



*State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper  
Governor*

March 3, 2021

*20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301*

Ms. Amanda Lefton, Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Director Lefton:

Congratulations on your appointment to lead the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). I look forward to working with you to swiftly advance leasing of existing wind energy areas (WEAs) off North Carolina's coast and to identify new WEAs.

Offshore wind is an important resource for North Carolina's transition to a clean energy economy and economic development. The North Carolina Clean Energy Plan calls for a 70% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050. A recent analysis conducted for the North Carolina Department of Commerce concluded that additional offshore wind development along our coast will significantly increase the opportunities for job creation and economic development in our state. To meet North Carolina's goals for clean energy and economic prosperity, we need additional offshore wind energy projects and WEAs.

Former President Trump established a moratorium on offshore wind leasing along the North Carolina coast, effective July 1, 2022. It is important that President Biden's Administration take all available actions to remove the moratorium. Given the threat that the moratorium will prohibit additional offshore wind projects along our coast for a decade, I respectfully request that BOEM promptly proceed with activities needed to lease the Wilmington East and Wilmington West WEAs by July 1, 2022. Such activities include reconvening the North Carolina Renewable Energy Task Force, reviewing new information and research, and issuing a Proposed Sale Notice.


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North Carolina is committed to working with BOEM to meet the July 1 deadline. My staff have begun a thorough review of BOEM's 2015 Finding of No Significant Impact for the two WEAs, and they are evaluating more recent resources that may complement the content of that environmental document.

In addition, I reiterate the appeal made by Secretary Michael Regan of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) in a 2018 letter requesting that BOEM designate additional WEAs off the North Carolina coast. My staff are ready to work with BOEM and other partners on this matter as well.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, and please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Mundt, Senior Policy Advisor at NCDEQ ([Jennifer.mundt@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Jennifer.mundt@ncdenr.gov)) for additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

RAC/sm/jt

cc: Ms. Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs