

ERM's Experience With Third Party Contracting

Introduction

The offshore wind (OSW) industry has experienced significant growth over the past two decades, and Environmental Resources Management, Inc. (ERM) has been a substantial contributor both internationally and within the U.S. ERM has led and supported National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses and Section 106 consultations for several successfully permitted OSW projects in the U.S., including Vineyard Wind 1 and the New England Wind Project. These projects have provided valuable experience in addressing the complex issues within the NEPA and Section 106 frameworks, as well as in understanding the procedural requirements of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Permitting OSW projects in the U.S. involves multiple federal, state, and local agencies, each with different levels of stakeholder involvement and oversight.

Objective

The objective of this poster is to present pertinent and strategic insights and lessons learned by ERM from supporting projects in the U.S. Highlighting these lessons is essential for the successful development of future projects.

ERM's Lessons Learned Form Third-Party Experiences to Ensure Successful Project Development

- ✓ **Streamline communications** with BOEM and cooperating agencies to meet the 2-year EIS timelines and maintain schedule adherence through set milestones.
- ✓ **Greater transparency and efficiency** in optimizing regulatory procedures to prevent delays in the required information needed for the permitting approaches.
- ✓ **Building an agile team** is critical to efficiently accommodate any changes during the NEPA and Section 106 processes.
- ✓ Developing a **robust Construction and Operations Plan** that is data-rich and early in the Project can help streamline the NEPA and Section 106 processes.
- ✓ A **comprehensive Project Design Envelope** should be developed that can cover any design parameters that may change over the life of the Project.
- ✓ **The Section 106 process** can be challenging as every OSW project is unique. Early and frequent engagement with Tribes and SHPO to address concerns and develop mitigation measures is crucial.
- ✓ ERM has developed **strong working relationships with BOEM** that has helped all parties involved navigate the NEPA and Section 106 Processes.

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ERM's offshore wind experience in the U.S. and internationally:



Conclusions

The intent of sharing these strategic insights and lessons learned is to help facilitate the development of future projects. While some of the insights here may be more obvious to certain stakeholders than others, sharing these with regulators, developers, and other consultants provides an opportunity to learn from past experiences and improve these processes moving forward. As the offshore wind industry continues to progress in the U.S., ERM is well-positioned to continue being a leader and contributor to all stages of a project's lifecycle, from early screening and feasibility stages through to the operations phase.



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