



BOEM BUREAU OF OCEAN
ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Unsolicited Lease Request Process Hecate Energy Gulf Wind LLC

Gulf of Mexico Wind Energy Area Options C and D
Request for Competitive Interest

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Request for a Noncompetitive Lease

Process (§ 585.231):

- BOEM will consider unsolicited requests for a lease on a **case-by-case basis** and may issue a lease noncompetitively in accordance with [30 CFR 585.231](#).
- We will not consider an unsolicited request for a lease under this part that is proposed in an area of the OCS that is scheduled for a lease sale under this part.





BOEM Unsolicited Lease Request Information Requirements

All requirements per § 585.230:

- Area requested for lease.
- Description of objectives and facilities to achieve those objectives.
- Schedule of proposed activities, including those leading to commercial operations.
- Available and pertinent data and information concerning renewable energy and environmental conditions in the area of interest.
- If available, a statement that the proposed activity conforms with State and local energy planning requirements, initiatives, or guidance.
- Documentation showing that company meets the qualifications to become a lessee as specified in §§ 585.107 and 585.108.
- Acquisition fee—\$0.25 per acre as specified in § 585.502(a), unless otherwise set by the Director due at the time of application.



Overview of the Noncompetitive Lease Award Process



Note: BOEM has full discretion to advance or discontinue the application. This icon indicates that BOEM may choose to move forward or terminate the request at this stage.

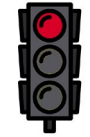
BOEM publishes a **Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)** to the Federal Register

45-day public comment period

No competitive interest received during RFCI comment period



Competitive interest received during RFCI comment period



Determination of No Competitive Interest (DNCI) published to the Federal Register

BOEM initiates the Competitive Lease Award Process
BOEM closes the unsolicited lease request

BOEM will prepare and provide a **written estimate of the proposed fee** to pay for the processing costs under § 585.112, including any environmental review that BOEM may require before lease issuance.

- If you submit a bid for the lease area in a competitive lease sale, your acquisition fee will be applied to the deposit for your bonus bid.
- If you do not submit a bid for the lease area in a competitive lease sale, BOEM will not refund your acquisition fee.

BOEM conducts a **NEPA analysis**. This analysis includes site assessment and site characterization.

The applicant will be responsible for submitting any **consistency certification** and necessary data and information in a timely manner to the applicable State CZMA agencies and BOEM pursuant to 15 CFR part 930, subpart D.

