

# COMMUNITY OFFSHORE WIND

## Agency Communications Plan



A Joint Venture of

**RWE** | national**grid**

Revision Summary				
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## Abbreviations

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CAA	Clean Air Act
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FSN	Final Sale Notice
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
GW	Gigawatt
Km	kilometers
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
M	meters
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLLW	Mean Low Low Water
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHPC	National Historic Preservation Council
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJ HPO	New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
Nm	Nautical miles
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
NYDOS	New York Department of State
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSDPS	New York State Department of Public Service
NYSERDA	New York State Environmental Research and Development Authority
NYS OPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OCLSA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PSN	Proposed Sale Notice
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
ROD	Record of Decision
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard

USFWS  
WEA

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Wind Energy Area

# 1 Introduction

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid, proposes to develop the Community Offshore Wind Project (the Project), under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (Lease Area OCS-A 0539; Lease Area). Lease Area OCS-A 0539 encompasses approximately 125,964 acres and is located approximately 37 miles (mi; 59 kilometers [km], 32 nautical miles [nm]) offshore of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey and approximately 54 mi (104 km, 56 nm) offshore of Jones Beach, New York (see Figure 1, below). Water depths within the Lease Area range from 98 feet to 171 feet (30 meters to 52 meters) mean lower low waters (MLLW).

Community Offshore Wind believes that coordination and engagement with federal, state, and local agencies (Agencies) is crucial to the success of an offshore wind project and is committed to an “early and often” approach to help ensure that the Project is developed in an environmentally, socially, and culturally sustainable manner to all stakeholders. As required in Lease OCS-A 0539, Community Offshore Wind has developed this Agency Communications Plan (Plan) which describes the strategies, tools, procedures, and protocols Community Offshore Wind will use to engage and communicate, share Project information, and solicit feedback from Agencies.

## 1.1 RWE and National Grid

Community Offshore Wind is dedicated to providing clean energy, good local jobs, and building a network of trust in the communities it serves. RWE is a global leader in the development of offshore wind facilities, with 20 successful projects in the past two decades, while National Grid brings expertise in renewable energy delivery systems in the northeast and internationally. Both organizations have ambitious objectives for achieving net zero emissions in the coming decades through innovations such as testing recyclable turbine blades and piloting green hydrogen, while generating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

RWE and National Grid share a common goal of advancing a clean energy future through the core principles of promoting health, safety, and care for the environment throughout the lifecycle of the project. This includes a commitment to continuous improvement and evolution by truly listening to stakeholders, integrating that feedback directly into the development and design of the Project, and becoming a standard-bearer for accountability and transparency.

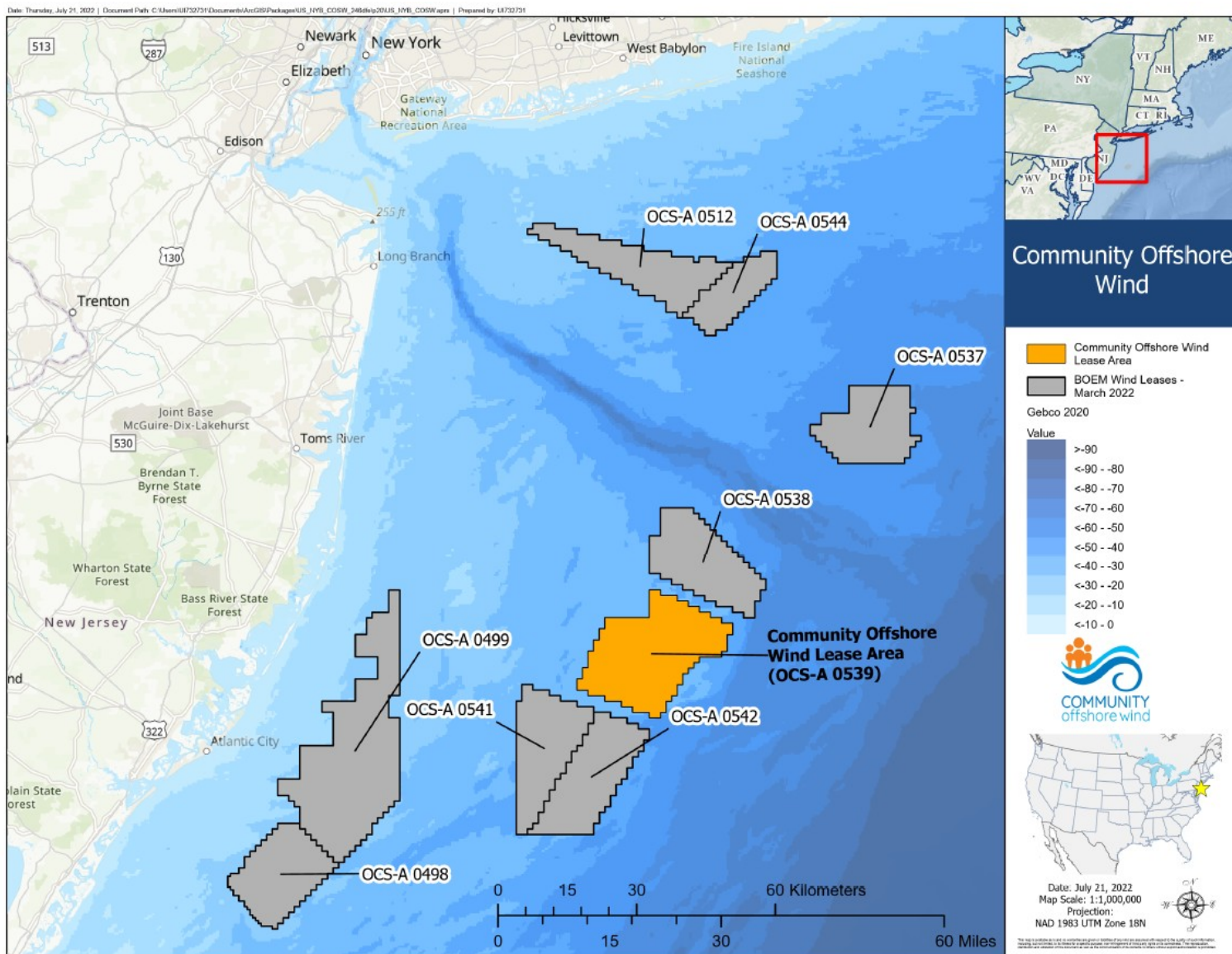


Figure 1. Lease Area OCS-A 0539



## 1.2 Project Team

Community Offshore Wind has assembled a strong team with experience that spans decades in developing, constructing, and operating large-scale infrastructure projects, including offshore wind. Information on and contact information for Community Offshore Wind's Team can be found on our website: <https://communityoffshorewind.com/about>

For the purposes of this Plan, coordination and engagement with the Agencies will be led by Community Offshore Wind's Federal Permitting Manager and State Permitting Manager. Contact information, as well as the designated Main Point of Contact, is provided below.

Amanda Mayhew (Main Point of Contact)  
Senior Permitting Manager  
RWE Renewables Americas, LLC  
100 Federal St., Sixth Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
Email: [Amanda.Mayhew@rwe.com](mailto:Amanda.Mayhew@rwe.com)  
Cell: 804-536-8002

Nahid Carter  
State Permitting Manager  
National Grid Ventures  
2 Hanson Place  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
Email: [NahidC@communityoffshorewind.com](mailto:NahidC@communityoffshorewind.com)  
Cell: 646-589-5702

As the Permitting Managers, Amanda Mayhew and Nahid Carter will lead the federal and state permitting efforts for the Project and serve as the main points of contact responsible for communicating Project-related information to the Agencies from the Community Offshore Wind. The Permitting Managers are responsible for implementation of all aspects of the Plan including, but not limited to, the following:

- Coordinating and leading engagement meetings;
- Tracking action items and follow-up engagements and activities;
- Providing regular updates to the Agencies; and
- Answering questions about the Project and its activities, and conversely, providing insight into Agency concerns, recommendations, and perspectives to the Community Offshore Wind team.

