

MMS Alternative Energy Program



Western Coastal Managers Meeting 2009

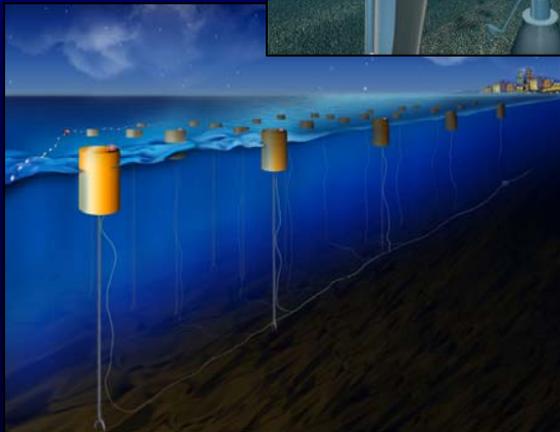
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San Francisco, California

"MMS Program Evolution and Rules for Offshore Development"

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EPAct 2005 Amended OCSLA

Authority to grant leases, easements, and/or rights-of-way for a broad spectrum of activities on the OCS:

- Alternative energy

- e.g., wind, ocean wave, ocean current

- Alternate use of existing facilities

- e.g., research and offshore support stations, recreation opportunities

Program Development

- Programmatic EIS (Completed Nov. 2007)
 - ocsenergy.anl.gov
- Record of Decision (Issued Jan. 2008)
 - Establishment of AEAU Program
 - Adoption of 52 best management practices
- Interim Policy for limited leasing (Nov. 2007)
 - 45 nominations received, currently under review
- Promulgation of regulations (in progress)
- Cape Wind Energy Project
 - Final EIS published Jan. 2009
 - Record of Decision forthcoming
- AE/TAR/IEA study efforts



Major Elements of AE Regulation*

Coordination

- State/Federal Task Forces

Lease Issuance

- Competitive & Noncompetitive Leasing
- Commercial & Limited Leases

Lease Administration

- Bonding & Payments

Alternative Energy Plan Reviews

- Site Assessment
- Construction and Operations

Conduct of Approved Plan Activities

- Environmental and Safety Monitoring
- Inspections

Decommissioning



*Includes compliance with Federal statutory requirements (e.g., NEPA, CZMA, ESA, MMPA, CWA, CAA etc.)

AE Rulemaking

- Published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in July 2008
- Held workshops during 60-day public comment period
- Response to comments completed
- Working with new administration to determine next steps for final rule

On the Horizon

- Completing Rulemaking Efforts
- Coordinating with stakeholders
 - Rule workshops
 - West Coast Governors' Agreement
- Issuing limited leases and reviewing plans –1st Quarter 2009
- Initiating FY 2009 AE environmental studies and identifying challenges and baseline needs
- Preparing environmental compliance documents (NEPA, ESA, CZMA etc)
- Monitoring activities
- Inspecting facilities



Questions?



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