

Appendix L

Glossary

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L Glossary

Table L-1: Glossary

Term	Definition
affected environment	Environment as it exists today that could be potentially impacted by the proposed Project
automatic identification system	Automatic tracking system used on vessels to monitor ship movements and avoid collision
algal blooms	Rapid growth of the population of algae, also known as algae bloom
allision	A moving ship running into a stationary ship
animat	Computer-simulated animals that follow known species-specific behaviors to model impacts on real animals
anthropogenic	Generated by human activity
archaeological resource	Historical place, site, building, shipwreck, or other archaeological site on the American landscape
ballast	Material used to improve stability of a vessel or other vehicle or structure
ballast tank	Vessel compartment used to hold water to improve stability
ballast water	Water carried by a ship in its ballast tank to improve stability
baleen whale	A cetacean with baleens (whalebones) instead of teeth
below grade	Below ground level
benthic	Related to the bottom of a body of water
benthic resources	The seafloor surface, the substrate itself, and the communities of bottom-dwelling organisms that live within these habitats
bilge	Area where the bottom curve of a ship's hull meets the vertical sides
biogenic structure	Structures generated by biological organisms
cetacea	Order of aquatic mammals made up of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related lifeforms
coastal habitat	Coastal areas where flora and fauna live, including salt marshes and aquatic habitats
coastal waters	Waters in nearshore areas where bottom depth is less than 98.4 feet
coastal zone	The lands and waters starting at 3 nautical miles from the land and ending at the first major land transportation route
commercial fisheries	Areas or entities raising and/or catching fish for commercial profit
commercial-scale wind energy facility	Wind energy facility usually greater than 1 megawatt that sells the produced electricity
cultural resource	Historical districts, objects, places, sites, buildings, shipwrecks, and archaeological sites on the American landscape, as well as sites of traditional, religious, or cultural significance to cultural groups, including Native American tribes
culvert	Structure, usually a tunnel, allowing water to flow under an obstruction (e.g., road, trail)
planned activities	Impacts that could result from the incremental impact of a specific action, such as the proposed Project, when combined with other past, present, or future actions or other projects; can occur from individually minor but collectively significant actions that take place over time
criteria pollutant	One of six common air pollutants for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, or sulfur dioxide
critical habitat	Geographic area containing features essential to the conservation of threatened or endangered species
delphinids	Oceanic dolphins
demersal	Living close to the ocean floor
Project design envelope	The range of proposed Project characteristics defined by the applicant and used by BOEM for purposes of environmental review and permitting
dredging	Removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors, and other water bodies
duct bank	Underground structure that houses the onshore export cables, which consists of polyvinyl chloride pipes encased in concrete

Term	Definition
ecosystem	Community of interacting living organisms and non-living components (such as air, water, soil)
electrical service platform	The interconnection point between the wind turbine generators and the export cable; the necessary electrical equipment needed to connect the 66 kilovolt inter-array cable to the 220 kilovolt offshore export cables
electromagnetic field	A field of force produced by electrically charged objects and containing both electric and magnetic components
embayment	Recessed part of a shoreline
endangered species	A species that is in danger of extinction in all or a significant portion of its range
ensonification	The process of filling with or exposing to sound
environmental consequences	The potential impacts that the construction, operations, and decommissioning of the proposed Project would have on the environment
environmental justice communities	Minority, low-income, and other populations affected by the proposed Project whose demographic characteristics make them potentially more vulnerable to impacts than other populations
epifauna	Fauna that lives on the surface of a seabed (or riverbed) or is attached to underwater objects or aquatic plants or animals
Endangered Species Act-listed species	Species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended)
essential fish habitat	Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity” (50 Code of Federal Regulations Part 600)
export cables	Cables connecting the wind facility to the onshore electrical grid power
export cable corridor	Area identified for routing the entire length of the onshore and offshore export cables
federal aids to navigation	Visual references operated and maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard, including radar transponders, lights, sound signals, buoys, and lighthouses, that support safe maritime navigation
finfish	Vertebrate and cartilaginous fishery species, not including crustaceans, cephalopds, or other mollusks
for-hire commercial fishing	Commercial fishing on a for-hire vessel (i.e., a vessel on which the passengers make a contribution to a person having an interest in the vessel in exchange for carriage)
geomagnetic	Relating to the magnetism of the Earth
gillnet	A vertically hanging fishnet that traps fish by their gills
hard-bottom habitat	Benthic habitats comprised of hard-bottom (e.g., cobble, rock, and ledge) substrates
historical resource	Prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that is eligible for or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places; also includes any artifacts, records, and remains (surface or subsurface) related to and located within such a resource
horizontal directional drilling	Trenchless technique for installing underground cables, pipes, and conduits using a surface-launched drilling rig
hull	Watertight frame or body of a ship
hypoxic event	Event related to a lack of adequate oxygen supply
impact-producing factor	Descriptions of the discrete ways in which an action or activity affects physical, biological, economic, or cultural resources
infauna	Fauna living in the sediments of the ocean floor (or river or lake beds)
inter-array cables	Cables connecting the wind turbine generators to the electrical service platforms
inter-link cables	Cables connecting the electrical service platforms to one another
invertebrate	Animal with no backbone
jacket foundation	Latticed steel frame with three or four supporting piles driven into the seabed
jack-up vessel	Mobile and self-elevating platform with buoyant hull
jet excavation	Process of moving or removing soil with a jet
jet plowing	Plowing in which the jet plow, with an adjustable blade, or plow rests on the seafloor and is towed by a surface vessel; the jet plow creates a narrow trench at the designated depth while water jets fluidize the sediment within the trench; in the case of the proposed Project, the cables would be feed through the plow and laid into the trench as it moves forward; the fluidized sediments then settle back down into the trench and bury the cable
knot	Unit of speed equaling 1 nautical mile per hour

