting summaries, etc.);
- Coordinating and leading in-person and virtual engagement meetings;
- Tracking action items and follow-up engagements and activities;
- Providing regular updates to Agency staff;
- Answering questions from Agencies regarding the Project and its activities;
- Coordinating the involvement of PTOW subject matter experts to address questions and comments; and
- Conveying Agency concerns, recommendations, and perspectives to the PTOW development team.

1.3 AUTHORITY, REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

Various statutes and regulations have informed the ACP, including:

- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act
- Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act
- Clean Air Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act
- CFR Title 33 Navigation and Navigable Waters
- CFR Title 32 National Defense
- Federal Aviation Act

Development of the ACP was also informed by BOEM guidance and recommended best practices, including:

- 30 CFR 585
- Lease OCS-A 0553
- BOEM Final Environmental Assessment, Wind Energy Research Lease on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Maine, May 2024.
- BOEM FINAL Information Needed for Issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a Construction and Operations Plan (COP), August 2023.
- Draft Guidelines and Instructions for Native American Tribes Communications Plan Development Required by BOEM New York Bight Leases (OCS-A 0537–0544) and Carolina Long Bay Leases (OCS-A 0545–0546)
- BOEM Guidelines for Providing Geophysical, Geotechnical, and Geohazard Information Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, 2020.
- BOEM Guidelines for Providing Benthic Habitat Survey Information for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, 2019.
- BOEM Guidelines for Providing Archaeological and Historic Property Information Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, 2017.
- BOEM guidance for the Assessment of Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Developments on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States, 2021.
- BOEM Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan (COP) - Version 4.0, 2020.

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 BACKGROUND

The objective of the Project is to create a set of informed best practices and standards for commercial-scale floating offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine, nationally and internationally, to utilize in planning, permitting, constructing and operating commercial-scale projects in a fashion that optimizes co-existence with traditional marine users and the ecosystem. Research conducted at the Project will also support the advancement of Maine's floating offshore wind supply chain and workforce.

The execution of the Lease reflects a priority of the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap, a stakeholder-driven comprehensive plan that offers detailed strategies for Maine to realize economic, energy, and climate benefits from offshore wind, in harmony with communities, fisheries, and wildlife of the Gulf of Maine.

The Project will allow the State, the fishing community, wildlife experts, and many others to learn about the potential impacts of floating offshore wind and inform commercial development that capitalizes on innovative technology and abundant resources while protecting the State's interests, industries, environment, and values.

In 2021, with bipartisan support the Maine Legislature passed LD 336, "An Act to Encourage Research to Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry," which declared the research array in the public interest and authorized the Maine Public Utilities Commission to negotiate a contract for up to 144 MW of energy from the proposed floating offshore wind research array in the Gulf of Maine.

Maximizing research opportunities is a key component of the Lease between the State, the developer, and BOEM. The Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (Consortium) will play an important role in identifying research priorities. The Consortium is tasked with creating a common understanding of the local and regional impacts – both positive and negative – of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. The Consortium is led by a diverse Advisory Board with representatives from Maine's Tribes, the fishing community, research institutions, environmental groups, and the offshore wind industry, among others.

More information about the State's Offshore Wind initiative can be found on the website of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO): <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind>.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is intended to be a small-scale array of wind turbines that is large enough to evaluate many of the issues associated with commercial-scale floating wind turbine arrays built and operated in the Gulf of Maine. The Project is anticipated to consist of 12 or fewer wind turbines, producing no more

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY
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than 144 MWs of electricity. The Lease Area is located approximately 35 miles (mi) from shore, in water depths of approximately 150-200 m (Figure 1).

The total acreage of the initial Lease Area is approximately 14,945 acres, which allows room for considering layout alternatives and micro-siting of the floating turbines and anchor systems to avoid and buffer any sensitive resources that may be discovered during surveys. The Lease allows an area of no more than 9,700 acres to be proposed for development in the Project's Research Activities Plan (RAP). Following approval by BOEM of the RAP, the State will relinquish those portions of the Lease Area that are not included in the proposed development. For comparison, BOEM's proposed commercial-scale leases are in the range of 100,000 acres.

