

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #8: REGIONAL REVIEWS – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

A. PNRS Items (Initial Review)

The HRPDC staff is routinely involved in the review of applications for grants to support projects involving federal or state funding. To ensure that all Commissioners are aware of projects being reviewed, brief summaries of these projects and anticipated review schedules are included in the Agenda. The HRPDC staff will continue to request comments directly from staff in localities that appear to be directly affected by a project. Review and comment by more than one locality is requested when a project may affect the entire region or a sub-regional area. There were no outstanding comments as of March 2, 2012 on this project.

Attachment 8A - PNRS

B. Environmental Impact Assessment / Statement Review

The HRPDC staff is routinely involved in the review of environmental impact assessments and statements for projects involving federal funding or permits as well as state development projects. To ensure that all Commissioners are aware of projects being reviewed, brief summaries of these projects and anticipated review schedules are included in the Agenda. The HRPDC staff will continue to request comments directly from staff in localities that appear to be directly affected by a project. Attached is a listing and summary of projects that are presently under review.

Attachment 8B – Environmental Impact Assessment/Statement Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None required.

Project Notification and Reviews

Date 2/1/2012 **CH #** VA120125-1223740

Title Empowering Low Income Students to Restore the Elizabeth River

Applicant The Elizabeth River Project

State/Federal Program Environmental Protection Agency

Type of Impact Elizabeth River watershed **Project Staff** Sara Kidd

Project Description

The Elizabeth River Project will partner with two school systems to empower 1,900 inner-city students to make behavioral changes to help restore the urban Elizabeth River to conditions safe for swimming and eating shellfish. Norfolk and Portsmouth Public School systems are participating.

Federal	\$60,000.00	Local	\$0.00
Applicant	\$7,500.00	Other	\$0.00
State	\$0.00	Income	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$67,500.00	

Date 2/29/2012 **CH #** VA120209-1323760

Title Virginia's NO2 Near-Road Monitoring Program

Applicant Department of Environmental Quality

State/Federal Program Air Pollution Control Program Support (EPA)

Type of Impact Hampton Roads **Project Staff** Sara Kidd

Project Description

DEQ will utilize this funding mechanism to identify candidates on near-road NO2 (nitrogen dioxide) monitoring locations in Northern Virginia/Metro DC area, Richmond Metro Area, and the Hampton Roads Metro Area. Once these three sites are approved, DEQ will construct, outfit, implement, install, and operate these permanent near-road NO2 monitoring stations.

Federal	\$418,645.00	Local	\$0.00
Applicant	\$0.00	Other	\$0.00
State	\$0.00	Income	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$418,645.00	

Environmental Impact Reviews

Received 1/19/2012

Number 12-008F

Name Commercial Renewable Energy Transmission on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Mid-

Sponsor DOI/Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Description

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requesting public comments on an unsolicited application for an electrical transmission right-of-way (ROW) grant supporting renewable energy. On March 31, 2011, BOEM received an application from Atlantic Grid Holdings LLC (AGH) for a ROW grant on the OCS offshore New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. AGH's proposed project, Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC), would entail the construction and installation of a two-circuit, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line that would collect power generated by wind power generation facilities on the OCS and deliver it to the grid operated by PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) and possibly also the New York Independent System Operator, LLC (NYISO). When the wind power generation facilities are not functioning at full capacity, the AWC facilities would facilitate the transmission of conventionally generated electricity between points on the onshore grid. The AWC project is proposed as a single integrated system constructed in five phases over ten years. There are two construction phases that would occur in the Virginia OCS: Phase D-offshore facilities from Maryland to Virginia (about 175 statute miles) with a capacity of up to 1,000 MW; and Phase E-offshore facilities from Delaware to Virginia (about 165 statute miles) with a capacity of up to 1,000 MW. Circuits would connect to the onshore transmission grid at up to seven locations where AWC terrestrial converter stations would convert the HVDC current to HVAC and connect to the grid. In Virginia, interconnections are planned at two of the following three potential interconnection points: one in Virginia Beach; and two more at Fentress. BOEM provided public notice in the Federal Register (Vol. 76, No. 245, December 21, 2011), in part, to solicit public input regarding the proposal, its potential environmental consequences, and the use of the area in which the proposal would be located. BOEM requests information about site conditions and multiple uses within the ROW area that would be relevant to the proposed project or its impacts.

Affected Localities Virginia Beach

Finding

Based on this review, the proposal appears to be consistent with local and regional plans and policies. Both the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the City of Virginia Beach support the development of offshore wind energy facilities as an important part of the nation's energy infrastructure. Integrating offshore facilities into the existing grid involves significant planning issues. Any specific proposal to establish an interconnection point in the City of Virginia Beach will need to be addressed through the City's existing planning processes and policies as well as reviewed for consistency with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Comments Sent 2/14/2012

Final State Comments Received 2/17/2012

Received 1/19/2012

Number 12-007F

Name Air Field Clear Zone Management Plan, Naval Station Norfolk

Sponsor DOD/Department of the Navy

Description

The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) proposes to establish an Airfield Clear Zone Management Plan (ACZMP) for Naval Station Norfolk in the City of Norfolk. The ACZMP will be implemented within the installation's Airfield Operations Area (AOA) boundaries. An AOA consists of infrastructure and airspace of an airfield to include the runway complex, taxiways and ramp area and overlying airspace both on and off the airfield property. ACZMPs address vegetation management in the AOA to ensure vegetation is maintained at acceptable heights over a plan's 10-year lifespan. The Navy is considering three alternative ACZMPs, including a no action alternative. The two action ACZMPs (which includes the preferred alternative) would include the use of manual, mechanical and herbicide vegetation control methods depending on the type and density of the vegetation. The Navy has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Affected Localities Norfolk

Finding

The proposal appears to be consistent with local and regional plans and policies.

Comments Sent 2/13/2012

Final State Comments Received

Received 2/9/2012

Number 12-027F

Name Commercial Leasing for Wind Power Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore

Sponsor DOI/Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Description

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has issued a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) from interested and affected parties for the construction of a wind energy project(s) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore Virginia. BOEM will use the response to the Call to gauge specific interest in the acquisition of commercial wind lease(s) in some or all of the area and to determine whether competitive interest exists in any particular area, as required by 43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3). Although the publication of this notice is not itself a leasing announcement, the area may be subject to future leasing. In addition, BOEM is seeking comments from interested and affected parties regarding site conditions, resources, and multiple uses of the identified area that would be relevant to BOEM's review of the nominations submitted and any subsequent decision concerning whether to offer all or part of the area for commercial wind leasing. More specifically, BOEM is seeking information on (1) geological and geophysical conditions (including bottom and shallow hazards); (2) known archaeological and/or cultural resource sites on the seabed; (3) historic properties potentially affected by the construction of meteorological towers, the installation of meteorological buoys, or commercial wind development; (4) multiple uses of the area, including navigation (in particular, commercial and recreational vessel use), recreation, and fisheries (commercial and recreational); and (5) other relevant socioeconomic, biological, and environmental information. The Call Area was delineated in consultation with the BOEM Virginia Renewable Energy Task Force. The western edge of the Call Area is approximately 23.5 nautical miles (nmi) from the Virginia Beach coastline, and extends to an eastern edge that is approximately 36.5 nmi from the same location. The longest north/south portion is approximately 10.5 nmi in length and the longest portion of the east/west portion is approximately 13 nmi in length. The area is made up of 19 whole OCS blocks and 13 sub-blocks. The entire area is approximately 112,799 acres, or 45,648 hectares.

Affected Localities Virginia Beach

Finding

Comments Sent

Final State Comments Received