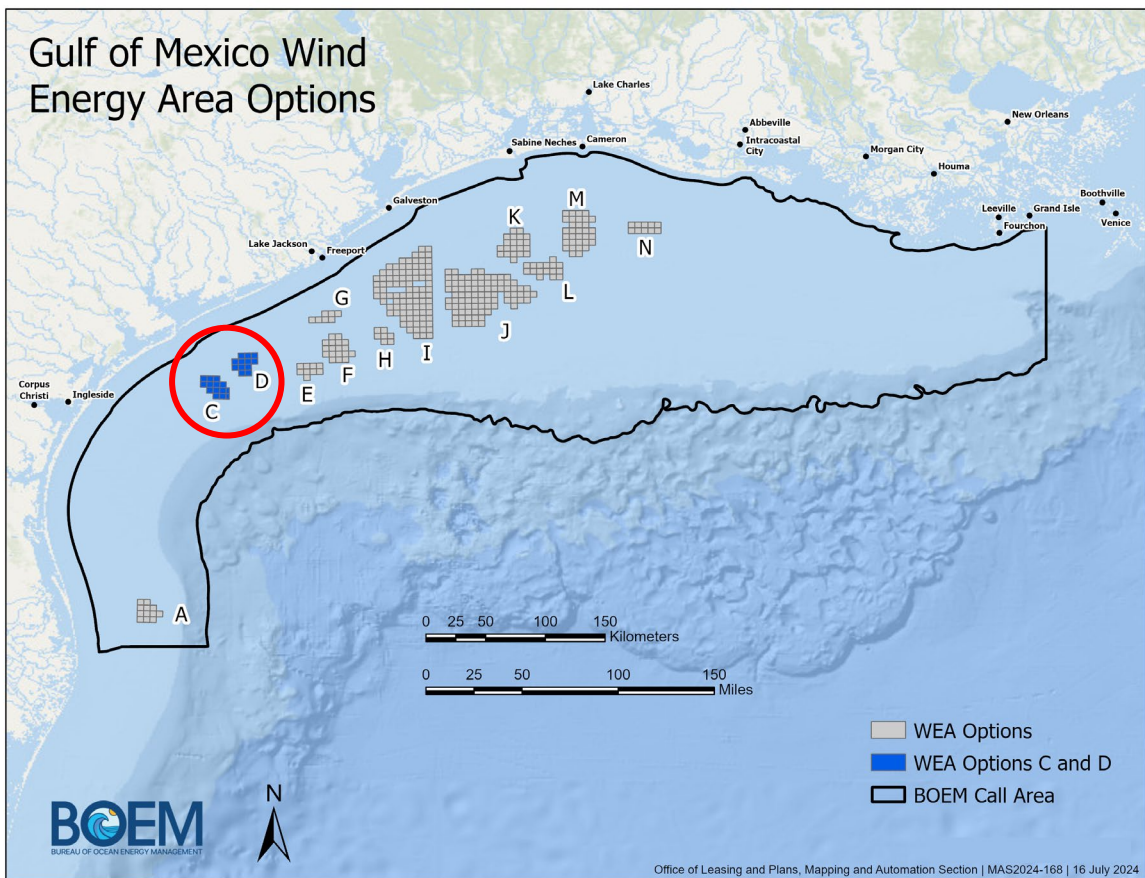
BOEM will conduct environmental reviews required by Federal law and consult with affected Federal agencies, federally recognized Indigenous Tribes, and State and local governments.



After completing the review of your lease request, **BOEM may decide to offer you a noncompetitive lease.**
If a lease is offered, all lease requirements (consultations, communication plans, survey plans, and COP) must be met.



WEA Option History



2021

- **June:** BOEM published Request for Interest (RFI) to assess interest in potential offshore wind development in the Gulf of Mexico
- **November:** BOEM published Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to further assess interest and solicit public comment.

2022

- BOEM/NCCOS developed the first ecosystem-wide spatial suitability model to inform the selection of WEA options within the GOM Call.
- 14 WEA options were identified and published in the joint report.
- BOEM announced two final Wind Energy Areas (WEAs I and M).

2023

- **May:** BOEM published the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
 - BOEM completed consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).
 - This EA, FONSI, and consultations cover the entire Call Area and the issuance of up to 18 leases within the Call Area.
- **September:** WEA M was leased to RWE Offshore Wind in the GOMW-1 auction.
- **October:** BOEM announced additional final WEAs (J, K, L and N) in preparation for future sales.

