



March 18, 2011

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
Attention: Regulations and Standards Branch
381 Elden Street, MS-4024
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Re: Comments on Docket ID: BOEM-2010-0045/Acquire a Lease Noncompetitively 1010-AD71

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the changes proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement related to the issuance of a renewable energy lease noncompetitively in response to a Request for Interest (RFI) or a Call for Information and Nomination (Call). AWEA strongly supports the changes proposed to 30 CFR Part 285 as proposed in the *Federal Register* on February 16, 2011.

AWEA is the national trade association representing the wind energy industry, including the offshore wind energy industry. AWEA's more than 2,500 member companies include a broad range of entities with a common interest in encouraging the deployment and expansion of wind energy resources in the United States on land and offshore. AWEA members include wind turbine manufacturers, component suppliers, service providers, project developers, project owners and operators, financiers, researchers, consultants, utilities, marketers, and others.

AWEA strongly supports the important changes proposed by BOEMRE. The elimination of the redundant second public notice to determine if there is competitive interest with respect to proposals submitted in response to an RFI or Call will make the leasing process more efficient. It will also ensure consistency between the leasing processes in response to an RFI or Call and the leasing process in response to an unsolicited request for a noncompetitive lease, the latter of which currently requires only one public notice.

The current requirement for a second public notice in response to an RFI or Call only serves to delay the permitting process with no corresponding public policy benefit.

The proposed changes will help achieve Secretary Salazar's goal of streamlining the permitting process while still meeting other federal obligations. That is a goal strongly shared by AWEA and its members.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "V".

Tom Vinson
Senior Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs
American Wind Energy Association