



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Washington Building, 8th Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2021

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Contact: Tarah Kesterson

276-356-3405

E-mail: tarah.kesterson@dmme.virginia.gov

Virginia Featured in New American Bureau of Shipping Offshore Wind Report

Report Designed to Position U.S. for Offshore Wind Energy Expansion

Richmond, Va. – A [report](#) released by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) recently included details as to why Virginia is well positioned to grow its offshore wind industry. The report titled [Positioning for U.S. Expansion: U.S. Ports and Vessel Information](#), provides in-depth information from each state with an existing or planned offshore wind industry. It includes information on each port and existing vessels that are approved to support the renewable energy. The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is the lead agency for offshore wind development in Virginia.

“With its rich maritime history, Virginia has many unique assets that make it an ideal hub for the U.S. East Coast offshore wind supply chain,” **said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball**. “We have been laying the groundwork for offshore wind for over a decade, and we’re excited to be recognized by ABS.”

The U.S. is projected to produce 40 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2040 according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Activities by the states, including Virginia, are driving that demand.

“By welcoming the industry to Virginia and allowing it to leverage our world-class maritime complex, unlimited air draft, open terminal space and lift capacity at Portsmouth Marine Terminal, we have an opportunity to participate in the development of an almost entirely new industry,” **said Stephen A. Edwards, CEO and executive director of the Virginia Port Authority**. “The result is job creation, economic investment, diversification of the Virginia economy and clean, renewable energy for the future.”

“We are seeing a buzz in activity of those wanting to be a part of this new and quickly growing industry,” **said DMME Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant**. “We have established workforce, training programs, and the right partners to ensure those who can join the supply chain are welcomed and get to work fast.”

ABS holds great importance to the maritime industry in the U.S. and will be key in ensuring a successful offshore wind industry along the East Coast.

“Offshore wind has significant potential in the U.S., and ABS is committed to supporting the industry to grow and achieve that potential. Our report identifies a number of challenges that the industry must rise to meet and ABS, as the leading provider of classification services to the global offshore industry, combined with our extensive knowledge of U.S. regulations, is in a unique position to assist,” **said Matt Tremblay, ABS Senior Vice President, Global Offshore**.

The Commonwealth began work on building its offshore wind industry in 2009. In June 2020, two turbines were installed 26 nautical miles off the coast of Virginia in the Commonwealth of Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) lease area. These two six-megawatt Siemens Gamesa turbines were installed by Ørsted and were the first in federal waters.

Virginia is currently home to two offshore wind farms. Dominion Energy and Avangrid Renewables have both submitted their construction and operation plans to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Dominion Energy’s CVOW Commercial project will be the largest wind farm in the U.S. covering over 112,000 acres. The projected completion date is 2026, and it is expected to power 650,000 homes each year.

About ABS:

ABS, a leading global provider of classification and technical advisory services to the marine and offshore industries, is committed to setting standards for safety and excellence in design and construction. Focused on safe and practical application of advanced technologies and digital solutions, ABS works with industry and clients to develop accurate and cost-effective compliance, optimized performance and operational efficiency for marine and offshore assets.

For more on Virginia’s offshore wind industry, check out this [video](#).

###