As proposed, the Project will use floating offshore wind platform technology designed by the University of Maine (UMaine). The Advanced Structures and Composites Center at UMaine has been a pioneer in the development of floating offshore wind platforms and holds over 70 floating turbine patents.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- Prudently advance offshore wind off the coast of Maine in a manner that fully considers the State's coastal communities and heritage industries while proactively taking steps to seek new opportunities to support clean energy innovation;
- Provide real-world experience with a multi-turbine array to investigate science-based avenues to maximize co-existence with the fishing industry;
- Advance technical and commercial considerations related to floating offshore wind development that will result in more efficient, cost-effective energy production that can be integrated into full-scale deployment;
- Evaluate interactions and seek to minimize potential impacts of the floating wind turbine array on marine environment and protected wildlife species;
- Undertake a data-driven, science-based, inclusive and transparent approach that will produce learnings and research that will benefit the State and federal Agencies, researchers, and offshore wind developers; and
- Create a set of real-world tested best practices and standards that can foster more prudent development of commercial-scale projects in the future.

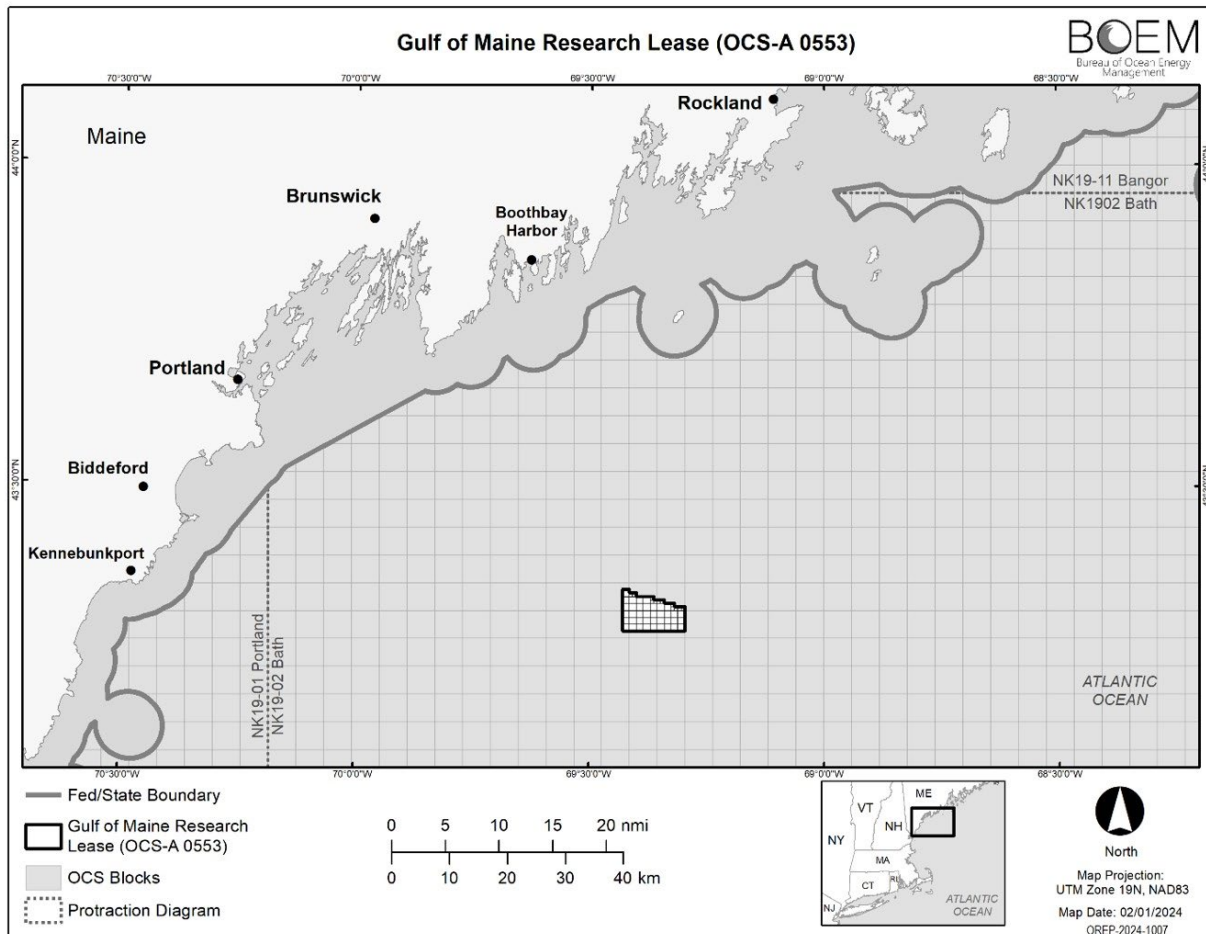


Figure 1. Gulf of Maine Research Lease Area

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The purpose of this ACP is to help foster a respectful and collaborative relationship between PTOW and the Agencies. PTOW believes that early, often, and meaningful engagement is critical to developing a working relationship based on mutual trust and understanding. Examples of PTOW's goals and best practices for communicating with Agencies include the following:

3.1 GOALS

Identify agencies and preferred points of contact – Obtain contact information, inquire as to their capacity for engagement, and their preferred methods of communication.

