

## Demystifying the Project Design Envelope (PDE)

There are benefits to allowing lessees to describe a reasonable range of project designs in a Construction and Operations Plan (COP). This is due to the project's complexity, the unpredictability of the environment in which it will be constructed, and/or the rapid pace of technological development within the industry.

Development of the PDE is integral to determining potential impacts on the environment. Impact analysis is carried out through a "maximum design scenario," where the PDE parameter that represents the greatest effect is selected for the impact analysis of each.

### Best Practices for Preparing a Permittable PDE

- + Establish a team approach at kick-off
- + Collaborate with permitting, engineering, and development to allow for full understanding of the risks to permitting from design decisions
- + Build on experiences from other projects
- + Facilitate workshops to develop consensus of PDE approach
- + Clearly communicate PDE decisions and change implications, data availability, and deadlines with your development team
- + PDE parameters should be well-defined at least nine (9) months prior to COP Submittal to minimize potential delays

Develop a *team approach* between permitting, engineering, and development to build a well-formed, flexible Project Design Envelope which will reduce risks as the Project continues through to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.



Scan to learn more about  
Stantec's Offshore Wind Services

OFFSHORE  
WINDPOWER

### Overall Permitting Strategy

- + Avoid important habitat of marine mammals, sea turtles, and benthic community
- + Engage with the fishing community early and frequently
- + Consult with tribal, minority, and environmental justice communities and other concerned stakeholders
- + Communicate with agencies early and often on the design parameters of your project
- + Follow BOEM's "NOI Checklist guidance". This will allow for best results when it comes to a timeframe of Initial COP Submittal to BOEM deeming your Application Consistent with the NOI checklist
- + Allow the NEPA process and scoping to support the narrowing of your PDE, which is allowable six (6) months after the Notice of Intent publication

### References

[Phased Approaches to Offshore Wind Developments and Use of Project Design Envelope—Final Technical Report](#)

[Final Information Needed for Issuance of a Notice of Intent \(NOI\) Under the National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) for a Construction and Operations Plan \(COP\)](#)

[Draft Guidance Regarding the Use of a Project Design Envelope in a Construction and Operations Plan](#)

### Contact

**John Crowther**  
Offshore Wind Sector Leader—Senior Principal  
617-639-7390 | [john.crowther@stantec.com](mailto:john.crowther@stantec.com)