### 1.3 Authority, Regulations, and Lease Conditions

Lease OCS-A 0539 includes Lease Stipulation 3.1.2.3 Agency Communications Plan<sup>1</sup>, which requires the lessee to develop a Plan. The Plan must be publicly available, describe the strategies that the lessee intends to use for communicating with Agencies with authority related to the Lease Area, and detail the methods proposed to engage with and provide information to the Agencies. As described in the Lease, the Plan must include:

- Detailed information and protocols for regular engagement with permitting and resource agencies including, but not limited to, the types of engagement activities (e.g., one-on-one meetings, interagency meetings, open information sharing meetings, etc.);
- The frequency of proposed engagements/meetings (e.g., monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, annually, etc.);
- The meeting locations and/or virtual platforms; and
- Contact information (e.g., telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.).

Throughout the development of the Project, Community Offshore Wind will comply with all Lease conditions, unless approval for a waiver is obtained from BOEM. In addition to the Lease, several statutory authorities and regulations will inform the Plan's contents, directly or indirectly. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA);
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA);
- Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act (CWA);
- Clean Air Act (CAA);
- Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act);
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA);
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA);
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA);
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act;
- CFR Title 33 Navigation and Navigable Waters;
- CFR Title 32 National Defense; and
- Federal Aviation Act.

### 1.4 Guidance and Information Sources

Development of the Plan was informed by regulations, guidance and recommended best practices that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 30 CFR 585;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/lease-ocs-0539>

- Lease OCS-A 0539;
- BOEM Decision Memorandum, New York Bight Final Sale Notice;
- New York Bight Final Environmental Assessment (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2021-073), including Standard Operating Conditions, etc.;
- United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs, “Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan (COP) - Version 4.0,” 2020;
- United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs, “Assessment of Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Developments on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States,” 2021;
- United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs, “Guidelines for Providing Archaeological and Historic Property Information Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585,” 2017;
- United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs, “Guidelines for Providing Benthic Habitat Survey Information for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585,” 2019;
- Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, “Essential Fish Habitat Assessment for Consultations - Guidelines for completing an EFH assessment,” National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 19 August 2021; and
- United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs, “Guidelines for Providing Geophysical, Geotechnical, and Geohazard Information Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585,” 2020.

This Plan is intended to be adaptive to changing conditions and Agency needs and is expected to improve over time as feedback is incorporated and the Project matures.

## 2 Agency Communication Principles and Objectives

The principal objective of this Plan is to develop a respectful and collaborative relationship between Community Offshore Wind and the Agencies. Community Offshore Wind believes that early, often, and meaningful engagement is critical to developing a working relationship between lessees and the Agencies that is based on trust and mutual understanding. The following principles guide the development, implementation, and future modifications of the Plan, and reflect the core values and philosophy of Community Offshore Wind:

- **Safety:** Promote the safety of ocean users, stakeholders, and Project crews, from Project design through implementation.
- **Respect:** Build trust through respect for the local knowledge, expertise, and concerns of stakeholders.
- **Understanding:** Develop a detailed understanding of the environmental, social, and cultural resources and uses in the area to inform the successful development of the Project.
- **Transparency:** Promote transparency through timely two-way communication strategies that incorporate clear feedback mechanisms and are responsive to Agency communication preferences.

- **Efficiency:** Ensure communication and outreach activities are coordinated to achieve efficient communications at the appropriate cadence for all stakeholder groups.
- **Adaptability:** Respond to changing needs and circumstances as opportunities to adapt and improve communication methods and strategies.
- **Collaboration:** Build a sustainable shared future for offshore wind through robust collaboration and inclusivity to ensure American energy independence.

The goal of Community Offshore Wind is to proactively ensure that all stakeholders are informed of the Project and have many opportunities for communication and input throughout the various phases of the Project. The communication strategies detailed throughout this Plan are built on the Project's core communication principles. These approaches are intended to be specific and adaptable to the needs of each Agency and promote effective, two-way engagement that contributes to the safe, successful, and sustainable development of the Lease Area. This Plan is considered a "living" document, and will be updated regularly, as the Project and communication strategies evolve. Revised versions will be provided to the Agencies once available and posted on the Community Offshore Wind website.

