

APRIL 28, 2010

## CAPE WIND FACT SHEET

### What is the Cape Wind Energy project (“Cape Wind”)?

- First utility-scale offshore wind project to complete the federal review process
- 130 3.6 megawatt (“MW”) wind turbines to be sited on Horseshoe Shoal, a shallow area within Nantucket Sound
- At its closest distances to shore, the Cape Wind project would be located approximately 5.2 miles from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 5.5 miles from Martha’s Vineyard, and 11 miles from Nantucket Island.

### How much electricity will Cape Wind produce?

- Cape Wind will be designed to produce up to 468 megawatts of wind power (each wind turbine will produce up to 3.6 megawatts).
- Average expected electric capacity will be 182 MW, which is approximately 75% of the electricity demand for Cape Cod and the Islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.
- The project is expected to produce 1,600 gigawatt hours of electricity annually. This is enough electricity to power 200,000 homes.<sup>1</sup>

### What are the environmental benefits of the Cape Wind project?

- Cape Wind would produce a maximum electric output of 468 MW free of air and water pollution, and without producing waste.
- MMS has calculated that by avoiding the need to produce power from fossil-fuel fired power plants, Cape Wind would reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)—the pollutant most responsible for global warming—by almost one million tons per year.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/CapeWind.htm>

<sup>2</sup> FEIS at 5-50.

## Why is Cape Wind so important?

- First utility-scale offshore wind project in the US to go through the federal review and approval process
- Will deliver a strong market signal to help spur on and ramp up the US offshore wind industry and become competitive with the rest of the world
- Shows US commitment to renewable energy, especially offshore renewables
- Significant source of carbon-free electricity

## Who supports Cape Wind?

Supporters include:

Governor Deval Patrick  
Attorney General Martha Coakley  
Congressman Edward Markey  
Congressman Barney Frank  
Congressman John Olver  
Congressman James McGovern  
Congresswoman Niki Tsongas  
Congressman Michael Capuano  
Majority of Massachusetts State House  
members, including 25 Committee  
Chairmen  
86% of Massachusetts residents,  
according to two independent public  
opinion polls  
Strong labor, health and environmental  
group support

## How many offshore wind facilities are in operation in Europe ?

According to the European Wind Energy Association, Europe has constructed offshore wind facilities totaling over 2,000 MW of electric capacity, with 828 turbines located in nine countries. Moreover, 17 offshore wind farms are under construction, totaling another 3,500 MW. Of those, nearly half are in British waters. Another 52 offshore wind farms are in European waters and more than 16,000 MW have received regulatory permission, with about half of those planned

in Germany.<sup>3</sup> China and Japan are also developing offshore wind facilities and the technologies and expertise necessary to realize the potential of offshore wind energy resources.<sup>4</sup>

### What is the potential for offshore wind energy in the United States?

The potential for offshore wind energy in the United States is enormous. The offshore wind energy potential in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes alone are capable of providing 900,000 MW of electricity-an amount equivalent to the nation's current total installed electric generation capacity.<sup>5</sup>

### How many other offshore wind projects are under consideration in the United States?

Some seventeen states, including those along the East Coast, Great Lakes states and California and Texas are considering developing offshore wind resources.<sup>6</sup> Projects in Delaware and Rhode Island appear to be moving forward at the head of the queue, although many years behind Cape Wind. In Delaware, Delmarva Power has signed a power purchase agreement with NRG Bluewater Wind for the output of a planned 200-300 MW offshore wind facility; however, the facility has not yet received state and federal permits. In Rhode Island, the state has selected Deepwater Wind to develop a 20 MW offshore wind facility near Block Island. A power purchase agreement with National Grid was recently rejected by the Rhode Island Public Utility Commission; the project has not yet received any state or federal permits.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/18/europes-growing-offshore-wind-capacity/>; <http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=1861>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Offshore Wind Policy: A Path Forward at 4 (2010); <http://www.usowc.org/pdfs/PathForwardfinal.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Offshore Wind Policy: A Path Forward at 4 (2010); <http://www.usowc.org/pdfs/PathForwardfinal.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Id. at 10-16; see also Status of Offshore Wind Development Activity by State, <http://www.usowc.org>.

### What are the job creation benefits of the Cape Wind Project?

Cape Wind has estimated that the assembly and construction of the project will create 390 direct jobs, and 1,000 jobs when factoring in indirect and induced jobs.

When the project is operating, it will create 50 direct jobs plus another hundred indirect and induced positions.

Labor unions supporting the project include the Seafarers' International Union; the Maritime Trades Council, the New England Regional Council of Carpenters, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, and the Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of America.

### What kind of environmental review was conducted for the Cape Wind Project?

The Cape Wind project has gone through two extensive federal environmental reviews since it was first proposed in 2001. At the outset, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) assumed the lead federal regulatory role and issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November 2004.

Then, following the enactment of Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Minerals Management Service ("MMS") of the Department of the Interior assumed lead federal responsibility and initiated its own independent environmental review.

MMS published the Cape Wind draft EIS in January 2008 and the final EIS on January 16, 2009. MMS held four public hearings on the draft EIS, and received more than 42,000 public comments.

The project's final EIS (800 pages long, with extensive appendices) examines a host of potential environmental impacts of the project, as well as alternatives to the project (including alternative sites), mitigation measures and monitoring systems.

### What are the potential impacts of the Cape Wind project on birds?

Following nine years of careful review, and drawing on the scientific research and expertise of Mass Audubon as well as the findings of the federal environmental review, our organizations have concluded that the clean energy environmental

benefits of Cape Wind far outweigh its potential adverse environmental impacts, with the implementation of mitigation measures that we have identified and Cape Wind is committed to achieving.

After years of study, the federal government's environmental report has found that the project's potential impacts on bird species are within an acceptable range. With respect to roseate terns and terns species in general, Mass Audubon's studies indicate that Horseshoe Shoal is a relatively low risk site for roseate terns and tern species, in general, when compared with other potential site locations in Nantucket Sound. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the Cape Wind project will not jeopardize the roseate tern population, with the incorporation of mitigation, monitoring and conservation efforts.

As was recommended by our organizations, Cape Wind will perform several years of post-construction monitoring and take measures to minimize the impact on birds, bats, and other wildlife, including:

- monitoring potential collisions and establishing reporting protocols;
- acoustic surveys of bat activity;
- aerial surveys of changes in avian activity and distribution;
- wildlife conservation efforts supported by a \$10 million fund established by Cape Wind

Additionally, coal-fired power plants have devastating impacts on birds and other wildlife and their habitats in the form of mercury and acid rain pollution, as well as from climate change. In comparison, renewable energy projects, including offshore wind projects, have far fewer impacts.