Share information and build understanding – Communicate with Agencies in a timely manner about project activities and opportunities for engagement. Provide regular updates about the technical and regulatory aspects of the Project.

Collaborate to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts – Seek opportunities to collaborate on ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts. Identify Agency concerns, engage in dialogue and problem solving.

Evaluate and adjust – Solicit feedback from Agencies on ways to improve engagement and communications.

3.2 BEST PRACTICES

Early and often – Engaging early and often allows the parties the opportunity to address emerging issues before they become fixed or past the point of deliberations. Allows Agencies to provide input while the project is being designed and refined.

Open and transparent – Effective engagement includes frankness of discussion; acknowledgement of knowns and unknowns; tracking and reporting of commitments and progress or impediments to progress; sharing of truthful, timely, and relevant information; and clear communication of what decisions are being made and why.

Inclusive – Make a deliberate effort to involve Agencies with an interest in the subject or action.

Collaborative – Be responsive to inquiries and interests. Strive to understand concerns and find solutions and mutual benefits. Identify opportunities for partnering.

Accessible – Consider methods and opportunities for Agencies to participate, factors such as convenience of meeting times and accessibility of locations.

Flexible and sustained – Adapt approaches as needed. Allocate the resources needed to support sustained engagement.

Safety – Promote the safety of ocean users, stakeholders, and project crews, from project design through implementation.

Coordinated – Ensure engagement efforts maximize efficiency and opportunities to coordinate with other Lessees and are appropriate to the capacity and cadence of Agency staff.

PTOW's goal is to proactively ensure that all stakeholders are informed of the Project and have ample opportunities for communication and input through each Project phase. The communication strategies presented in the ACP are intended to be specific and adaptable to each Agency and to promote effective,

two-way engagement contributing to the safe, successful, and sustainable development of the Lease Area.

The ACP is a living document that will be updated regularly as the Project and communication strategies evolve. Revised versions will be provided to the Agencies when available and posted on the PTOW website.

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

As the State's Designated Operator, PTOW will maintain frequent and regular contact with the Maine GEO regarding Agency engagement and communications activities. PTOW, often along with the Maine GEO, has been hosting and participating in project-related meetings with Agencies since at least July 2022. A log of meetings hosted or joined by PTOW from July 2022 to date is appended to this Plan (Appendix A).

In all Agency communications, PTOW aims to foster effective communication, coordination, and collaboration while avoiding unnecessary demands on Agency staff. PTOW also recognizes that the level of engagement will need to vary over time according to the activities that occur during each stage of Project development. PTOW will endeavor to tailor the types and frequency of engagement activities to meet the specific requirements of each Project phase.

As a general framework, PTOW envisions the following ongoing levels of Agency engagement:

1. PTOW will aim to organize more-or-less semi-annual inter-Agency meetings, to include an overall update on the Project along with an opportunity for Agencies to ask questions and provide feedback.
2. In addition, PTOW will circulate survey plans for review, and schedule meetings with a subset of Agencies to discuss surveys, methods, resources, types of impacts, or mitigation.
3. Regular Progress Reports, due to BOEM every six months, will be circulated to Maine GEO at least two weeks in advance for review and input by State agencies.
4. Finally, meetings will be scheduled upon request to allow discussions or working sessions aimed at resolving any conflicts or issues that may arise.

All meetings will be conducted virtually, unless an Agency requests otherwise.

Engagement activities anticipated to occur during each phase of Project development are summarized below.

4.1 SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

During this phase, PTOW will develop strategies and plans for site assessment and characterization activities, such as geophysical and geotechnical surveys (aka G&G surveys), benthic surveys, surveys of marine biota, and terrestrial surveys. PTOW will host meetings with the relevant Agencies to discuss planned survey methods, extent and timing, and will submit draft plans for Agency review and recommendations before survey activities commence. Draft plans will also be provided to BOEM for review and input.

An important aspect of the Project is the involvement of state resource Agencies such as Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (DIFW) in the funding, scoping, and conduct of certain baseline and monitoring surveys within and around the Project area. The primary objective of these surveys is to fulfill the goals of the Maine Offshore Wind Research Framework, however PTOW expects to incorporate some of the resulting data into the RAP to meet or exceed BOEM requirements. Conversely, survey data collected by PTOW will be shared and will help to inform the State's research objectives. PTOW and the State will execute a Data Sharing Agreement, and will be coordinating closely to collaborate, optimize resources, cover gaps, and minimize redundancies in survey efforts as much as possible.