### 3 Agency Communications Strategy

Community Offshore Wind recognizes that Agency time is valuable and wants to strive for meaningful communication, coordination, and collaboration without being overly burdensome. Community Offshore Wind also recognizes that various phases in the Project development process will require different levels of engagement, with fewer engagement activities during periods of relatively low activity and more engagement activities during periods of increased activity or when Community Offshore Wind is making important Project decisions. As a result, the types and frequency of engagement activities will be tailored to the specific needs of each phase of Project development:

- Site Assessment/Characterization and Project Development;
- Construction and Operations Plan (COP) Development and Submittal;
- Environmental and Technical Review;
- Construction;
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M);
- Decommissioning.

Detail on the activities proposed to occur during each phase of Project development, along with Community Offshore Wind's goals and objectives, are provided in Appendix A.

In support of Agency engagement, Community Offshore Wind schedules bi-annual inter-agency virtual meetings, in which a Project update will be provided, as well as an opportunity to answer any questions and solicit feedback. In the event of limited Project updates, Community Offshore Wind may substitute email updates in lieu of a meeting. In addition to the bi-annual inter-agency meetings (email update), Community Offshore Wind intends on coordination and engagement meetings with the Agencies as requested to discuss applicable area(s) of interest, in addition to as needed meetings to allow for further discussion or a working session to resolve conflicts or issues that may arise throughout the process. All meetings will be held virtually, unless otherwise requested by the Agency.

## 4 Agency Identification

Community Offshore Wind has identified the Agencies that are anticipated to participate in the development, consultations, and permitting of an offshore wind farm project. In addition to federal agencies, Community Offshore Wind anticipates coordinating with New York and New Jersey state agencies. This Plan will be updated to include the applicable agencies and their preferred means of communication as Project decisions are made. At any time, an Agency may request to change the frequency and method of participation or choose to not participate in the Plan; this will not change the regulatory authority of the Agency.

Community Offshore Wind recognizes that there may be additional Agencies identified within the Fisheries Communications Plan and the Native American Tribal Communications Plan that are not included within Table 2, below. Community Offshore Wind also recognizes that the development of an offshore wind project requires input from many stakeholders with various interests. While these stakeholders will not be included within this Plan, their input will be noted and taken into consideration. A summary of all stakeholder interactions will be provided in Community Offshore Wind's Progress Reports, as required under Lease Stipulation 3.1.

### 4.1 Federal Agencies

Community Offshore Wind anticipates that many federal agencies will participate in the development and permitting of this Project. A preliminary set of federal agencies are included below, with the designated point(s) of contact provided in Table 2. As the Project continues to develop, and the Project area refined, additional agencies may be identified and included within this Plan.

**Table 1: Federal Agency Point(s) of Contact**

Agency	Contact Information
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	Whitney Hauer <a href="mailto:whitney.hauer@boem.gov">whitney.hauer@boem.gov</a>  Kristen Sinclair <a href="mailto:kristen.sinclair@boem.gov">kristen.sinclair@boem.gov</a>  Lauren Aspromonti <a href="mailto:lauren.aspromonti@boem.gov">lauren.aspromonti@boem.gov</a>  Arianna Honeycutt <a href="mailto:arianna.honeycutt@boem.gov">arianna.honeycutt@boem.gov</a>
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Chris Minck <a href="mailto:christopher.w.minck@usace.army.mil">christopher.w.minck@usace.army.mil</a>  Fiona Dunn <a href="mailto:fiona.b.dunn@usace.army.mil">fiona.b.dunn@usace.army.mil</a>

