

**MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 27, 2009
OCEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE #7
INTERIM STEPS AND COORDINATION**

Attendees:

- Task Force members : George Lapointe, Governor Angus King, Bob Marvinney, Kathleen Leyden, Sean Mahoney, Representative Stacey Fitts, Beth Nagusky, Parker Hadlock, and Tim Agnew, By Phone: Don Perkins

- State staff: Todd Burrowes and Matt Nixon

- Interested parties: Mark Dittrick, Senator Seth Goodall, John Ferland, Tom Federle and David Preston

I. Welcome and introduction. Subcommittee chair Governor King welcomed those in attendance. At his request, attendees introduced themselves. Governor King explained that the purpose of the meeting was to identify subcommittee recommendations for presentation to the full Task Force as items that should be addressed by the Legislature during its current session.

II. Subcommittee Reports

- **Subcommittee 2: Regulatory and Permitting Process**

The subcommittee's chair, Kathleen Leyden, reported as follows:

- The initial phase of the subcommittee's work has focused on developing a streamlined permitting mechanism for deep-water ocean wind power test facilities. The subcommittee intends to focus on issues regarding permitting of commercial scale wind facilities in the second phase of its work.
- The subcommittee developed and distributed to potential offshore wind energy developers a questionnaire to determine siting requirements.
- Using the information provided in response to this survey, the subcommittee developed a straw proposal and subsequently draft legislation to facilitate the siting of deep-water wind test facilities in pre-determined areas where adverse impacts are expected to be minimal. The draft legislation envisions that the State would identify potentially suitable test areas using the best available natural resources related information (see work of subcommittee 1, below) and a concerted public outreach effort to solicit public comments.

- A draft of the straw proposal and draft legislation can be found at http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/OETF/Documents/Sub_Committees/Subc2_Regulatory/DRAFTACT_FacilitateTestingOffshoreWETechnology.pdf. The subcommittee intends to present the draft legislation to the full Task Force at its March 11th meeting, and recommended its consideration during the current legislative session.

- **Subcommittee 5: Tidal Energy Development**

The subcommittee's chair, Parker Hadlock, reported as follows:

- Nothing recommended for legislative action this session
- Note: The above-noted draft legislation includes a provision, suggestion for which came after the meeting and which was reviewed by subcommittee members, that gives DEP regulatory authority over tidal power statewide under the State's consolidated hydropower licensing statute.

- **Subcommittee 6: Oil and Gas Development**

The subcommittee's chair, Bob Marvinney, reported as follows:

- The subcommittee considered information regarding potential hydrocarbon reserves and potential economic benefits of offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Maine.
- Overall, the subcommittee has found that there is limited potential for oil and gas development in the Gulf, therefore focus should be on offshore renewable energy opportunities.
- The subcommittee identified no actions requiring legislative action this session. The subcommittee did note that the Task Force may wish to address legislation introduced in the Maine Legislature's current session to establish a moratorium on oil and gas exploration and development.

- **Subcommittee 4: Economic Development Opportunities and New Technologies**

The subcommittee's chair, Tim Agnew, reported as follows:

- The subcommittee considered and has developed preliminary suggestions on a broad scope of options, including principally :
 - a bond issue for ocean energy-related research and development and port development, separate from the broader R&D bond issues being discussed and additional port analysis to determine what additional investment would be needed to allow for renewable technology fabrication/installation;

- providing incentives and removing disincentives for consumers and businesses to adopt new technology to create a demand for additional electricity including state tax credits for purchase of renewable power systems, and incentives to provide access to capital for ocean energy-related businesses
 - adopting a system to finance new heating systems through utility bills, smart grid and smart meter installation, and research conducted on available new technologies to provide the public with an objective cost-benefit schemes;
 - additional language to the enabling legislation of the Maine Technology Institute to include clean energy within the environmental sector; and
 - an expedited permitting process for research platform development to facilitate federal funding.
- With the exception of the bond issue, the subcommittee did not identify any of these options as requiring legislative action in the current session.

- **Subcommittee 1: Human Uses and Environmental Impacts**

The subcommittee's chair, Sean Mahoney, reported as follows:

Subcommittee 1 is working towards two related goals. The short term goal is to identify potential areas where siting of an offshore wind energy test facility would have minimal adverse impacts on and conflict with natural resources and related uses; The longer term goal is to identify such areas that may be suitable for a full-scale commercial development. The subcommittee recognizes that the market would decide where within these areas development is pursued. .

- The subcommittee noted that it expected to complete technical analysis of potential suitable deep-water wind test areas by the summer of 2009 and that such information would be available and useful for the public outreach and comment envisioned in the draft legislation developed by subcommittee 2. The subcommittee emphasized the importance of and need for informed public input regarding areas in which test facilities may be located. Given the limitations of available data, the subcommittee further emphasized the importance of monitoring and tools to ensure effective adaptive management regarding test facilities.

- **Subcommittee 3: Transmission, Grid Access, and Utility Incentives**

Subcommittee member and Task Force co-chair Beth Nagusky reported as follows:

- Ms. Nagusky r acknowledged the considerable efforts of George Hart in compiling and assessing wind resource information relevant to the subcommittee's goals.

- The subcommittee has focused on challenges posed by integrating significant amounts of intermittent wind-generated energy into the regional or state electricity grid.

The subcommittee did not identify actions requiring legislation this session. There being no further business, Governor King adjourned the meeting.