PTOW applied for and in October 2024 obtained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approval for a metocean and Floating Light Detection and Ranging (FLiDAR) buoy within the Lease Area. In designing the buoy, PTOW and its environmental consultants consulted with federal and state resource Agencies regarding methods and types of biological instrumentation to be deployed on the buoy, including technology for monitoring marine mammals, fish, birds and bats (see Appendix A). PTOW will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard and other applicable Agencies to obtain other necessary permits, authorizations and approvals before deploying the buoy.

PTOW will use the data gathered from surveys to design and develop the Project, including identifying prospective location(s) of export cable corridors, landfall, and onshore facilities. PTOW will provide regular updates to the Agencies on the proposed location and layout of the Project and solicit feedback regarding potential alternatives that could reduce impacts and/or avoid conflicts.

PTOW anticipates that Agency engagement during the Site Characterization and Project Development phase will include the following:

- PTOW will provide the Agencies with opportunities to review and comment on proposed survey plans and other aspects of Project development;
- PTOW will share the geophysical and benthic survey plans as well as data resulting from those plans with the Fisheries Office Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division at NMFS.GAR.HESDoffshorewind@noaa.gov;

- PTOW will invite Agencies to offer concerns, information requests, and recommendations to inform the methods and objectives of site characterization surveys and other aspects of Project development;
- PTOW and its site characterization survey contractors will inform and coordinate with stakeholders on survey activities;
- PTOW and Agencies will consider opportunities for collaboration during site characterization surveys; and
- PTOW will communicate the findings of the various site characterization surveys and studies to the Agencies.

4.2 RAP DEVELOPMENT

Information collected during the previous phase will be analyzed and summarized in the RAP. The RAP describes how PTOW will construct and operate the Research Array on Lease Area OCS-A 0553. The RAP will include a description of all planned facilities, as well as a description of proposed construction activities, the Project Design Envelope (PDE), commercial operations, and conceptual decommissioning plans. The RAP also summarizes the results of biological, geotechnical, socioeconomic, and cultural resources studies; provides an assessment of the Project's potential impacts; and PTOW's proposed measures for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating, and monitoring impacts.

Engagement during the RAP Development phase will include the following:

- PTOW will provide the Agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the draft results of surveys conducted in support of the RAP, as well as assessments of the Project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, and cultural resources;
- PTOW will provide the Agencies with updates during the development of the PDE for the Project and solicit feedback and recommendations;
- PTOW will collaborate with the Agencies to address concerns, and incorporate recommendations regarding proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate and/or monitor Project impacts to environmental, social, and/or cultural resources, to the extent practicable.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEW

This phase begins when PTOW submits the RAP to BOEM. Once the RAP is deemed sufficient and complete, BOEM will issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BOEM typically allows about two (2) years to complete the NEPA process. Upon completion of the NEPA review, BOEM will determine whether to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the RAP, and will summarize their decision in a Record of Decision, completing the NEPA review.

During this time, PTOW will develop and submit applications in support of other required Agency authorizations and approvals such as USACE and state and local permits. PTOW will provide regular updates and seek feedback and recommendations from Agencies in pre-application meetings and while permit applications are being reviewed.

PTOW expects engagement during the Environmental and Technical Review phase to include the following:

- PTOW will provide the Agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the draft permit applications;
- PTOW will conduct analyses and prepare materials as needed to address comments and feedback obtained from environmental and technical reviews;
- PTOW will respond to questions or information requests from Agencies and communicate responses and/or the requested information in a timely manner.

4.4 CONSTRUCTION

During this phase, PTOW will construct the proposed offshore wind farm within the Lease Area. Construction activities will comply with the requirements and conditions of the Lease and all permits. PTOW anticipates it will take approximately two (2) years to construct the Project.

Engagement during the Construction phase will include the following:

- PTOW will communicate regular Project construction updates and the status of the various permit conditions throughout construction;
- PTOW will coordinate with stakeholders on construction vessel movements and construction activities;
- PTOW will coordinate the mitigation and monitoring programs as defined in the issued permits and any other agreements to which PTOW has committed; and
- PTOW will regularly report the results of construction phase environmental, social, and cultural resource monitoring to the Agencies.

4.5 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

During the O&M phase, PTOW will operate and perform routine maintenance on the wind farm. The initial operations term for the Lease Area is 20-25 years, depending on the length of the Power Purchase Agreement.

Engagement activities during the O&M phase are expected to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- PTOW will communicate regular O&M updates;

- PTOW will coordinate and collaborate the review of O&M phase environmental, socio-economic, and cultural resources monitoring reports with the Agencies; and
- PTOW will coordinate with stakeholders on scheduled O&M activities and vessel movements.