Agency	Contact Information
	Naomi Handell <a href="mailto:naomi.j.handell@usace.army.mil">naomi.j.handell@usace.army.mil</a>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries)	Jaclyn Daly <a href="mailto:jaclyn.daly@noaa.gov">jaclyn.daly@noaa.gov</a>  Emily Davis <a href="mailto:emily.davis@noaa.gov">emily.davis@noaa.gov</a>  Keith Hanson <a href="mailto:keith.hanson@noaa.gov">keith.hanson@noaa.gov</a>  Doug Christel <a href="mailto:douglas.christel@noaa.gov">douglas.christel@noaa.gov</a>  Andrew Lipsky <a href="mailto:andrew.lipsky@noaa.gov">andrew.lipsky@noaa.gov</a>
US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)	Viorica Petriman <a href="mailto:petriman.victoria@epa.gov">petriman.victoria@epa.gov</a>  Suilin Chan <a href="mailto:chan.suilin@epa.gov">chan.suilin@epa.gov</a>  Neha Sareen <a href="mailto:sareen.neha@epa.gov">sareen.neha@epa.gov</a>  Jonathan Yoon <a href="mailto:Yoon.jonathan@epa.gov">Yoon.jonathan@epa.gov</a>  Brian Marmo <a href="mailto:marmo.brian@epa.gov">marmo.brian@epa.gov</a>
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Stephanie Vail-Muse <a href="mailto:stephaine_vail-muse@fws.gov">stephaine_vail-muse@fws.gov</a>  Pamela Loring <a href="mailto:pamela_loring@fws.gov">pamela_loring@fws.gov</a>
US Coast Guard (USCG)	Michelle DesAutels <a href="mailto:michele.e.desautels@uscg.mil">michele.e.desautels@uscg.mil</a>  Gregory Hitchen

Agency	Contact Information
	<a href="mailto:gregory.p.hitchen@uscg.mil">gregory.p.hitchen@uscg.mil</a>  Jeffery Yunker <a href="mailto:jeffery.m.yunker@uscg.mil">jeffery.m.yunker@uscg.mil</a>  Mark Cutter <a href="mailto:mark.e.cutter@uscg.mil">mark.e.cutter@uscg.mil</a>  Matthew Creelman <a href="mailto:matthew.k.creelman2@uscg.mil">matthew.k.creelman2@uscg.mil</a>  Robert Webb <a href="mailto:robert.d.webb3@uscg.mil">robert.d.webb3@uscg.mil</a>  Tim Spence <a href="mailto:timothy.a.spence@uscg.mil">timothy.a.spence@uscg.mil</a>
Department of Defense (DoD)	Robbin Beard <a href="mailto:robbin.e.beard.civ@mail.mil">robbin.e.beard.civ@mail.mil</a>
National Parks Service (NPS)	Mary Kruger <a href="mailto:mary_c.krueger@nps.gov">mary_c.krueger@nps.gov</a>  Mary Morrison <a href="mailto:mary_morrison@nps.gov">mary_morrison@nps.gov</a>

#### 4.1.1 BOEM

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has jurisdiction under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). The OCSLA gives BOEM the jurisdiction to issue leases (ex. Lease OCS-A 0539) and right-of-way grants for the development of renewable energy. BOEM will also be the lead federal agency in charge of leading the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for the Project's Construction and Operations Plan (COP).

#### 4.1.2 US Army Corps of Engineers

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 10 of the RHA requires a permit for activities that involve the construction of structures or obstructions in navigable waters. Section 404 of the CWA requires a federal permit for activities that involve the discharge of dredged or fill materials into navigable waters of the US. The USACE also has jurisdiction under Section 14 of the RHA, which has since been amended and is codified at 33 USC 408 (Section 408). Section 408 authorization is required when the proposed project may use or alter a Civil Works project (ex. USACE maintained channels).

#### **4.1.3 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) has jurisdiction under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Section 7 of the ESA requires consultation to assess the impacts of the Project on ESA-listed species and designated Critical Habitat and prohibits the “take” (to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) of ESA-listed species. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment consultation to assess the impacts to designed EFH. The MMPA prohibits the “take” (to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal) of marine mammals, including from acoustic harassment.

#### **4.1.4 US Environmental Protection Agency**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has jurisdiction under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Section 328(a) of the CAA requires the US EPA establish air pollution control requirements on the OCS. An OCS Air Permit will likely be required to comply with the EPA’s requirements under the CAA. The USEPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Individual Permit is delegated to the states. Similarly, during the state Article VII process, a Water Quality Certification will be included, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and Implementing Regulations (6 NYCRR § § 608.9(a) 701-704, 935).

#### **4.1.5 US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has jurisdiction under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Section 7 of the ESA requires consultation to assess the impacts of the Project on ESA-listed species and designated Critical Habitat. The MBTA prohibits the “take” (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species.

