



U.S. Department of the Interior News Release

Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021
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Secretary Haaland Highlights Tremendous Offshore Wind Opportunities in Virginia with Governor Northam, Senator Kaine

Announces environmental review of first proposed commercial wind project offshore Virginia

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland joined Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, Senator Tim Kaine, Norfolk and local elected officials, and representatives of the offshore wind industry in Norfolk today to discuss opportunities that will create jobs and strengthen the local economy. This announcement reflects the Biden-Harris administration's [commitment](#) to develop 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2030, which will create an estimated 80,000 jobs.

Secretary Haaland was joined by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral Management Laura Daniel-Davis and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Amanda Lefton to announce the initiation of BOEM's environmental review for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial (CVOW-C) project. If approved, the project would be the first commercial wind project offshore Virginia. It would be owned and operated by Dominion Energy.

"The demand for offshore wind energy has never been greater. Recent technological advances, falling costs, and tremendous economic potential make offshore wind a promising avenue for diversifying our national energy portfolio, creating good-paying union jobs, and tackling climate change," said **Secretary Haaland**. "Today's tour and meetings were a great chance to learn about the Commonwealth's continued leadership role in developing the offshore wind industry and attracting and supporting the domestic supply chain."

The offshore wind industry includes a wide range of sectors, such as manufacturing, installation, operations and maintenance, and support services. Advancing the domestic

offshore wind industry and supply chain will require strong partnerships between the federal government and states.

“Virginia is all in on offshore wind. We are developing the infrastructure, workforce, supply chain, and manufacturing capabilities needed to capture the many benefits of this emerging industry,” said **Governor Northam**. “This announcement puts our Commonwealth on a path to harnessing the power of wind to produce affordable and reliable renewable energy, create thousands of new jobs, and meet our ambitious climate goals. We are grateful for the federal government’s partnership as we work to advance our clean energy future with this large-scale commercial wind project along Virginia’s coast.”

“Investing in clean energy is an invaluable investment in our future,” said **Senator Kaine**. “I was so glad to join Governor Northam today in welcoming Secretary Haaland on her tour of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project in Hampton Roads — among the first in the nation to use the new federal permitting initiative. Virginia is grateful for the Secretary’s announcement, and I will continue to support Virginia’s growing offshore wind industry to protect the environment, create jobs, and strengthen our clean energy economy.”

Located approximately 23.5 nautical miles offshore Virginia, the CVOW-C project calls for the construction and operation of up to 205 turbines capable of generating up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity. During development and construction, the CVOW-C project would generate an average of approximately 900 jobs from 2020-2026, with a peak of approximately 1,500 jobs in 2024 and 2025. During operations and maintenance, the CVOW-C project would support about 1,100 long-term jobs.

The project proposal includes three offshore substations with two possible cable landfall locations in Virginia Beach. The energy produced would help Virginia reach its legislated goal of securing 5.2 GW of offshore energy by 2034. More information about the CVOW-C project, BOEM’s environmental review, and the virtual public meetings may be found on [BOEM’s CVOW-C project page](#).

BOEM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently entered into an agreement that will allow the Army Corps to provide BOEM with the additional scientific and technical resources needed to evaluate offshore wind projects on the Outer Continental Shelf. While the scope of the agreement covers all renewable energy activities in the Atlantic, the initial focus will be on the review of this project, as well as the Kitty Hawk project, offshore North Carolina.

The Secretary and group toured the Port of Virginia, one of the nation’s world-class maritime facilities, which is being retrofitted to meet the anticipated needs of the growing offshore wind industry. The open-air port features terminal space and high lift capacities that will be necessary in the construction of offshore wind projects in the Mid-Atlantic. Ports such as this one, and others throughout the United States, will help attract the offshore wind supply chain, create good-paying jobs and attract economic development.

The leaders discussed the needs of the offshore wind industry, including workforce training. Governor Northam highlighted the Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance, Virginia’s first offshore and onshore wind workforce training collaborative. The program will offer industry-required certifications that are critical to the operations and long-term maintenance of wind projects. Training programs such as this one will be vital to meet the needs of an industry that could create nearly 80,000 jobs nationwide by 2030.

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About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.





Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · July 1, 2021

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**U.S. Interior Secretary Joins Governor
Northam, Senator Kaine to Announce New
Actions to Advance Offshore Wind in Virginia**

*~ Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to initiate environmental review for
Virginia's large-scale commercial offshore wind project ~*

NORFOLK—Governor Ralph Northam today welcomed U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to the Commonwealth to tour The Port of Virginia and discuss offshore wind industry supply chain opportunities together with U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, and other federal, state, and local officials. During the visit, Secretary Haaland announced that Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will initiate its environmental review for Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind commercial project located 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach. The issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) from BOEM marks the first major milestone in the federal permitting of the 2.6-gigawatt large-scale commercial wind project.

“The demand for offshore wind energy has never been greater. Meanwhile, recent technological advances, falling costs, and tremendous economic potential make offshore wind a promising avenue for diversifying our national energy portfolio, creating good-

paying union jobs, and tackling climate change,” **said Secretary Deb Haaland**. “Today’s tour and meetings were a great chance to learn about the Commonwealth’s continued leadership role in developing the offshore wind industry and attracting and supporting the domestic supply chain.”

“Virginia is all in on offshore wind. We are developing the infrastructure, workforce, supply chain, and manufacturing capabilities needed to capture the many benefits of this emerging industry,” **said Governor Northam**. “This announcement puts our Commonwealth on a path to harnessing the power of wind to produce affordable and reliable renewable energy, create thousands of new jobs, and meet our ambitious climate goals. We are grateful for the federal government’s partnership as we work to advance our clean energy future with this large-scale commercial wind project along Virginia’s coast.”