4.6 DECOMMISSIONING

At the end of the Project's life, PTOW will submit a decommissioning application to BOEM and other applicable Agencies and once approved, PTOW will decommission the Project. PTOW anticipates decommissioning would take about two (2) years to complete.

Engagement during the decommissioning phase will include the following:

- PTOW will collaborate with the Agencies to develop a decommissioning plan that minimizes environmental, social, and/or cultural impacts to the extent practicable;
- PTOW will communicate regular decommissioning planning updates and, during decommissioning activities, provide updates on the status/progress of decommissioning works and any required environmental, social, and/or cultural resources monitoring programs; and
- PTOW will coordinate with stakeholders on scheduled decommissioning activities and associated vessel activities.

5.0 REGULATORY AND CONSULTING AGENCIES AND CONTACTS

PTOW has identified federal and state Agencies that are likely to have permitting and environmental review authority for the Project and queried each as to their preferred points of contact. The resulting federal and state Agencies and their contact information are provided below (Tables 1 and 2). These lists will be updated as the Project progresses and as further feedback is received from the Agencies.

Table 1 – Federal Agency Roles, Responsibilities and Contact Information

| Federal Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|---|
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outer Continental Shelf Lands Commercial Lease, Site Assessment Plan, Construction and Operations Plan, and survey plans • Lead Agency, National Environmental Policy Act | Luke Feinberg luke.feinberg@boem.gov Energy Program Specialist Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Cell (571) 474-7616 Office (703) 787-1705 Zach Jylkka zachary.jylkka@boem.gov Brandi Sangunet brandi.sangunett@boem.gov |

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| Federal Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|---|
| Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority for renewable energy development on the OCS focusing on safety and environmental compliance. Shared regulatory process with BOEM | <u>Awaiting Confirmation:</u> John Bain , john.bain@bsee.gov RenewableEnergyOperations@bsee.gov |
| Federal Aviation Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory authority for the lighting of offshore structures Potential cooperating Agency for NEPA | <u>Air Traffic Wind Turbine Contacts for Maine:</u> Cesar Perez , cesar.crt.perez@faa.gov Technician (404) 305-5041 Lan Norris , Lan.norris@faa.gov Specialist (404) 305-6645 |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental Harassment Authorization and Incidental Take Regulation/Letter of Authorization approval Essential Fish Habitat consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Letter of Acknowledgement for scientific research and/or an Exempted Fishing Permit under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <u>POC Coordination:</u> Sue Tuxbury susan.tuxbury@noaa.gov Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) <u>Protected Resources POC:</u> Nick Sisson , nick.sisson@noaa.gov GARFO <u>Fisheries POC:</u> Doug Christel , Douglas.Christel@noaa.gov GARFO <u>Habitat POC:</u> Gabby DiPreta gabriella.dipreta@noaa.gov GARFO <u>Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NFSC) POC:</u> Libby Jewett libby.jewett@noaa.gov |

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| Federal Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|--|
| <p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and permitting related to Clean Water Act Section 404, 408, and Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act Section 10 • Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p><u>Designated POC:</u> Ruthann Brien Regulatory Project Manager USACE New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742 (office) 978-318-8054 (cell) 978-806-7145 Email: Ruthann.a.brien@usace.army.mil</p> <p><u>Additional Contacts (as Needed):</u> Christine Jacek, christine.m.jacek@usace.army.mil Senior Regulatory Project Manager, Technical Support Branch, Offshore Wind Reviewer Birdie Budnik, roberta.k.budnik@usace.army.mil Senior Regulatory Project Manager, Technical Support Branch, Offshore Wind Reviewer Grace Moses, c.grace.moses@usace.army.mil Chief Technical Support Branch Tammy Turley, tammy.r.turley@usace.army.mil Chief Regulatory Division Peter Olmstead, Chief, Maine Project Office, cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil (OSW team works under Grace Moses as noted above).</p> |
| <p>U.S. Coast Guard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation related to private aids to navigation (PATON) installed and maintained by anyone other than the U.S. Coast Guard • Local Notices to Mariners for survey activities and PATON • Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p><u>First District:</u> Michele DesAutels, Michele.E.DesAutels@uscg.mil Dr. Kate Korotky Katherine.H.Korotky@uscg.mil <u>Sector Northern New England:</u> LCDR Aaron Davis, Aaron.J.Davis@uscg.com Waterways Management Division Chief 207-899-6291 <u>Headquarters:</u> Brian Mottel, David.B.Mottel2@uscg.mil Marine Transportation Specialist 206-815-4657</p> |
| <p>U.S. Department of Defense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation related to national security maritime uses that occur within and around the Project area • Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p><u>DoD Clearinghouse:</u> Steve Sample, osd.dod-siting-clearinghouse@mail.mil Executive Director DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse</p> |