#### **4.1.6 US Coast Guard**

The US Coast Guard (USCG) has jurisdiction under maritime traffic and national security out to 12 nautical miles (nm) from shore. Part of the USCG responsibilities include issuing permits for Private Aids to Navigation (PATON), for the placement of temporarily or permanently fixed structure, such as buoys and foundations. The USCG also issues Local Notice to Mariners (LNM), which provides weekly updates to the mariner community on activities occurring offshore.

#### **4.1.7 Department of Defense**

The Department of Defense (DoD) will be consulted with through the DoD Clearinghouse throughout the lifetime of the Project, to ensure that Project activities will not impact or be impacted by the DoD.

#### **4.1.8 National Parks Service**

The National Parks Service (NPS) serves as the agency which oversees the care of the National Parks. As Lease OCS-A 0539 is approximately 54 miles from the Gateway National Recreation Area and 58 miles from the Fire Island National Seashore, the closest NPS Parks to the Lease Area, Community Offshore Wind does not anticipate the Project will be visible from the shore. Therefore, Community Offshore Wind recommends providing annual email updates to NPS, with the option for a virtual meeting, to provide Project updates.



#### 4.1.9 Federal Aviation Administration

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has jurisdiction over U.S. territorial airspace (12 nm offshore). Authorization in the form of a Determination of No Hazard from the FAA is required for activities that occur over 200 feet in height within U.S. territorial airspace.

#### 4.1.10 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) serves as the agency which oversees the federal review process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As the lead federal agency, BOEM will consult 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.

Community Offshore Wind does not anticipate consulting with the ACHP, but rather with BOEM, the SHPOs, THPOs, and other stakeholders, to fulfil the requirements under Section 106 of NHPA.

## 4.2 State Agencies

Community Offshore Wind anticipates that many state agencies will participate in the development and permitting of this Project. As the onshore portion of the Project is still under development, a preliminary list of state agencies in which authorizations and/or consultations are likely to be required are included below, with the designated point(s) of contact provided in Table 3. As the Project continues to develop, and the onshore portions of the Project identified, additional agencies will be identified and included within this Plan.

**Table 3: State Agency Point(s) of Contact**

Agency	Contact Information
New York State	
New York Department of State (NYDOS)	Laura McLean <a href="mailto:laura.mclean@dos.state.ny.us">laura.mclean@dos.state.ny.us</a>
	Jennifer Street <a href="mailto:jennifer.street@dos.ny.gov">jennifer.street@dos.ny.gov</a>
	Joel Bernosky <a href="mailto:joel.bernosky@dos.ny.gov">joel.bernosky@dos.ny.gov</a>
	Rebecca Ferres <a href="mailto:rebecca.ferres@dos.ny.gov">rebecca.ferres@dos.ny.gov</a>
	Marika Krupitsky <a href="mailto:marika.krupitsky@dos.ny.gov">marika.krupitsky@dos.ny.gov</a>

Agency	Contact Information
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)	Cheryl Sandrow <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Sandrow@dec.ny.gov">Cheryl.Sandrow@dec.ny.gov</a>
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#### 4.2.1 New York

New York State has jurisdiction over territorial waters within three (3) nm of shore and any onshore activities, such as landfalls and onshore facilities. Community Offshore Wind has engaged with New York State agencies regarding potential offshore cable routes within state waters, as well as landfall and onshore route options that are being evaluated. As the development of these potential options advances, communication frequency will be updated as appropriate to ensure clear and collaborative engagement.

#### 4.2.2 New York Department of State

The New York Department of State (NYDOS) is in charge of enforcing the state’s Coastal Management Program under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

#### 4.2.3 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has jurisdiction under the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and is responsible for protecting public health and safety.

#### 4.2.4 New York State Department of Public Service

The New York State Department of Public Services (NYSDPS) has jurisdiction under New York Public Service Law (NYPSL) and is the lead state agency in charge of the NYPSL Article VII process.

#### 4.2.5 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Properties

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Properties (NYS OPRHP) is charged with maintaining the state parks and historic sites within New York. The NYS SHPO is also under NYS OPRHP.

#### 4.2.6 New York State Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) serves as the agency which oversees highways, railroads, mass transit systems, ports, waterways, and aviation facilities in the State of New York.