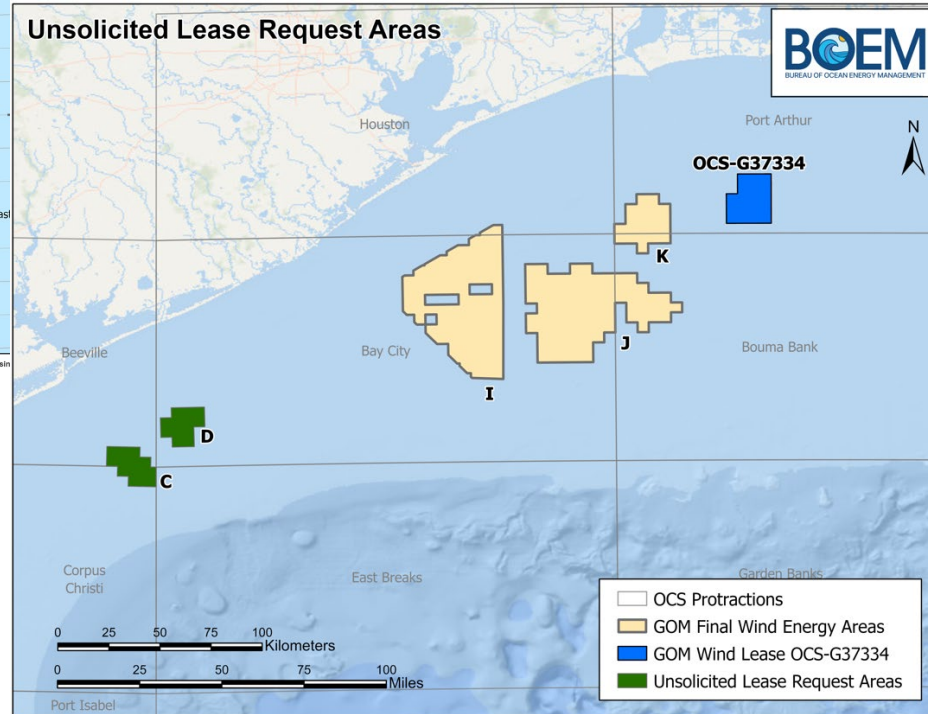
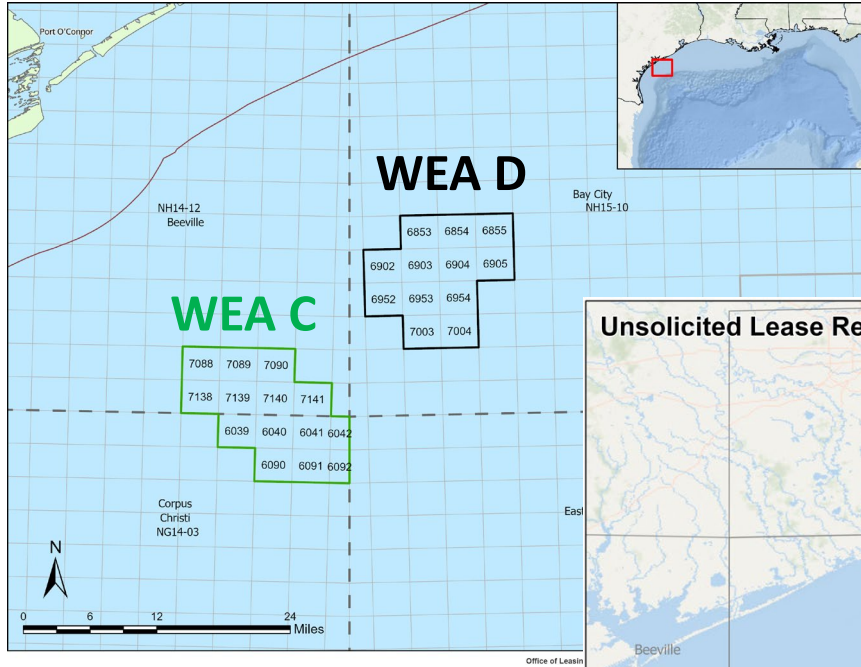
2024

- **February:** Hecate Gulf Wind LLC submitted an unsolicited lease request for WEA options C and D.
- **July:** After thorough internal review, BOEM published a Request for Competitive Interest in the Federal Register.





Proposed Project Area: WEA Options C and D



- **WEA C: 74,113 acres**
 - Distance to shore: 37.3 km
 - Mean depth across entire area 47.6 m
 - Max depth 60.8 m
 - Min depth 34.3 m
- **WEA D: 68,239 acres**
 - Distance to shore: 39.8 km
 - Mean depth across entire area 36.1 m
 - Max depth 44.7 m
 - Min depth 28.9 m
- **Combined acreage: 142,352 acres**
- **Both areas within the GOM Call Area**

Office of Leasing and Plans - Mapping and Automation Section | MAS2024-169 | 17 July 2024



Proposed Project Design: Hecate Energy's Gulf Wind 2

- Up to **133 fixed-bottom wind turbine generators (WTGs)**.
 - Each with a capacity of **15-23 MW**, with an overall **maximum capacity of approximately 3,000 MW**.
 - Each turbine deployed on **fixed monopile or jacket foundation types**.
- Hecate narrowed its selections to three points of interconnection within **Texas and Louisiana** and continues to examine 12 potential landfall locations with paths to three designated substations.
 - Export cables may run separately from each of the two lease areas, or the lease areas may be joined offshore with one substation and one central export cable.





Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)

§ 585.231

- Information included
 - Description of the RFCI area(s)
 - Map and blocks list
 - Application and project background
- Hecate RFCI published on July 29, 2024, in the *Federal Register*
 - Requires 45-day comment period which ends **September 12, 2024**
 - Comments should be submitted to <https://www.regulations.gov/>. In the search box at the top of the webpage, enter **BOEM-2024-0039**, click "search," and click the Comment button.
- BOEM will determine if competitive interest exists based on responses received to the RFCI
 - Comments are solicited on the RFCI Areas, the proposed project, and any potential impacts of wind energy development within the RFCI area



Possible Outcome of RFCI: Competitive Interest



- After the RFCI comment period, if BOEM determines there is competitive interest, the **competitive lease award process** may be initiated (§ 585.210-216 and § 585.220-225):
 - Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) publication to the *Federal Register*
 - PSN 60-day comment period
 - Final Sale Notice (FSN) publication to the *Federal Register*
 - Auction



Possible Outcome of RFCI: No Competitive Interest

If BOEM determines there is **no competitive interest**, a **Determination of No Competitive Interest (DNCI)** will be published to the *Federal Register*.



What's Happens Next?

- Per modernization rule, BOEM will prepare and provide a **written estimate of the proposed fee to pay for the processing costs** under [§ 585.112](#)
 - Includes any environmental review that BOEM may require before lease issuance
 - BOEM's [Final Environmental Assessment for the Gulf of Mexico](#) was announced on May 25, 2023, and found no significant impacts. While this covers WEA Options C and D, any activities or Impact Producing Factors (IPFs) not covered in the Final EA will require additional NEPA analysis.
- BOEM will conduct environmental reviews required by Federal law and consult with affected Federal agencies, federally recognized Indigenous Tribes, and State and local governments.
- The applicant will be responsible for submitting any required **consistency certification** and necessary **data and information** to the applicable State CZMA agency(ies) and BOEM.
 - per [15 CFR part 930, subpart D](#)



