

OVERVIEW OF THE MMS OFFSHORE WIND LEASING PROCESS

U.S. projects in federal waters require 1-2 years to obtain a non-competitive commercial lease, or 2-3 years to obtain a competitive commercial lease.

It takes an additional 4-7 years to develop and fully commission any large (≥ 350 Megawatt) project.

There are different processes depending on how you begin leasing (unsolicited vs. Request For Interest) and depending on the types of responses you receive (competitive vs. noncompetitive).

An abbreviated list of necessary steps include:

- MMS establishes the State/Federal/Local/Tribal Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force
- Potential offshore areas are identified based on Task Force recommendations and wind developer interest
- Leases and permits for the installation of meteorological towers must be obtained from federal agencies and wind data gathered for 1-2 years
- Federal environmental reviews are conducted at various points in the process to determine potential impacts
- Several plans (e.g., General Activities Plan, Site Assessment Plan and Construction and Operations Plan) must be submitted by the developer for review and approval by federal agencies
- State agencies are afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental reviews and developer plans throughout the multi-year process
- Authorizations and permits from state and/or federal regulatory agencies must be obtained for transmission lines
- MMS awards Commercial Lease to developer for 5 year assessment term + 25 year operations term