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| Federal Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|---|
| <p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and permitting related to Clean Air Act Section 328(a), OCS Air Permit • NPDES Individual Permit and 401 WQ Certification to be obtained through Maine DEP as delegated authority by EPA • Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p><u>Clean Air Act permit contacts for EPA Region 1:</u> Patrick Bird, bird.patrick@epa.gov Manager, Air Permits, Toxics, and Indoor Programs Branch Air and Radiation Division U.S. EPA Region 1 5 Post Office Square, Mail Code 5-MD Boston, Massachusetts 02109 Telephone: (617) 918-1287 Morgan M. McGrath, P.E. mcgrath.morgan@epa.gov Telephone: (617) 918-1541 <u>Offshore Wind contact from EPA HQ's Office of Policy:</u> Anne Magliaro, Magliaro.Anne@epa.gov NEPA Director for EPA Region 1: Tim Timmermann, Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov <u>Clean Water Act NPDES permit contact for EPA Region 1:</u> Sharon DeMeo, Demeo.Sharon@epa.gov</p> |
| <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation related to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Coastal Barrier Resource System • Likely cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p><u>Designated POC:</u> Kimberly Spiller, kimberly_spiller@fws.gov Fish & Wildlife Biologist USFWS Maine Ecological Services Field Office 306 Hatchery Road East Orland, ME 044031 <u>Include on Distribution:</u> Emily Argo, emily_argo@fws.gov Regional Energy Coordinator Jill Tengeres, jill_tengeres@fws.gov Wildlife Biologist Maine Coastal Islands NWR and Mig Birds U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rockland, Maine Linda Welch, linda_welch@fws.gov Maine Coastal Islands NWR Pamela Loring, pamela_loring@fws.gov Migratory Birds (esp. Motus)</p> |
| <p>U.S. Navy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation related to national security maritime uses that occur within and around the Project area • Potential cooperating Agency for NEPA | <p>Erica Felins, erica.m.felins.civ@us.navy.mil On Behalf of NAVSEA 09SE Encroachment & Range Sustainment Program NUWC Newport, Environmental Branch (Code 1023) Environmental Planning and Biological Analysis Cell: 570-656-2041 Desk: 401-832-6898 <u>Bath Iron Works:</u> Jeff Burnham, jeffrey.s.burnham.civ@us.navy.mil S CIV USN SUPSHIP BATH ME (USA)</p> |

| Federal Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|---|
| Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA with the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), the ACHP, and other stakeholders to assess impacts to historical and cultural resources | Brian Jordan, PhD , brian.jordan@boem.gov Federal Preservation Officer Chief, Branch of Environmental Consultation BOEM Office of Environmental Programs 45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OEP Sterling, VA 20166 (703) 787-1748 |
| National Park Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation regarding potential for visual impacts to Acadia National Park, if needed | Awaiting Confirmation: Mary Krueger , mary_c_krueger@nps.gov (617) 223-5066 |

Table 2 - State Agency Roles, Responsibilities and Contact Information

| State Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|--|---|
| Maine Governor's Energy Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight and administration of BOEM Lease OCS-A 0553 Maine Research Consortium coordinating Agency alongside DMR and DIFW | Stephanie Watson , stephanie.watson@maine.gov Celina Cunningham , celina.cunningham@maine.gov |
| Maine Department of Environmental Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maine Site Location of Development Act (SLODA) Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) | Jessica Damon Jessica.Damon@maine.gov |
| Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation related to Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA), and Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat (IWWH) Maine Research Consortium coordinating Agency alongside GEO and DMR | John Perry , John.Perry@maine.gov Environmental Review Coordinator MDIFW Tel: (207) 287-5254 Cell: (207) 446-5145 |
| Maine Department of Marine Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maine Research Consortium coordinating Agency alongside GEO and DIFW Surveys in support of baseline conditions and research | POCs: Casey Yanos , Casey.Yanos@maine.gov Include on Distribution: Rebecca Peters , Rebecca.J.Peters@maine.gov Carl Wilson , carl.wilson@maine.gov Meredith Mendelson , meredith.mendelson@maine.gov |
| Maine Coastal Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CZM Coastal Consistency Review | POC: Erin Wilkinson , Erin.Wilkinson@maine.gov |