#### **4.2.7 New Jersey**

The State of New Jersey has jurisdiction over territorial waters within three (3) nm of shore and any onshore activities, such as landfalls and onshore facilities. Community Offshore Wind has engaged with New Jersey State agencies regarding potential offshore cable routes within state waters, as well as landfall and onshore route options under evaluation. As the development of these potential options advances, communication frequency will be updated as appropriate to ensure clear and collaborative engagement.

#### **4.2.8 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has jurisdiction under New Jersey Administrative Code (NJAC).

#### **4.2.9 New Jersey Historic Preservation Office**

The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJ HPO) falls under the NJDEP and is the SHPO.

## **5 Communications Tracking**

This Plan will include a detailed spreadsheet that will track the engagement efforts with the Agencies. Every engagement opportunity will be documented by Agency, engagement type, discussion topics, and feedback/input provided. Community Offshore Wind will detail how that input has been communicated and integrated into the overall planning of the Project. This document will improve transparency and illustrate the variety of engagement strategies planned. Additionally, the Project has secured a vendor to implement a stakeholder management system that allows for efficient communication tracking and record keeping. This will facilitate the development of the semi-annual progress reports, as required in Lease Stipulation 3.1.

## **6 Opportunities for Coordination**

Community Offshore Wind understands that the Agencies are coordinating with many leaseholders on numerous existing and future offshore wind projects, and that this is placing a significant burden on Agency resources and staff capacity. As a result, BOEM is requiring lessees coordinate, to the extent practicable, with one another on their engagement activities.

Community Offshore Wind has begun to engage with other New York Bight lessees to identify and explore opportunities to combine or coordinate engagement activities, regional research and monitoring efforts, as well as information and data sharing. Community Offshore Wind also actively participates in regional groups, including the NYSEDA Technical Working Groups and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative, alongside other leaseholders.

Community Offshore Wind will also solicit feedback and recommendations from the Agencies on how best to coordinate lessee engagement throughout the lifetime of the Project.

Information on how Community Offshore Wind intends to coordinate with other stakeholders, such as Tribes and fisheries, can be found in the Native American Tribal Communications Plan and Fisheries Communications Plan, respectively: <https://communityoffshorewind.com/>.

## **7 Conflict Prevention and Resolution**

The intent of the Plan is for Community Offshore Wind to maintain open lines of communication with the Agencies and to ensure an “early and often” approach to outreach. Through this engagement, Community Offshore Wind hopes to collaboratively identify potential impacts from the Project, and where those impacts cannot be avoided, engage in a bottom-up process to develop approaches to minimize, mitigate, and eliminate those impacts, where feasible.

# Appendix A

## Project Development Phases

## Site Assessment/Characterization and Project Development

During this initial phase, Community Offshore Wind will develop strategies and plans for site assessment and characterization activities, such as geophysical (side scan sonar, sub bottom profiler, etc.) and geotechnical (coring) surveys (G&G surveys), benthic (grab samples, video tows) surveys, other offshore surveys (marine mammals, avian species, fish species), and terrestrial surveys (vegetation, wildlife, and cultural). As required in Lease Stipulation 2.1, Community Offshore Wind will submit a Survey Plan in support of each physical, biological, and cultural resource survey to BOEM. A copy of the Survey Plan will also be submitted to the applicable Agencies, as appropriate, for review and recommendations, prior to initiating any survey activities.

Community Offshore Wind will also coordinate with the applicable Agencies to obtain the necessary authorizations and approvals prior to deploying metocean buoys.

As the information collected during this phase is analyzed, Community Offshore Wind began to develop the Project, including the location for the export cable corridors, landfall, and onshore facilities. Community Offshore Wind will provide regular updates to the Agencies on the proposed location of the Project and seek feedback and recommendations on potential alternatives that could reduce impacts to and/or avoid conflict with environmental, social, and/or cultural resources. In addition to these regular updates, the Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Team will be actively engaging with staff within state and federal Agencies (See Fisheries Communication Plan for more details).

The principal engagement goals during this phase include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will provide the Agencies with opportunities to review and comment on proposed site characterization survey and study plans, and Project development;
- Agencies to communicate their concerns, information requests, and recommendations to Community Offshore Wind to inform methods and objectives of site characterization surveys and studies and Project development;
- Community Offshore Wind and their site characterization survey and study contractors will coordinate with stakeholders on study activities; and
- Community Offshore Wind will communicate the findings of the various site characterization surveys and studies to the Agencies.

