

Public Notice: Request For Comments

Preliminary Determination of Corresponding Onshore Area Designation for the Deepwater Wind New England, LLC Meteorological Buoy Project

Written comments due: March 8, 2019

What action is being taken?

The EPA has made a preliminary determination to designate the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the corresponding onshore area (COA) for the Deepwater Wind New England, LLC Meteorological Buoy Project. This action is subject to public notice and comment pursuant to the regulations found at 40 CFR part 55.5(f).

Designating a COA for an outer continental shelf (OCS) project allows the EPA to apply all applicable state and local regulations and requirements of the COA to the OCS source(s) in an EPA-issued OCS air permit.

What background information is relevant to this proposed action?

On October 22, 2018, Deepwater Wind New England, LLC submitted an amended notice of intent to submit an air permit application for the proposed installation and operation of a meteorological buoy for the purposes of gathering meteorological data to support development of offshore wind projects in Renewable Energy Lease Number OCS-A 0486. The regulatory provisions at 40 CFR § 55.5(b) allow for a state to request a corresponding onshore area designation from the EPA in instances where that state may not be the nearest onshore area to the OCS source.

In the October 22, 2018 notice of intent, Deepwater Wind New England, LLC identified the State of Rhode Island as the nearest onshore area to the meteorological buoy project. Pursuant to the regulations at 40 CFR § 55.5(b), on December 18, 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) submitted a request and supporting demonstration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be designated as the corresponding onshore area.

If the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is designated as the COA, the meteorological buoy project will be subject to the applicable air permitting regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which will be incorporated into a forthcoming OCS air permit issued by the EPA under 40 CFR part 55.

What are the effects on air quality?

This action to designate a COA does not authorize the construction of any new emission sources or emission increases from existing sources and is not anticipated to have any adverse air quality impact.

The proposed meteorological buoy project is subject to minor source permitting requirements and the project's emission generating activities will be addressed and controlled to the extent possible through an EPA-issued air permit in accordance with the OCS air regulations at 40 CFR part 55. A separate notice will be issued offering the opportunity for public comment on the proposed OCS air permit. If you would like to be notified by email of future Region 1 Clean Air Act permit public comment opportunities, please sign up on our website at <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-permitting-epas-new-england-region>.

How can I review documents?

You can review paper or electronic copies of the proposed action and related documents at the following locations:

U.S. EPA Region 1 Office:

5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Please contact Patrick Bird at 617-918-1287 or bird.patrick@epa.gov for more information.

U.S. EPA Region 1 Websites:

<https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-permitting-epas-new-england-region>

<https://www.epa.gov/publicnotices/actions-open-public-comment-epa-new-england#caa>

Where can I send comments?

The EPA accepts comments by mail, e-mail, or fax.

Mail:
US EPA Region 1
Attn: Air Programs Branch (OEP05-2)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109

Email: bird.patrick@epa.gov

Fax: 617-918-0287

What happens next?

The EPA will review and consider all comments received during the comment period. Following this review, the EPA may issue the determination as proposed or deny the request for designation as the corresponding onshore area.



**United States Environmental
Protection Agency**

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