Term	Definition
landfall site	The shoreline landing site at which the offshore cable transitions to onshore
marine mammal	Aquatic vertebrate distinguished by the presence of mammary glands, hair, three middle ear bones, and a neocortex (a region of the brain)
marine waters	Waters in offshore areas where bottom depth is more than 98.4 feet
monopile or monopile foundation	A long steel tube driven into the seabed that supports a tower
nacelle	The portion of the wind turbine generator that houses the electrical generating components
nautical mile	A unit used to measure sea distances and equivalent to approximately 1.15 miles
odontocete	A kind of cetacean characterized by the presence of teeth, also called toothed whales
onshore substation	Substation connecting the proposed Project to the existing bulk power grid system
operations facilities	Includes offices, control rooms, warehouses, shop space, and pier space
Outer Continental Shelf	All submerged land, subsoil, and seabed belonging to the United States but outside of states' jurisdiction
pile	A type a foundation akin to a pole
pile driving	Installing foundation piles by driving them into the seafloor
pinnipeds	Carnivorous, semiaquatic marine mammals with fin, also known as seals
pin pile	Small-diameter pipe driven into the ground as foundation support
plume	Column of fluid moving through another fluid
private aids to navigation	Visual references on structures positioned in or near navigable waters of the United States, including radar transponders, lights, sound signals, buoys, and lighthouses, that support safe maritime navigation; permits for the aids are administered by the U.S. Coast Guard
Project area	The combined onshore and offshore area where proposed Project components would be located
protected species	Endangered or threatened species that receive federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended)
RI/MA Lease Areas	Combination of all BOEM Renewable Energy Lease Areas offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts
scour protection	Protection consisting of rock and stone that would be placed around all foundations to stabilize the seabed near the foundations, as well as the foundations themselves
scrublands	Plant community dominated by shrubs and often also including grasses and herbs
sessile	Attached directly by the base
silt substrate	Substrate made of a granular material originating from quartz and feldspar, and whose size is between sand and clay
soft-bottom habitat	Benthic habitats include soft-bottom (i.e., unconsolidated sediments) and hard-bottom (e.g., cobble, rock, and ledge) substrates, as well as biogenic habitat (e.g., eelgrass, mussel beds, and worm tubes) created by structure-forming species
Southern Wind Development Area	The area within which the wind turbine generators, electrical service platforms, and associated cables for the proposed Project would be installed, specifically all of BOEM Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0534 and the portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501 not used for the Vineyard Wind 1 Project
splice vault	Underground concrete transition vault that to be constructed at the landfall site and inside of which the 220-kilovolt alternating current offshore export cables would be connected to the 220 kilovolt onshore export cables
substrate	Earthy material at the bottom of a marine habitat; the natural environment that an organism lives in
suspended sediments	Very fine soil particles that remain suspended in water for a considerable period of time without contact with the bottom; such material remains in suspension due to the upward components of turbulence and currents, and/or by suspension
threatened species	A species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future
tidal energy project	Project related to the conversion of the energy of tides into usable energy, usually electricity
tidal flushing	Replacement of water in an estuary or bay because of tidal flow

Term	Definition
trailing suction hopper dredge	A ship that is used to maintain waterways in navigable condition by virtue of being able to pump sand, clay, silt, and gravel; the ship trails its suction pipe, and a pump system sucks up a mixture of sand or soil and water, and discharges it in the hopper, or hold of the vessel; once fully loaded, the vessel sails to the unloading site
trawl	A large fishing net dragged by a vessel at the bottom or in the middle of sea or lake water
turbidity	A measure of water clarity
utility right-of-way	Registered easement on private land that allows utility companies to access the utilities or services located there
viewshed	Area visible from a specific location
visual resource	The visible physical features on a landscape, including natural elements such as topography, landforms, water, vegetation, and manmade structures
wetland	Land saturated with water; marshes; swamps
wind energy	Electricity from naturally occurring wind
wind turbine generator	Component that puts out electricity in a structure that converts kinetic energy from wind into electricity

BOEM = Bureau of Ocean Energy Management