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BOEM postpones Oregon offshore wind lease, offering community and Tribal advocates more time and space to engage in state's Roadmap process.

Clean energy, environmental justice, business, labor, conservation and Tribal groups hail move as opportunity for stakeholder collaboration.

Sacramento, CA — Today, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) [postponed the offshore wind lease auction](#) scheduled for October 15, 2024. Governor Tina Kotek also exited the BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. Because federal law aligns offshore wind leases with those of fossil fuel auctions, the next likely date for an Oregon offshore wind lease sale is 2026.

In the meantime, advocates will have expanded opportunities for engagement and collaboration in the development of offshore wind through the soon-to-be-released [Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap](#) and accompanying stakeholder engagement process. The process is the result of House Bill 4080, a bill which mandates the comprehensive participation and collaboration of stakeholders to address environmental and Tribal concerns, while ensuring all Oregonians have access to the benefits of offshore wind. The delay prompted the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians to respond with support for the Roadmap process.

“The Tribe commends the decision of both the Governor and BOEM to cancel the October 15 lease sale,” said **Tribal Council Chair Brad Kneaper**. “The Tribe will now have an opportunity to focus on working with the State, commercial fishing interest, coastal communities, and others to understand what impacts and benefits offshore wind development before leases are sold. The Tribe intends to work with the State on its Roadmap process and engage with the federal government to ensure that Tribal concerns are addressed before future lease sales are considered.

“Canceling the lease sale makes sense. The Tribe, elected officials, commercial fishing interests, and others have consistently urged that BOEM delay moving forward with wind energy development until a better understanding is made of the impacts to fish, wildlife, the marine environment, and cultural resources important to the Tribe.” said **Kneaper**. “The Tribe looks forward to working collaboratively to determine where the best places are to develop wind energy, minimizing the impacts to the Coast and our people. With this action, the Tribe will reconsider the litigation pending against BOEM.”

Floating offshore wind remains a key facet of Oregon's climate strategy, [expected to power one million homes by 2030](#). Oregon is also expected to benefit from cleaner air. American Clean

Power estimates relying on a typical wind turbine for power instead of fossil fuel generation can [avoid emissions equivalent to the annual carbon output of 700 cars.](#)

"This is good news for Oregon, we get time and space now to collaborate on getting offshore wind right from the start - for Tribes, the coastal environment, for good living-wage jobs, and more," said **Damon Motz-Storey, director of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter.**

"Simultaneously, we all should do everything we can to grow climate resilience in communities across the state and increase energy efficiency as we clean up our electricity supply. Climate change is an all-hands-on-deck moment for our planet and everyone holds a part of the solution."

"Offshore wind continues to be a critical opportunity for Oregon to meet its 100% clean energy goals by 2040, address climate change, and provide economic opportunities for Oregon workers and businesses," said **BlueGreen Alliance Oregon Senior State Policy Manager Ranfis Villatoro.** "However, building large renewable energy infrastructure takes time and Oregon owes it to its communities and coastal ecosystem to do it the right way. We want to do this in a way that supports both Oregon diverse interests and sovereign nations."

"The pause in BOEM's accelerated leasing process is an opportunity for Oregon to embark on a timeline that creates broadened trust by organizing a collaborative roadmap process to guide any future potential offshore wind development that would center Tribal and coastal communities' priorities to guide decision-making," said **Ashley Audycki, South Coast Coordinator with climate justice organization Rogue Climate based out of Coos Bay.** "The impacts of operating an offshore wind project must not outweigh the benefits for Tribal and south coast communities. That includes reliable energy, investing in fair wage jobs and sustainable workforce development, and that all stages of development do not harm our coastal ecosystems and communities."

"Oregon has a tremendous offshore wind resource as well as demand for more renewable energy," said **Casey Maclean, Renewable Northwest Offshore Wind Policy Manager.** "We agree with BOEM's decision to delay an auction until the market ripens and a competitive bidding process can yield better results for Oregonians."

"Offshore wind is an opportunity for the South Coast to be a leader in our state's, nation's and world's stated interest in moving toward a renewable energy future," said **Rick Osborne, community and energy advocate.** "It is an opportunity to create sustainable career opportunities for our youth both now and into the future so that they can make a great living in our region, while removing carbon from the atmosphere. Oregon's Governor and the Oregon Legislature has passed legislation to move our state toward clean energy, but policy alone won't do the job. We need the businesses and infrastructure to make that happen. Offshore wind has tremendous potential to be a cornerstone energy source to accomplish those goals."

From **Meredith Connolly, Director Policy and Strategy, Climate Solutions**: “There is a need for diverse clean energy resources across our region to help eliminate our grid’s dependence on fossil fuels, and offshore wind can play an important role. The postponement of BOEM’s lease auction should be viewed as an opportunity to ensure that Tribal Nations, the fishing industry, labor organizations, and coastal communities are included in the decision-making process to ensure offshore wind projects are responsibly developed. The State Offshore Wind Roadmap will provide a process that enables an energy transformation that is inclusive, equitable, and truly works for Oregonians.”

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