



May 3, 2021

Kristie Armour
Planning Board Administrator
Neptune Township
P.O. Box 1125
Neptune, NJ 07754

RE: Invitation to consult on the New York Bight Lease and Right-of-Way/Right-of-Use Issuance located off the coast of New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island; *response requested by no later than 30 days of receipt of this letter*

Dear Kristie Armour,

On March 29, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it had completed the Area Identification process to delineate the New York Bight Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), pursuant to 30 Code of Federal Regulations Part 585.211(b). Upon completion of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews, BOEM may issue commercial wind energy leases within the New York Bight WEAs and grant rights-of-way or rights-of-use in support of wind energy development. BOEM has determined that the issuance of commercial and research wind energy leases and the potential granting of rights-of-way or rights-of-use constitutes an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the NHPA and, as such, BOEM will serve as the lead Federal agency for the NHPA Section 106 review.

This letter has three purposes:

- first, to invite Neptune Township to be a consulting party to the Section 106 review;
- second, to provide information on the undertaking and the Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (PAPE) (Figure 1) to help inform your decision as to whether or not you wish to be a consulting party; and
- third, to provide information on next the next steps in the Section 106 process for parties choosing to participate.

BOEM retained the services of ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc (hereinafter ICF) as the contractor to facilitate the Section 106 consultation process. All Federal oversight and decisions will remain with BOEM. ICF's role in this Section 106 review is to execute various administrative and logistical tasks, including but not limited to coordinating communication with the consulting parties; distributing BOEM-approved documents; providing technical assistance; and hosting and facilitating meetings, webinars, or calls with consulting parties.

Invitation to Consult Under Section 106 of the NHPA

With this letter, BOEM invites you to be a consulting party to this project regarding potential impacts on historic properties. Consulting parties have certain rights and obligations under the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800. The review

process, known as Section 106 review, is described at: <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/citizens-guide-section-106-review>.

By becoming a consulting party, you will be actively informed of steps in the review process, including public meetings, and your views will be actively sought. If you would like to be a consulting party to this project, please respond to Jessica Gabriel at NewYorkBight@icf.com or (503) 412-0431.

Definition of the Undertaking and Area of Potential Effect for the Undertaking

The proposed undertaking includes the issuance of commercial wind energy leases within the Final New York Bight WEAs and takes into account the execution of associated site assessment and site characterization activities within these commercial leases. Site assessment activities would most likely include the temporary placement of meteorological ocean buoys. Site characterization activities would most likely include geophysical and geotechnical, biological, and oceanographic surveys. Additionally, the retrieval of lost equipment may occur as necessary.

In addition to conducting surveys in the New York Bight WEAs, lessees and grantees would survey a minimum 300-meter-wide corridor centered on any anticipated cable locations to characterize the seabed locations where physical disturbances may occur (e.g., anchoring of vessels installing the cable or movement of the proposed cable location, if necessary). Because the leases or right-of-way grants considered as part of this undertaking have not been issued, BOEM is uncertain of the exact location of these cable surveys. However, BOEM can anticipate their geographic extent.

Power generated from potential New York Bight lease areas would need to be transmitted to shore, either directly from the lease areas by individual export cables to onshore cable landings and/or to offshore regional transmission system(s). Because power may be purchased from nearby states, these potential export cables and regional transmission system(s) are anticipated to be located offshore New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Therefore, for the purposes of this undertaking, BOEM estimates cable surveys would occur in the PAPE between shore and the WEAs as far south as a line drawn between the southwestern corner of the Hudson South WEAs to Cape May, New Jersey and as far north as a line drawn between the northeast corner of the Fairways North WEA to the eastern edge of Narragansett Bay (Figure 1).

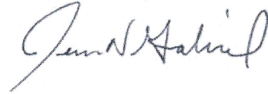
Next Steps

Please submit your request to become a consulting party ***no later than 30 days of receipt of this letter***. While you may also request to be a consulting party at a later date, this consultation may advance without your input and your opportunity to fully comment on each step of the process may be affected. If you are requesting consulting party status, please also include the contact information of one representative and one alternate from your organization to receive correspondence and attend meetings and indicate the nature of your organization's demonstrated interest in the undertaking or historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking. We

also request that you indicate your preferred correspondence method: hard copy correspondence by mail, via email, or both.

