

## Right of Way Application - FAQs

### 1. What is the Atlantic Wind Connection?

The [Atlantic Wind Connection](#) project is the first offshore backbone electrical transmission system proposed in the United States. The project will enable up to 7,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind turbine capacity to be integrated into the regional high-voltage grid and controlled in a cost-effective manner. The project will increase reliability and reduce transmission congestion in the heavily congested corridor between Virginia and the metropolitan New Jersey/New York City area. This advanced technology high-voltage direct-current, subsea backbone transmission system would be constructed off the coasts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

### 2. What does the Atlantic Wind Connection request in this application?

This application is considered an “unsolicited lease application” under the federal government’s permitting regime for siting and building alternative energy projects off the coast of the United States. We are asking that the government begin the process of determining whether or not there is competitive interest in leasing the same area of seafloor where we are proposing to place our project facilities (subsea cable and electrical platforms).

### 3. Who will review the right-of-way application?

The right-of-way application is before the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). This Interior Department agency has the authority to lease space on the outer continental shelf (i.e., the submerged lands of the United States) for alternative energy projects, as well as for projects that provide transmission for renewable energy projects, such as the Atlantic Wind Connection.

### 4. Where will the Project be located?

When the project is fully constructed, the cable will extend from the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area to Virginia. The Atlantic Wind Connection is intended to be built in five phases (See Figure 1). The first phase would connect at one end in southern New Jersey and at the other end in Delaware and would have a capacity of 2,000 MW. This phase could connect up to six utility-scale wind projects to the grid in these two states.

### 5. What actual facilities does the Atlantic Wind Connection Project entail?

The project is comprised of two basic components: high-voltage direct-current cables; and offshore platforms that house the hardware required to convert and effectively transmit the power throughout the system. Our application contemplates nine offshore platforms and 756 miles of circuit (650 miles offshore, 38 miles in state waters and 67 miles on shore). When completed, our project will include two circuits, each installed in a separate offshore corridor. Separating the two circuits lessens the risk of a single event, such as an anchor drag, damaging both circuits. Each circuit will contain two 320 kilovolt rated cables and a fiber optic cable system to provide communications and control capability. The offshore platforms would accept a high-voltage alternating current feed from one or more wind generation projects and would convert the electricity to high-voltage direct current using state-of-the-art voltage-sourced converters. The projected nine offshore converter platforms would have the capacity to accept approximately 500 to 1,000 MW of wind turbine output at each site. Seven onshore converters will reconvert the electricity to alternating current and feed it into the onshore power grid.