## Construction and Operations Plan (COP) Development

During this phase, Community Offshore Wind will continue to analyze and review information collected during the Site Assessment Phase to develop the Project's COP. The COP describes how Community Offshore Wind will construct and operate its commercial wind project on Lease Area OCS-A 0539 and includes 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 COP also summarizes results of the site assessment phase biological, geotechnical, socioeconomic, and cultural resources studies; provides an assessment of the Project's potential impacts; and Community Offshore Wind's proposed measures for avoiding, minimizing, reducing, eliminating, mitigating, and monitoring impacts.

The principal engagement goals during this phase include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will provide the Agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the draft results of the studies conducted in support of the COP, as well as the Project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, and cultural resources;
- Community Offshore Wind will provide the Agencies with updates during the development of the PDE for the Project and solicit feedback and recommendations; and
- Community Offshore Wind will collaborate with the Agencies to incorporate their opinions, concerns, and recommendations into proposed measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, and/or monitor Project impacts to environmental, social, and/or cultural resources, to the extent practicable.

## **Environmental and Technical Review**

This phase will begin when Community Offshore Wind submits the COP to BOEM. Once the COP is deemed sufficient and complete, BOEM will issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to conduct its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental and technical reviews. At the conclusion of the two (2) year NEPA review period, BOEM will decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the COP. BOEM's decision will be presented in a Record of Decision (ROD) to complete the NEPA review.

During this time, Community Offshore Wind will also develop and submit application package submittals in support of other Agency authorizations and approvals. Community Offshore Wind will provide regular updates to the Agencies and seek feedback and recommendations on the applications through pre-application meetings.

The principal engagement goals during this phase include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will provide the Agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the draft application package submittals;
- Community Offshore Wind will regularly communicate with the Agencies to provide updates on Community Offshore Wind will perform various activities in support of environmental and technical reviews; and
- Community Offshore Wind will respond to questions or information requests from Agencies and communicate responses and/or the requested information in timely manner.

## **Construction**

During this phase, Community Offshore Wind will construct the proposed offshore wind farm within the Lease Area and to be determined offshore/onshore export cable corridors and onshore facilities. Construction activities will be aligned with the requirements and conditions of the issued permits. Community Offshore Wind anticipates it will take two to three (2-3) years to construct the proposed Project.

The principal engagement goals during this phase will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will communicate regular Project construction updates and the status of the various permit conditions through construction;



- Community Offshore Wind will coordinate with stakeholders on construction vessel movements and construction activities;
- Community Offshore Wind will coordinate the mitigation and monitoring programs as defined in the issued permits and/or any other agreements Community Offshore Wind has committed to; and
- Community Offshore Wind will regularly communicate the results of construction phase environmental, social, and cultural resource monitoring reports.

## Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

During the O&M phase, Community Offshore Wind will operate and perform routine maintenance on their offshore wind farm within the Lease Area. The initial operations term for the Lease Area is 33 years<sup>2</sup>.

The principal engagement goals during this phase include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will communicate regular O&M updates;
- Community Offshore Wind will coordinate and collaborate the review of O&M phase environmental, socio-economic, and cultural resources monitoring reports; and
- Community Offshore Wind will coordinate with stakeholders on scheduled O&M activities and vessel movements.

## Decommissioning

At the end of the Project's life, Community Offshore Wind will submit a decommissioning application to BOEM and any other applicable Agency. Once approved, Community Offshore Wind would decommission the Project. Community Offshore Wind anticipates this process would take two to four (2-4) years to complete.

The principal engagement goals during this phase include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Community Offshore Wind will collaborate with the Agencies to develop a decommissioning plan that minimizes environmental, social, and/or cultural impacts to the greatest extent practicable;
- Community Offshore Wind 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
- Community Offshore Wind will coordinate with stakeholders on scheduled decommissioning activities and associated vessel activities to areas.

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<sup>2</sup> Community Offshore Wind may elect to request an extension to the Operations Term from BOEM, as allowed under 30 CFR § 585.425.