In your response, please provide any known information on regarding additional historic properties that may be present with the PAPE. This will help inform BOEM's Finding of Effect, which will be developed and distributed in August 2021. BOEM will then request comments and feedback within 30 days and distribute the Final Finding of Effect in September 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessica Gabriel".

Jessica Gabriel
New York Bight Section 106 Lead
ICF

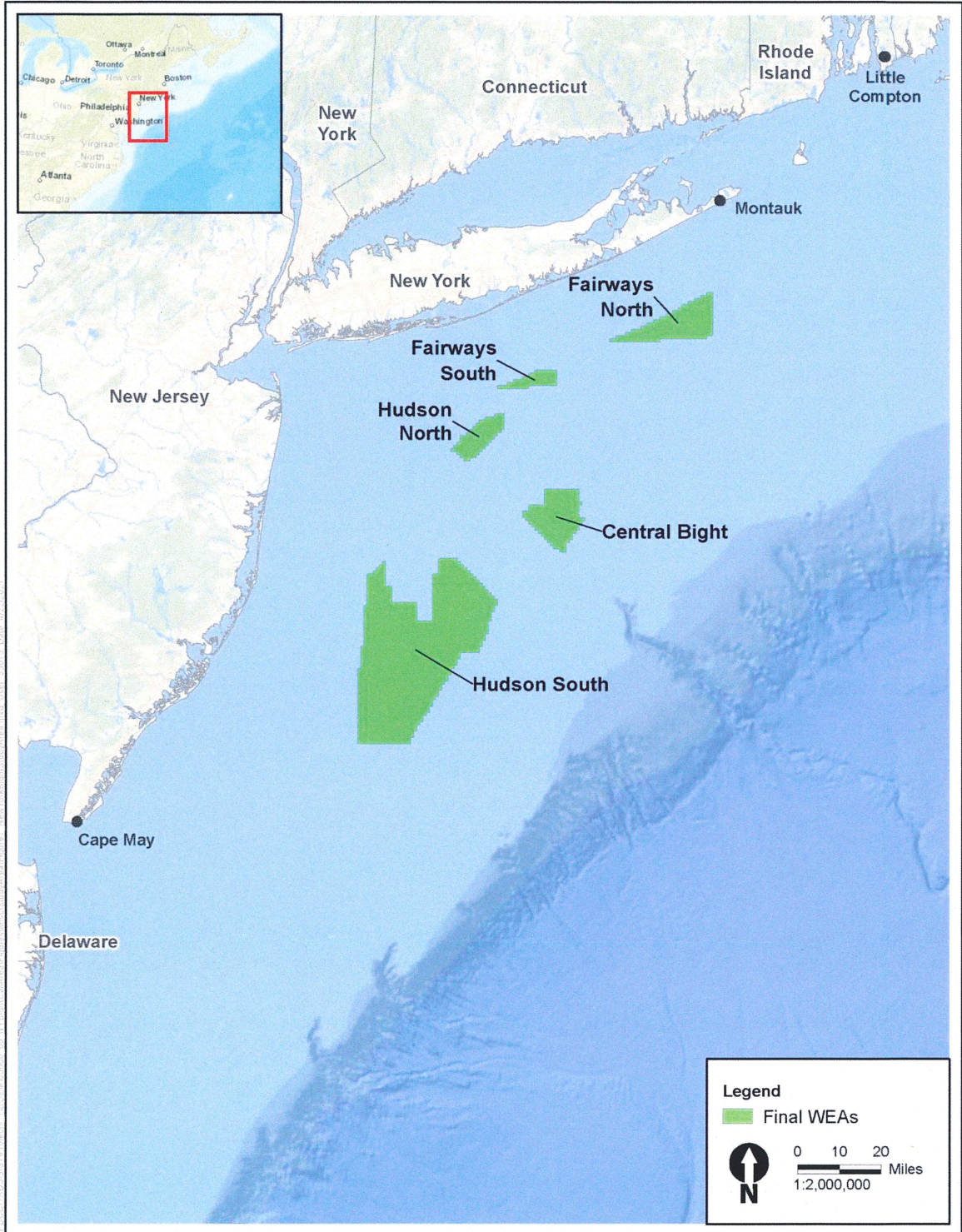


Figure 1. Preliminary Area of Potential Effect
New York Bight Lease and
Right-of-Way/Right-of-Use Issuance