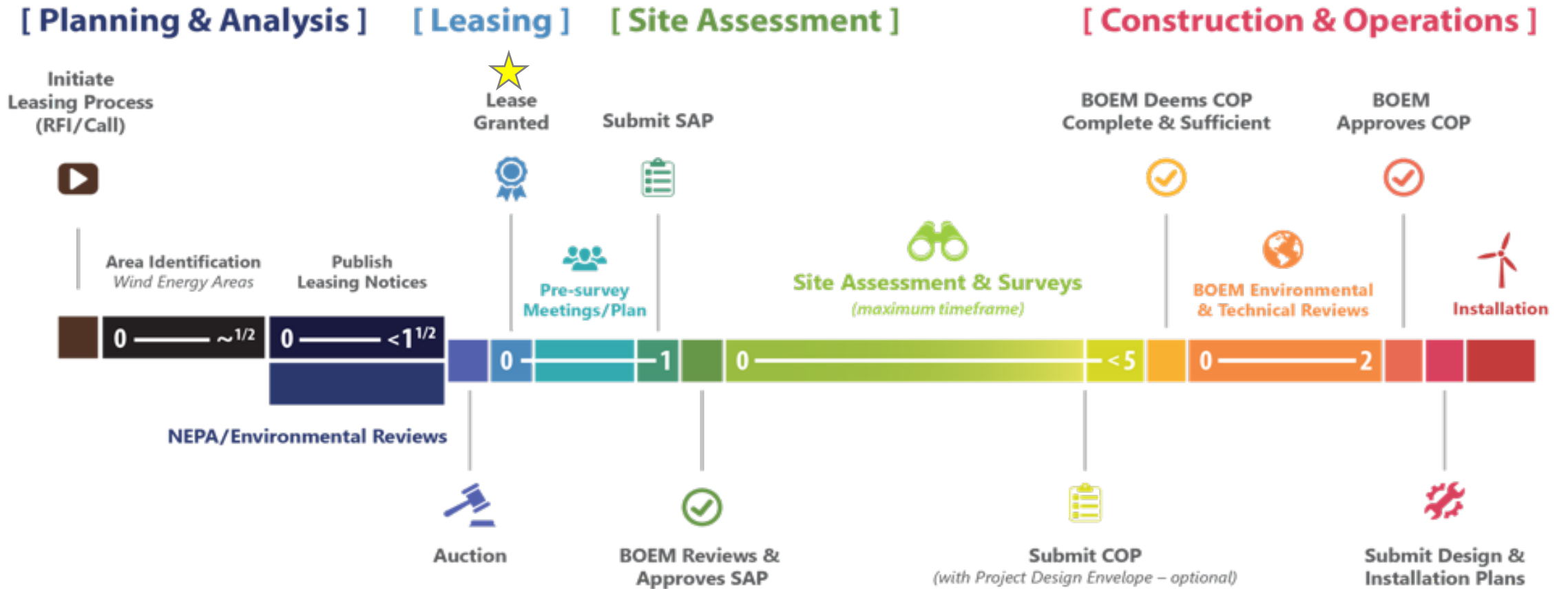
Next Steps: Offering and Issuance of a Noncompetitive Lease

After the publication of a DNCI, BOEM may offer a noncompetitive lease.

- The terms and conditions of the lease **must be accepted before the lease can be issued.**
 - Note: If the lessee does not accept the terms and conditions, BOEM will not issue a lease and will not refund the acquisition fee.
- Lessee must comply with all terms and conditions of the lease and all applicable provisions of this part and 30 CFR part 285.
- **Within 10 business days after company receives the lease:**
 - Execute and return the lease;
 - File financial assurance as required under § 585.516 through § 585.529.
- **Within 45 calendar days after company receives its copy of the executed lease:**
 - Pay the first 12 months' rent, as required in § 585.503.
- **Finally, BOEM will publish in the *Federal Register* a notice announcing the issuance of the lease.**

Renewable Energy Leasing Process:

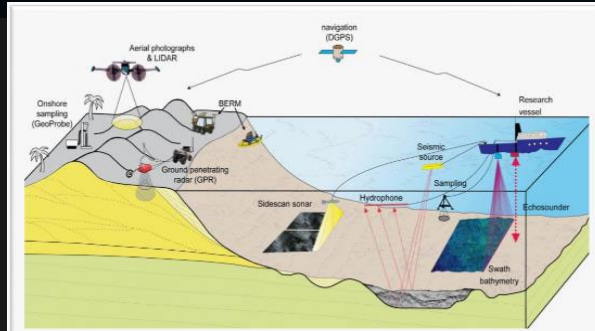
Timeline of Operations



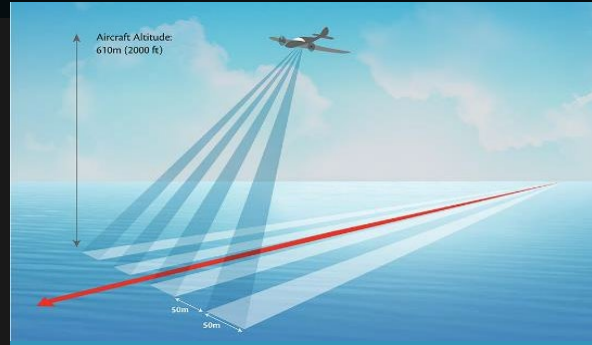
★ **Note:** Whether a lease is issued via the competitive *or* non-competitive leasing processes, the steps are same after the issuance of the lease.



