

March 9, 2011

Program Manager
Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs
Mail Stop 4090
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Regulation and Enforcement
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170

Re: Comments on Cape Wind COP EA
Docket ID: BOEM-2011-0007

Dear Program Manager:

The undersigned environmental, clean energy, labor, science and public health stakeholders appreciate this opportunity to comment in response to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement's ("BOEMRE") Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Construction and Operations Plan ("COP") for Cape Wind Associates, LLC's 130-turbine offshore wind energy project in Nantucket Sound ("Cape Wind").

Cape Wind is the nation's first offshore wind project, and holds promise for supplying the equivalent of three-quarters of the electricity demand of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket with emissions-free electricity. Cape Wind also holds tremendous potential for spurring an entire sector of much-needed offshore clean energy development and concretely advancing the Obama Administration's critical clean energy goals. Further, Cape Wind is essential for ensuring that ambitious state-based renewable energy mandates will be met.

Cape Wind has been extensively scrutinized over nearly ten years of rigorous federal and state environmental and permitting reviews. In light of Cape Wind's significant clean energy potential and the detailed state and federal permitting and leasing requirements geared toward avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts, the project's benefits are expected to significantly outweigh its impacts.

The new developments that have occurred subsequent to the last federal Environmental Assessment for Cape Wind largely comprise the issuance of federal permits that do not materially alter the project or its impact on the environment. Likewise, the superseding biological opinion prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service in the wake of increased sightings of North Atlantic Right Whales in 2010 reasonably concludes that the risks posed by Cape Wind are insignificant, and that sufficient protective measures already are in place.

Accordingly, we believe the Environmental Assessment appropriately should conclude with a Finding of No New Significant Impact ("FONNSI") and a determination that a supplemental EIS is *not* required. Moreover, the Environmental Assessment should take into account the increasing urgency of the need to move forward with construction of Cape Wind, as well as the risks of any further delay – e.g., the negative impacts of prolonging our dependence on imported fossil fuels, delaying the substantial reductions in air pollution that Cape Wind will provide, and losing ground in our collective effort to build a new clean energy economy.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

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