| State Agency: Roles and Responsibilities | Contact Information (Preferred primary and cc: contacts in bold) |
|---|---|
| Maine Historic Preservation Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Historic Preservation Act Review | <u>POC:</u> Megan M. Rideout Maine Historic Preservation Commission 55 Capitol Street 65 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0065 MHPCprojectreview@maine.gov megan.m.rideout@maine.gov <u>As Needed:</u> Kirk F. Mohny State Historic Preservation Officer Maine Historic Preservation Commission |
| Maine Department of Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Location Permit Highway Opening Permit | <u>Midcoast (Region 2):</u> (207) 624-8200 Region2Permits@maine.gov Randy Rodrigue , Randy.Rodrigue@maine.gov Douglas Brown , Douglas.Brown@maine.gov Tina Haskell , Tina.Haskell@maine.gov <u>Southern (Region 1):</u> Van Terrell (207) 885-7000 Region1Permits@maine.gov |
| Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submerged Lands Lease in State Waters | <u>Awaiting Confirmation:</u> Crystal Wilson , crystal.wilson@maine.gov |

A table for local government Agencies and their contact information will be added to this section as offshore export cable corridors are identified through state waters to onshore points of interconnection.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS TRACKING

PTOW maintains a record of communications with the Agencies to track concerns and requests. Engagements are documented by Agency, engagement type, discussion topics, and feedback/input provided. PTOW notes how the input received has been communicated and integrated into the Project. This information will be included in the annual summary reports, which are a BOEM lease condition.

7.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COORDINATION

PTOW understands that Agencies are coordinating with multiple leaseholders on a variety of offshore wind projects, which can place a burden on Agency resources and staff. To help reduce workload and promote consistency, lessees have been asked by BOEM to coordinate with one another on engagement activities to the extent practicable.

Currently there are no other leaseholders in the Gulf of Maine, however four leases were recently announced following BOEM's commercial auction in October 2024. Once these leases are signed, PTOW will explore opportunities to combine or coordinate engagement activities, regional research and monitoring efforts, as well as information and data sharing, with other leaseholders. PTOW currently participates in regional groups, including the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative, alongside other developers and prospective leaseholders.

PTOW will also solicit recommendations from the Agencies on how best to coordinate lessee engagement throughout the life of the Project. PTOW will share ideas for coordinated engagement activities prior to establishing any joint engagement activities or protocols.

8.0 CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

The intent of this ACP is for PTOW to maintain open lines of communication with the Agencies and to ensure an "early and often" approach to outreach. Conflicts can be avoided or reduced by reflecting outcomes back to Agencies to ensure clear communications and to close each loop. Through this engagement, PTOW hopes to work with Agencies to identify potential impacts from the Project, and where those impacts cannot be avoided, collaboratively develop approaches to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the extent practicable.

In recognition that it may not be possible to avoid all conflicts, PTOW will develop a conflict resolution process. The intent is to provide the Agencies opportunities to notify the PTOW of previously unknown conflicts and concerns and provide suggestions for resolution.

9.0 INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Indicators of Success are a set of quantifiable measurements or metrics used to gauge overall, long-term performance in implementing a plan or program. In the context of this ACP, Indicators of Success will be used to track PTOW's performance in conducting the engagement activities described in the NATCP and documenting the outcomes of each engagement activity. For each phase of the Project, PTOW will track the number of engagement activities completed, issues addressed, and significant outcomes from each engagement.

10.0 SECTION 508 COMPLIANCE

All documents prepared by PTOW will be compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, codified at section 29 United State Code section 794d, as amended. This ensures that anyone with a disability has equal access to government information on their communications devices. Section 508

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY
DRAFT AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN V.1

compliance allows BOEM to easily post documents on its website for accessibility. Information on accessible digital products can be found at www.section508.gov/create.

Appendix A FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES MEETING LOG

Table A-1 – Log of Federal and State Agencies Meetings, July 2022 through December 2024