Site Assessment: Surveys and Site Assessment Activities



Prerequisite: SAP/COP Survey Plan



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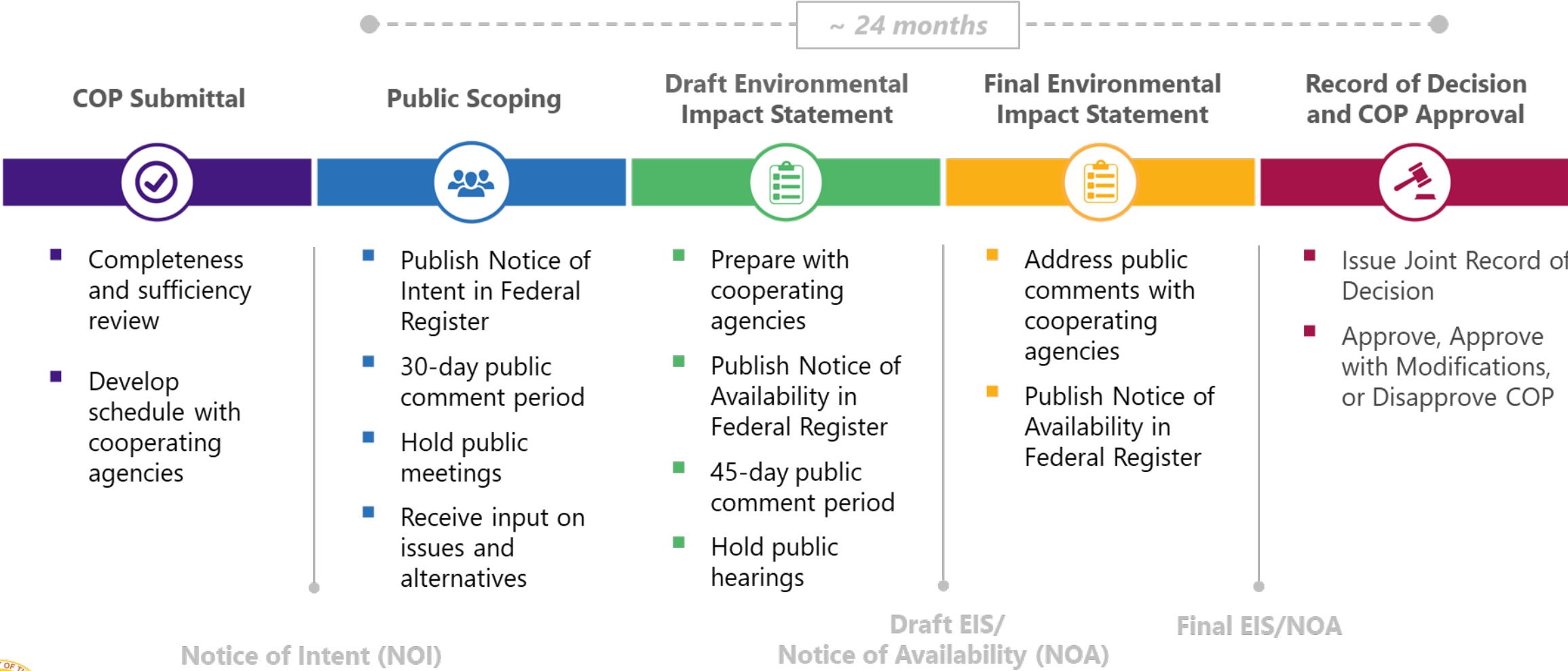
Prerequisite: No SAP is required for met buoys

Communications Plans: Native American Tribes Communications Plan, Agency Communications Plan, Fisheries Communications Plan, Progress Reports

Survey Plans: Reviewed by BOEM prior to survey operations.

The Preliminary Period: often includes multiple survey mobilizations, purpose-specific activities (such as geophysical, geotechnical, benthic habitat, and unexploded ordinance surveys) intended to cover the offshore wind facility area of potential effect (vertical and horizontal). This period may include installation of site assessment assets, such as met buoys (which do not require a SAP), or met towers (which do require a SAP).

Environmental Review & Approval Process for Construction and Operations Plans





Opportunity for Comment on the RFCI

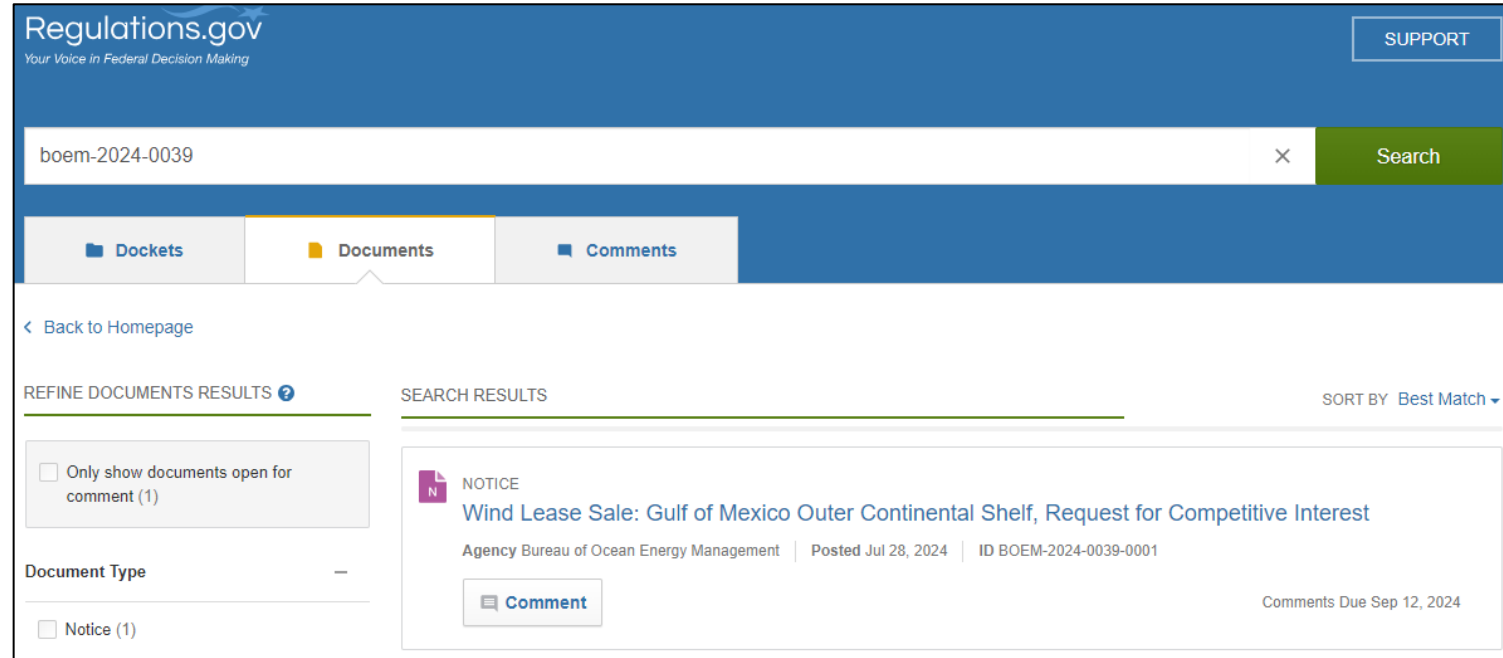
Federal eRulemaking Portal

<https://www.regulations.gov/>

In the search box at the top of the webpage, enter **BOEM-2024-0039**, click "search," then click the Comment button.

Submissions indicating your interest in or providing comments on commercial leasing within the RFCI Areas must be received no later than **September 12, 2024**.

Late submissions may not be considered.





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