

HAWAII – Unsolicited Offshore Wind Lease Requests

What is an unsolicited lease request?

BOEM is currently processing [three unsolicited lease requests](#) for floating wind energy projects offshore Oahu, Hawaii. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 granted BOEM authority to issue leases for renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), which begins 3 nautical miles offshore the islands of Hawaii. Unsolicited lease requests provide an avenue for developers to seek a federal lease for the development of renewable energy projects. Importantly, receipt of an unsolicited lease request by BOEM is the **earliest step** in a process that includes environmental analysis and stakeholder engagement. An unsolicited lease request is a submission received by BOEM that is *not* in response to a [Request for Interest \(RFI\)](#) or a [Call for Information and Nominations \(Call\)](#) issued by BOEM. The receipt of an unsolicited lease request *does not* grant authority to construct a renewable energy project; rather, the receipt of an unsolicited lease request serves to inform BOEM of interest in leasing on the OCS. For more information on the planning and analysis stage of the BOEM leasing process, please refer to the planning and analysis stage on our Wind Energy Commercial Leasing [fact sheet](#).

What are the unsolicited lease requests proposing?

Generally, the unsolicited lease requests submitted to BOEM propose to lease areas offshore Oahu for the purposes of developing wind energy facilities with a capability of generating approximately 400 MW of electricity. The unsolicited lease requests describe the wind facilities as being based on floating wind technology. Conceptually, the lease requests describe transmission of offshore wind power to the island of Oahu via undersea cable.

- AW Hawaii Wind, LLC (AWH) proposes to lease an area approximately 17 miles south of Diamond Head in water depths of approximately 300-700 meters (984-2,296 feet). The proposed lease area is 12,099 acres (4,896 hectares).
- AWH has also proposed to lease an area approximately 12 miles northwest of Kaena Point in water depths of approximately 700-1,000 meters (2,296-3,280 feet). The proposed lease area is 11,387 acres (4,608 hectares).
- Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind, Inc. (Progression) has proposed to lease an area approximately 9 miles southeast of Barber's Point in average water depths of 500-1,000 meters (1,640-3,280 feet). The proposed lease area is 77,440 acres (31,338 hectares).

What happens next?

Typically, the first step after receiving an unsolicited lease request and determining the potential lessee is legally, technically, and financially qualified to hold a lease is to publish a Request for Interest to determine if there is competitive interest in the areas requested. However, BOEM has determined that since *two* developers have submitted lease requests offshore Oahu, the next step instead will be to publish a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) in order to initiate the competitive planning and leasing process. BOEM may convene the BOEM-Hawaii Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force ([Task Force](#)) to coordinate and consult with its intergovernmental partners to discuss the issuance of the Call. The Call will be issued to gauge additional interest in leasing areas offshore Oahu. The Call also will ask the public and interested stakeholders to comment and provide information about site conditions and other uses of the requested areas relevant to the potential impacts of leasing and development in the Call area, or portions thereof. BOEM will also issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at the same time as the Call. The EA will analyze the site characterization and assessment activities required to collect site-specific data of any proposed Call areas.

How will BOEM use the information received in response to the Call and NOI?

BOEM will use the information and expressions of interest received during the Call comment period to gather information about potential multiple uses and environmental concerns and determine whether additional interest exists in leasing in the Call area. The next step of the competitive planning and leasing process is referred to as Area Identification. During this stage, BOEM balances competing uses, environmental concerns, and the proposed area's potential for commercial wind development; with the goal of the process being the identification of one or more wind energy areas.

The NOI will serve as the beginning of the formal public scoping process that will help identify the scope of the issues, alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures to be considered by BOEM in the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Public input obtained through the NOI will be utilized in evaluating the environmental effects of site characterization and assessment activities necessary to determine the site suitability for developing a future commercial wind energy facility. The EA will be completed prior to and will help inform the competitive leasing process. An additional separate NEPA analysis will be required for the construction and operation of any proposed wind energy facility.

For More Information

Overview of BOEM's leasing process: [Wind Energy Commercial Leasing Process Fact Sheet](#).

Renewable Energy Program Regulations: [30 CFR 585](#)

BOEM's Renewable Energy Program in Hawaii: [BOEM Hawaii Activities](#).

To be added to BOEM's Hawaii Stakeholders distribution list, please send an email with your contact information and a valid email address to pacificrenewables@boem.gov.

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