

**Mariners' Advisory  
Committee**  
for the Bay & River Delaware

Captain Stephen Roberts, Chairman

Captain H. Hickman Rowland Jr., Secretary

Organized 1964

Captain Rick Iuliucci, Treasurer

Captain Joseph F. Bradley, Honorary Chairman



William Waskes, Project Coordinator  
BOEMRE  
Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs  
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4090  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Commercial Leasing for Wind Power  
on the Outer Continental Shelf  
Offshore New Jersey—Call for  
Information and Nominations  
Docket No. BOEM-2011-0005

June 4, 2011


Mr. Waskes:

The Mariners Advisory Committee for the Bay & River Delaware (MAC) is comprised of master mariners, pilots and other maritime professionals and concerns itself with safety of navigation, with particular regard to large ocean going vessels. This committee works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, commercial operators, and port industry personnel to recommend and promote safe navigation practices on the Delaware Bay and River, as well as the approaches to this very important waterway.

The MAC is on record supporting the safe development of wind energy areas along the coasts of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. To that end the MAC created the Wind Energy Working Group that had its inaugural meeting on April 27, 2011 in Philadelphia. The maritime industry expressed their concerns with the proliferation of development areas infringing on the tradition navigation fairways linking the ports of New York/New Jersey with the Ports of the Delaware and further south to the entrance of Chesapeake Bay. The wind energy industry expressed their desire to expand development from the currently proposed areas to those further offshore towards the continental shelf. There is a proposal to establish vessel traffic lanes in the above mentioned areas to manage traffic around the development areas and the United States Coast Guard has initiated a Port Access Route Study (PARS) to investigate vessel traffic patterns between all ports on the East Coast.

The New Jersey Call Area described in Docket No. BOEM-2011-0005 may have minimal affect on coastal vessel traffic; however, I would encourage all parties involved in the offshore wind energy discussion to await the findings of the PARS before contemplating further development. While the national need for alternative energy sources is widely acknowledged, it must not come at the expense of safe navigation practices or the viability of our nation's port system.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Captain Stephen A. Roberts  
Pilots' Association for the Bay & River Delaware  
Chairman, Mariners Advisory Committee

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