Today’s announcement follows a [recent agreement](#) between BOEM and the North Atlantic Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that will give the federal agencies additional scientific and technical resources to evaluate offshore wind projects. The initiative, which was developed in partnership with Old Dominion University and facilitated by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), is critical to ensuring new offshore wind leases are approved in a timely manner. Virginia’s offshore wind project will be among the first in the nation to undergo this new federal permitting process designed to accelerate offshore wind development in the United States.

“Investing in clean energy is an invaluable investment in our future,” **said Senator Kaine**. “I was so glad to join Governor Northam today in welcoming Secretary Haaland on her tour of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project in Hampton Roads—among the first in the nation to use the new federal permitting initiative. Virginia is grateful for the Secretary’s announcement, and I will continue to support Virginia’s growing offshore wind industry to protect the environment, create jobs, and strengthen our clean energy economy.”

More information about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind commercial (CVOW-C) project, the BOEM’s environmental review process, and the virtual public meetings can be found at boem.gov/CVOW-C.

“Building a domestic offshore wind supply chain is a key step needed to meet this administration’s goal of 30 gigawatts by 2030,” **said BOEM Director Amanda Lefton**. “If approved, the CVOW-C project will represent another step forward to help the United States leverage existing manufacturing and workforce capabilities to grow a network of domestic suppliers.”

Virginia is home to the largest maritime industrial base in the United States with existing infrastructure and a port already designed to support the offshore wind supply chain. Two six-megawatt Siemens Gamesa wind turbines were installed by Dominion and Ørsted in 2020, making it the first offshore wind project in federal waters. It is the first and only

research lease in the country where technologies can be tested, providing critical information to the offshore wind industry to help reduce the cost of energy.

In 2020, Governor Northam and the General Assembly set a target for Virginia to generate 5.2 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2034 with a [new law](#) that creates a path for the development of at least two offshore wind projects that are currently planned to interconnect into Virginia. This legislation will also provide certainty to the offshore wind industry by creating a pathway for project developers to recover their costs, while containing costs and protecting low-income Virginians. These measures will help to ensure healthy competition in the procurement of offshore wind projects, bringing diverse offshore wind companies to Virginia to compete in the market and lower costs for Virginia consumers. The Commonwealth also created its first-ever Division of Offshore Wind within DMME, which will drive statewide policy to support offshore wind, work with stakeholders, and coordinate economic development opportunities to help grow the offshore wind industry in an equitable manner.

“We are honored that Secretary Haaland and Director Lefton recognize our commitment to the development of offshore wind and are here to see the assets that could serve this cutting-edge industry, which will have a transformational impact on Virginia’s clean energy economy,” **said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball**. “The Commonwealth’s offshore wind industry has built a lot of momentum during the Northam Administration, and today’s visit shows that this is just the beginning.”

Secretary Haaland, Governor Northam, and federal, state, and local officials toured The Port of Virginia, one of the nation’s world-class maritime facilities. Located just 30 nautical miles from the project, the port is undergoing significant upgrades to accommodate the heavy load capacity necessary in the construction of offshore wind projects in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The leaders also discussed the workforce needs of the fast-growing offshore wind industry, which could create nearly 80,000 jobs nationwide by 2030. Governor Northam highlighted the [Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance](#), Virginia’s first offshore and onshore wind workforce training collaborative. This program will offer industry-required certifications that are critical to the operations and long-term maintenance of wind projects.

The Commonwealth has partnered with states along the East Coast to encourage policy and practices that will demonstrate that the United States is open for offshore wind development. In May, Virginia was one of nine states that sent a [letter to President Biden](#) encouraging the Biden-Harris Administration to continue prioritizing offshore wind.



BOEM Announces Environmental Review of Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore Virginia

Agency Seeks Public Comments on Potential Impacts Release Date

07/01/2021 Washington, DC

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As part of the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to creating nearly 80,000 jobs through the development 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland joined Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and Senator Tim Kaine today to announce that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will be conducting an environmental review for a potential wind project offshore Virginia Beach.

On July 2, BOEM will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register, which will open a 30-day public comment period extending through 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on August 2, 2021.

During this time, BOEM will hold three virtual public scoping meetings. Public input obtained during the comment period will help BOEM determine the important resources and issues, potential impacts to the environment, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS.

"Building a domestic offshore wind supply chain is a key step needed to meet this administration's goal of 30 GW by 2030," **said BOEM Director Amanda Lefton**. "If approved, the CVOW-C project will represent another step forward to help the United States leverage existing manufacturing and workforce capabilities to grow a network of domestic suppliers."

Located approximately 23.5 nautical miles offshore Virginia, the project calls for the construction and operation of up to 205 turbines capable of generating up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity. During development and construction, the CVOW-C project would generate an average of approximately 900 jobs from 2020-2026, with a peak of approximately 1,500 jobs in 2024 and 2025. During operations and maintenance, the CVOW-C project would support about 1,100 long-term jobs.

The project proposal includes three offshore substations with one possible cable landfall location in Virginia Beach. The energy produced would help Virginia reach its legislated goal of securing 5.2 GW of offshore energy by 2034.

Dominion Energy already operates a research offshore wind project located near the proposed CVOW-C project location, consisting of two test turbines in federal waters off the coast of Virginia Beach, which will provide data to help inform the commercial-scale project.

More information about the CVOW-C project, BOEM's environmental review, and the virtual public meetings may be found here: <https://www.boem.gov/CVOW-C>.

- BOEM -

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for America's offshore energy and mineral resources. The bureau promotes energy independence, environmental protection and economic development through responsible, science-based management of energy and mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.