

**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



July 22, 2011

BOEMRE Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs
Attn: Program Manager
381 Elden Street, MS 4090
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Docket # BOEM-2010-0077
Comments on Environmental Impacts for NJ, DE, MD and WEAs

The Mariners Advisory Committee (MAC) is composed of pilots, captains, professional mariners, vessel owners, terminal operators and other maritime industry professionals. Formed in 1964, the MAC acts as the Harbor Safety Committee for the ports on the Delaware Bay and River.

Docket BOEM-2010-0077 concerns the environmental impact that development of the various Wind Energy Areas may have. The MAC has several concerns relating to the possible impact on and from WEAs.

Our primary concern is the location of wind generating structures in close proximity to navigational fairways. Any structure can be considered a hazard to navigation. A ship strike could cause the breaching of cargo and/or fuel tanks and could result in the discharge of oil into the environment. Any such spill would harm wildlife, habitat and adjacent beaches impacting both the environment and the economy of the area. The MAC strongly recommends that no less than ½ mile buffers be established between all anchorages, fairways and any wind energy structures and that they be properly designated with navigation buoys, lights and RACONS.

Another concern is that the voyage distances for ships and tows transiting around the WEAs will be increased resulting in higher amounts of fuel used and more engine emissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Stephen A. Roberts
Chairman

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