WHY OFFSHORE WIND?

Louisiana must lay the groundwork for offshore wind development in the Gulf of Mexico to signal to industry that the state is open for business. Offshore wind will bring an estimated $70 billion in economic investment to the U.S. as we go from 42-megawatts of installed capacity to over 30,000-megawatts in the next decade [1].

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

An analysis published in May 2020 conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) & the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) demonstrates the significant local economic opportunity this industry presents from a 600-megawatt offshore wind farm in the Gulf of Mexico [2] :

- 4,470 FTE jobs during construction
- 150 FTE jobs during operations
- $445 million in GDP during construction
- $14 million in GDP annually during operations

OFFSHORE WIND IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

On February 22, 2023, the Department of the Interior announced a proposed offshore wind lease sale for three proposed lease areas in the Gulf of Mexico off the coasts of Galveston, TX, and Lake Charles, LA. The Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) includes a 102,480-acre area offshore Lake Charles, Louisiana, and two areas offshore Galveston, Texas, one comprising 102,480 acres and the other comprising 96,786 acres. BOEM is currently seeking comments on the PSN in a 60-day comment period that will close April 25, 2023.

STATE GOALS

Eastern seaboard states have identified this massive economic opportunity and are already setting aggressive goals to help secure the demand necessary to attract the manufacturing supply chain.

NEW YORK
9,000 MW

MASSACHUSETTS
5,600 MW

NEW JERSEY
7,500 MW

RHODE ISLAND
1,000 MW

CONNECTICUT
2,000 MW

MARYLAND
1,400 MW

VIRGINIA
5,200 MW
LOUISIANA'S OFFSHORE WIND PROGRESS

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM) RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE CREATION

Gov. John Bel Edwards formally requested the initiation of an Intergovernmental Task Force, a first step in identifying potential lease areas for offshore wind development in the Gulf of Mexico. The first meeting of the task force will be in June 2021.

LOUISIANA FIRMS HELP DEVELOP BLOCK ISLAND, FIRST U.S. OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Jacket foundations for the country’s first offshore wind farm, Block Island, were designed and built by two Louisiana firms, Metairie-based Keystone Engineering and Houma-based Gulf Island Fabrication. Lafayette’s Aries Marine and Galliano’s Falcon Global LLC also provided vessel support for the project.

LOUISIANA’S FEDERAL DELEGATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS OFFSHORE WIND


EDISON CHOUEST BUILDS FIRST OFFSHORE WIND SOV

Edison Chouest Offshore, Ørsted and Eversource announced the execution of a long-term charter agreement for the provision of the first-ever Jones Act compliant Service Operations Vessel (SOV).

GNO, INC. INITIATES GNOWIND ALLIANCE

The GNOwind Alliance consists of private and public stakeholders committed to capturing the maximum economic impact from the burgeoning U.S. offshore wind industry for coastal Louisiana.

LOUISIANA JOINS 13-STATE OFFSHORE WIND PARTNERSHIP

The White House announced that Louisiana has joined a pro-offshore wind development effort. The partnership now features 13 states, with Louisiana as the only Gulf Coast state. The partnership aims to reduce carbon emissions, provide affordable energy, create well-paying jobs, and form a domestic supply chain for offshore wind.