| Date | Agencies in Attendance | Topic |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| July 29, 2022 | Maine DMR | Team intros and pre-permitting data coordination |
| September 8, 2022 | Maine DMR, Maine GEO | G+G survey and stakeholder outreach planning |
| October 21, 2022 | Maine DMR, Maine IFW | Team intros and baseline survey planning |
| January 25, 2023 | Maine DMR, Maine GEO | Project location and layout workshop |
| February 13, 2023 | BOEM, Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Research Lease kick-off |
| February 15, 2023 | Maine DMR | Baseline surveys coordination |
| February 24, 2023 | USFWS, Maine Seabird Islands NWR | Gulf of Maine seabird tracking |
| <i>Ongoing March 2024 – Present</i> | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Weekly Project update calls |
| March 9, 2023 | BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, Maine DMR | RFCI siting |
| March 15, 2023 | Maine DMR Trawl Team | Trawl survey coordination |
| March 20, 2023 | NOAA – NFSC, GARFO | Team and project intros, baseline survey planning, opportunities for input and collaboration |
| March 21, 2023 | USFWS Maine Field Office and Maine Coastal Islands NWR | Project intro, timeline, and planned avian and bat surveys |
| April 3, 2023 | Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (OSWRC), Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| April 7, 2023 | Maine DMR | FLiDAR buoy acoustics planning |
| April 25, 2023 | USFWS - Maine Field Office, Maine Coastal Islands NWR, and Migratory Birds, Maine IFW | Motus and other tagging options for baseline surveys |
| April 27, 2023 | BOEM, Maine GEO | Initiate biweekly update calls |
| May 10-11, 2023 | BOEM, NOAA | Gulf of Maine Task Force |
| May 15, 2023 | U.S. Navy | Navy ship trials mitigation planning (NEAV) |
| June 8, 2023 | BOEM, GEO | Biweekly update call |
| June 15, 2023 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| June 27, 2023 | BOEM, NOAA, USCG, Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Spatial analysis re: shipping lanes and fairways |
| July 12, 2023 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Lease area configurations |
| July 17, 2023 | Maine OSWC microsites subgroup | Array microsites planning |
| July 24, 2023 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Lease area configurations |
| August 3, 2023 | BOEM, GEO | Biweekly update call |
| August 8, 2023 | BOEM, Maine OSWC, Maine GEO, Maine DMR, UMaine, NERACOOS, NYSEDA | Baseline survey scoping |
| August 10, 2023 | USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR, Maine OSWRC, Maine IFW, Maine DMR | Avian and bat baseline survey scoping |
| August 29, 2023 | BOEM, GEO | Biweekly update call |
| September 6, 2023 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| September 8, 2023 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Biological survey scoping and federal Agency engagement |

| Date | Agencies in Attendance | Topic |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| September 12, 2023 | NOAA Fisheries | IHA Pre-application meeting for Recon G+G/Benthic surveys |
| September 14, 2023 | BOEM, GEO | Biweekly update call |
| September 28, 2023 | BOEM, GEO | Biweekly update call |
| October 13, 2023 | Maine GEO | Data sharing plan |
| October 13, 2023 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Fisheries Communication Plan |
| November 1, 2023 | Maine GEO | Data sharing plan |
| November 13, 2023 | BOEM, NOAA, Maine DMR | Survey info for BOEM EA |
| November 13, 2023 | NOAA, Maine DMR | G+G surveys update |
| November 17, 2023 | Maine DMR, Maine IFW, UMaine, NOAA | DMR data sharing and collaboration workshop |
| November 20, 2023 | BOEM, BSEE | Digital aerial surveys update |
| November 28, 2023 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| December 1, 2023 | Maine DMR, UMaine | Available data to inform G+G and benthic surveys |
| January 19, 2024 | Army Corps of Engineers | FLiDAR permitting |
| February 1, 2024 | Army Corps of Engineers | FLiDAR permitting |
| February 27, 2024 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| March 7, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | Co-use conflict reduction |
| March 8, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | Technology development |
| March 12, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | Impact on ecosystems |
| March 13, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | Socio-economic |
| April 3, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | FOSW technology |
| April 4, 2024 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Project updates |
| April 5, 2024 | Maine OSWRC | Wildlife & groundfishing |
| April 12, 2024 | Army Corps of Engineers | FLiDAR permitting |
| May 3, 2024 | Army Corps of Engineers | FLiDAR permit conditions |
| May 6, 2024 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| May 10, 2024 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Data sharing plan |
| May 20, 2024 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Data sharing plan |
| May 23, 2024 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Data sharing plan |
| June 21, 2024 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| July 3, 2024 | NREL, BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, NYSERDA | Advisory Board - NREL's Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind Farms and Fishing Compatibility |
| July 3, 2024 | Maine GEO, Maine DMR | Data sharing plan |
| July 22, 2024 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| September 5, 2024 | Maine DMR, Maine IFW, UMaine, NOAA | DMR data sharing and collaboration workshop |
| September 6, 2024 | Army Corps of Engineers | FLiDAR permitting |
| October 4, 2024 | NREL, BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, NYSERDA | Advisory Board – NREL's Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind and Fishing Compatibility |
| October 25, 2024 | BOEM, Maine GEO | Maine Research Lease Kick-Off Call |
| November 22, 2024 | Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board | Research priorities and funding |
| December 12, 2024 | BOEM, Maine GEO | Maine Research Lease check-in |
| December 18, 2024 | BOEM, Maine GEO | Draft communications plans update |