



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

ATTN: Daniel Govoni  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Moorehead City, NC 28557

Dear Mr. Daniel Govoni:

This document provides North Carolina with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Consistency Determination (CD) for the issuance of a lease and grants within the Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore the Central Atlantic under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 (c)(1) and 15 CFR Part 930 Subpart C. The information in this CD is provided pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36(a) and 930.39. The CD takes into consideration the reasonably foreseeable coastal effects of the Proposed Action and its consistency with the enforceable policies identified by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Coastal Management.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to issue commercial leases within the WEAs and granting of rights-of-way and rights-of-use and easement in the region of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) of the Central Atlantic. BOEM's issuance of these leases and grants is needed to (1) confer the exclusive right to submit plans to BOEM for potential development, such that the lessees and grantees develop plans for BOEM's review and will commit to site characterization and site assessment activities necessary to determine the suitability of their leases and grants for commercial offshore wind production and/or transmission; and (2) impose terms and conditions intended to ensure that site characterization and assessment activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The issuance of a lease by BOEM to the lessee conveys no right to proceed with development of a wind energy facility; the lessee acquires only the exclusive right to submit a plan to conduct this activity.

BOEM's analysis of the reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences of the Proposed Action can be found in the enclosed *Central Atlantic Wind Auction Environmental Assessment* (EA). The North Carolina Coastal Management Programs applicable enforceable policies and reasonably foreseeable coastal effects are included in Appendix A (enclosed) for your review.

Based upon the above-referenced information, data, and analysis, BOEM finds that the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the North Carolina Coastal Management Plan.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.41, the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management has 60 days from the receipt of this letter in which to concur with or object to this CD, or to request an extension under 15 CFR 930.41(b). North Carolina's concurrence will be presumed if its response is not received by BOEM within 60 days of receipt of this determination.

North Carolina's response should be sent to:

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Office of Renewable Energy Programs  
Attn: Ms. Jessica Stromberg  
45600 Woodland Road  
Sterling, VA 20166

We appreciate having a cooperative working relationship with North Carolina as we move forward with our review of potential offshore renewable energy activities.

Sincerely,

Jessica Stromberg  
Chief, Environmental Branch for Renewable Energy  
Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Enclosures