



P.O. Box 1077, West Tisbury, MA 02575
t. 508.693.3002; info@vineyardpower.com
www.vineyardpower.com

February 3, 2011

To: Department of the Interior/BOEMRE:

We are submitting this letter in response to Docket No. BOEM-2010-0063, titled Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Offshore Massachusetts – Request for Interest (RFI), which was issued in the Federal Register Volume 75, number 249 by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) on Wednesday, December 29, 2010.

The following quote is taken from the Department of Interior's Renewable Energy and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf; Final Rule, dated April 29, 2009, Page 7:

“Most importantly, MMS coordination and consultation with regional, state, and local planning mechanisms will give those entities that will be most affected by renewable energy activity a proper voice in the development of priorities.”

As a community owned utility cooperative, located on Martha's Vineyard, with over 1025 members, Vineyard Power surely is one of those entities that will be most affected by renewable energy activity and should have a proper voice in the development and definition of BOEMRE priorities and criteria.

Our priority is the following: BOEMRE give special consideration to projects like our own. We ask for two specific considerations. 1) BOEMRE reserve blocks, a “set aside” specifically for the development of community-owned projects and/or 2) Lower the qualifying lease standards in regards to financial and technical requirements.

The window of opportunity for local communities to develop offshore wind projects are closing and of limited duration. Those opportunities are even less so for us because community-owned projects have potential to build only in those waters that surround them by close proximity. A private developer, by contrast, could potentially apply for lease blocks at various locations up and down the Atlantic coast. Companies have already demonstrated this ability.

If the above two considerations are met, it will ensure that those communities affected, by offshore wind development, will truly benefit from the legislations of today and the expansion of renewable energy. It will keep the benefits local and set a valuable precedence that, we believe, will guide our countries energy future by building community ownership of electricity production.

Regards,

Richard Andre,

President, Vineyard Power