

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management****[Docket No. BOEM–2020–0066]****Notice of Public Meetings and of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Deepwater South Fork LLC's Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore Rhode Island****AGENCY:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations issued under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing the availability of the South Fork Wind Farm (SFWF) and South Fork Export Cable (SFEC) Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for a construction and operations plan (COP) submitted by Deepwater South Fork LLC (South Fork). The DEIS analyzes reasonably foreseeable effects from the construction, operation and maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of up to 15 wind turbine generators, an offshore substation, inter-array cables in lease area OCS–A 0517, and the installation of an export cable from the lease area to Suffolk County, Long Island (collectively, the “Project”). This notice of availability (NOA) announces the start of the public review and comment period, as well as the times and dates for virtual public meetings, on the DEIS. After BOEM holds the public meetings and addresses comments provided, BOEM will publish a final environmental impact statement.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than February 22, 2021. BOEM's virtual public meetings will be held at the following dates and times (Eastern): Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 1:00–3:00 p.m.; Thursday, February 11, 2021; 5:00–7:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, February 16, 2021; 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Registration for the virtual public meetings may be completed here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/south-fork-wind-farm-deis-virtual-meetings> or by calling (703) 787–1662.

ADDRESSES: The DEIS and detailed information about the proposed wind energy facility, including the COP, can be found on BOEM's website at: [https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-](https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/south-fork)

activities/south-fork. Comments can be submitted in any of the following ways:

- In written form by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled “South Fork COP DEIS” and addressed to Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166. Comments must be received or postmarked no later than February 22, 2021; or
- Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. BOEM–2020–0066. Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the DEIS or BOEM's policies associated with this notice, please contact: Michelle Morin, Chief, Environment Branch for Renewable Energy, BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166, (703) 787–1722 or michelle.morin@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Action: South Fork seeks approval to construct, operate, maintain, and eventually decommission the Project—a wind energy facility on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore Rhode Island and an associated export cable. The Project would be developed within the range of design parameters outlined in the South Fork COP, subject to applicable mitigation measures. The SFWF includes up to 15 wind turbine generators with a nameplate capacity of 6 to 12 megawatts per turbine, submarine cables between the wind turbine generators (inter-array cables), and an offshore substation, all located entirely on the OCS in Federal waters in Lease Area OCS–A 0517, approximately 19 miles southeast of Block Island, Rhode Island, and 35 miles east of Montauk Point, New York. The SFEC is an alternating current electric cable that will connect the wind farm to the existing mainland electric grid in East Hampton, New York. The Project also includes an operations and maintenance facility located onshore at either Montauk in East Hampton, New York, or Quonset Point in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and a new facility that will interconnect the SFEC with the Long Island Power Authority electric transmission and distribution system in the town of East Hampton, New York.

The DEIS analyzes reasonably foreseeable effects from the Project. The analysis includes a review of resource-specific baseline conditions and future offshore wind activities, and, using the

methodology and assumptions outlined in the document, assesses cumulative impacts that could result from the incremental impact of the proposed action and action alternatives as defined in the DEIS when combined with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable activities, including other potential future offshore wind activities.

Alternatives: BOEM considered 22 alternatives when preparing the DEIS and carried forward four for further analysis in the DEIS. These four alternatives include three action alternatives and the No Action alternative. Eighteen alternatives were not further analyzed because they did not meet the purpose and need for the proposed action or did not meet screening criteria. The screening criteria included consistency with law and regulations; operational, technical, and economic feasibility; environmental impact; and geographical considerations.

Availability of the DEIS: The DEIS, South Fork COP, and associated information are available on BOEM's website at: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/south-fork>. BOEM distributed digital copies of the DEIS to all parties listed in Appendix B, which includes the location of all libraries receiving a copy. If you require a paper copy, BOEM will provide one upon request, if copies are available. You may request a DVD or paper copy of the DEIS by calling (703) 787–1662.

Cooperating Agencies: Ten agencies or governmental entities participated as cooperating agencies in preparing the DEIS: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Coast Guard; Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council; Town of East Hampton, and the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonality of the Town of East Hampton.

BOEM does not consider anonymous comments. Please include your name and address as part of your submittal. BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. If you wish your name or address to be withheld, you

must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority: This NOA was prepared under Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations, 40 CFR 1500–1508 (as in place before July 16, 2020) and published in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6 and 43 CFR 46.435.

William Yancey Brown,
Chief Environmental Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

[Docket ID BSEE–2020–0015; 21XE8370SD//EEGG600000/ED1OS0000.ERD000]

Notice of Public Comment Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is conducting an independent external peer review of a recent study titled, *OSRR 1063: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Report: Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Model for Predicting Wellhead Oil-Burning Efficiency at Bench and Intermediate Scales: Interim Report* (July 30, 2020). This peer review will aid BSEE gather input from the scientific community on the technical methodologies and results in this interim final report. Background information on BSEE's Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) 1063 study is provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Information regarding BSEE's peer-review process is available at: <https://www.bsee.gov/what-we-do/research/peer-review>.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 8, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this notice by either of the following methods listed below:

- Electronically go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box,

enter BSEE–2020–0015 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.

Written comments should be submitted on or before February 8, 2021. Relevant public comments within the BSEE Charge for the scope of this peer review (outline below) and directly addressing the scientific and technical issues in BSEE's 13 Charge Questions (outlined below) will be provided to the peer reviewers. BSEE may not be able to fully consider comments submitted after February 8, 2021.

Submit your comments, identified by name, contact (phone, and/or email) by one of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Karen N. Stone, Program Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Oil Spill Preparedness Division, Response Research Branch, 45600 Woodland Road, VAE–OSPD, Sterling, VA 20166. *Email:* karen.stone@bsee.gov. Do not submit information considered to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute to BSEE electronically through email. Please contact the BSEE staff listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for special instructions before submitting comments considered to be CBI or otherwise protected.

To provide public involvement in this peer-review process, BSEE is announcing and inviting written public comments on the scientific and technical merit of the interim OSRR 1063 report. The interim OSRR 1063 report is available on BSEE's OSRR website located at: <https://www.bsee.gov/what-we-do/research/oil-spill-preparedness/oil-spill-response-research>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen N. Stone, Program Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Oil Spill Preparedness Division, Response Research Branch, 45600 Woodland Road, VAE–OSPD, Sterling, VA 20166.

Telephone number: (703) 787–1810.

Email address: karen.stone@bsee.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

BSEE Charge for the Scope of This Peer Review

In order to focus the peer-review process effectively on the 13 Charge Questions, BSEE has carefully defined the scope of this peer review for the Interim report of the BSEE Study titled, *OSRR 1063: Bureau of Safety and*

Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Report: Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Model for Predicting Wellhead Oil-Burning Efficiency at Bench and Intermediate Scales: Interim Report (July 30, 2020). Written comments should stay within the BSEE Scope defined below.

The scope of this peer review focuses only on the scientific and technical merit of the assumptions, inputs, methodologies, modeling with experimental validation, and results for the BSEE study titled, *OSRR 1063: BSEE Report: Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Model for Predicting Wellhead Oil-Burning Efficiency at Bench and Intermediate Scales: Interim Report* (July 30, 2020). This peer review is scientific and technical in nature and includes reviewing the methods, assumptions, data quality, the strengths of any inferences made, and the overall strengths and limitations of the study. The peer-review scope includes the material, fabrication, computations, testing, engineering factors, modeling with experimental validation, results, and final recommendations generated from the OSRR 1063 study.

The following are considered Out-of-Scope for this peer review and will not be considered during this peer-review process:

- General comments related to intentional wellhead ignition as a primary response method, because this peer review is focused only on the methods and approach for predicting wellhead burn efficiency at the bench and intermediate scales.

- Comments on, or suggestions for, alternate modeling methods to predict wellhead burn efficiencies except for comments on any omissions or errors identified in the specific methods used for modeling and experimental validations of the model in the OSRR 1063 study referenced above because this peer review focuses on the research already completed for this OSRR 1063 study.

- Comments related to BSEE policies, decisions, or current or proposed BSEE regulations.

Public comments should focus on the scientific and technical merit of the OSRR 1063 study and be organized under BSEE's 13 Charge Questions.

BSEE Charge Questions

1. Were the objectives of the study clearly defined? If not, what are your recommendations for improving the description of this study's objectives?
2. Were the assumptions regarding wellhead conditions and two-phase wellbore flow (including film thickness and instability, liquid entrainment, and