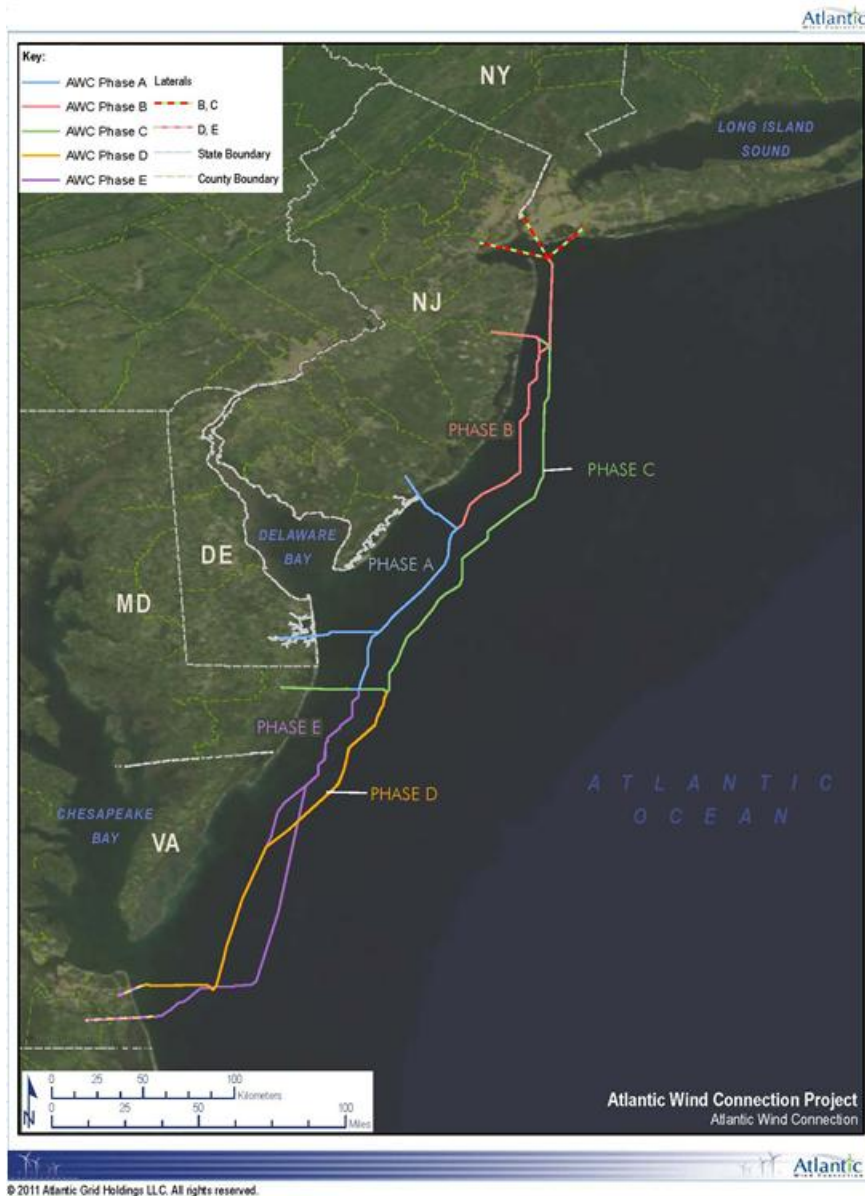


Figure 1. Proposed Project location and phases

**6. How much space on the ocean floor does the project need?**

BOEM leases areas of U.S. submerged lands using a system of grid blocks. Each of the blocks is 3 miles long by 3 miles wide. We identified 297 blocks in our ROW Application as areas that would be considered for purposes of locating project facilities. Of those blocks, 18 are identified as potential sites for the offshore platforms and all 297 are areas of interest for siting the cable. The total area of interest is approximately 2,542 square miles. However, our transmission corridor will only be approximately 200 feet wide, encompassing an area of approximately 24 square miles or only 1% of the OCS block area identified in the ROW Application. The actual area of the seabed disturbed by project facilities will be even smaller than that (See Figure 2).

**7. What if a wind energy developer asks to put a wind energy project in the same place?**

Our project cables buried in the seabed will take up very little room and should not prevent a wind energy project from being located in the same general area offshore, barring any adverse impact to the Atlantic Wind Connection project’s facilities. Identifying a wide corridor at this stage of project development provides the siting flexibility needed to locate the transmission facilities prudently and to satisfy obligations under environmental and other applicable laws. We will be conducting a survey of the seabed that will help us to avoid obstacles and environmentally sensitive areas. We recognize that the United States reserves the right to grant other rights in the area that AWC is asking for in its ROW application.

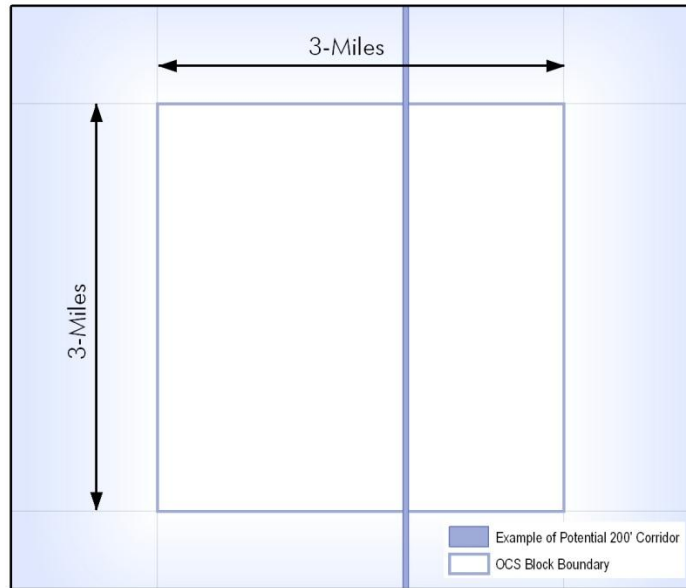


Figure 2. The size of the AWC cable route relative to the size of a BOEM lease block.

**8. Why is Atlantic Wind Connection important?**

The project provides a high-capacity superhighway to deliver plentiful offshore wind energy to the region’s population centers at the strongest points on the land-based transmission grid. The project helps the offshore wind industry expand and reach scale without hitting transmission barriers. Scale is key to driving down the cost of offshore wind so that it can become an affordable, local source of clean energy and an engine for job creation and economic growth.

**9. Do we need to build the Atlantic Wind Connection?**

There are various ways to connect offshore wind projects to the terrestrial grid. Each wind farm could build a single-purpose radial connection from the offshore project to land. Our backbone transmission network will interconnect multiple projects, offset the variable output of individual wind energy projects, and provide a foundation for large-scale development of the Mid-Atlantic wind energy resource and help enable an offshore wind industry supply manufacturing base to emerge in our region. An analysis by the Brattle Group found that the cost of our backbone transmission system is more than offset by the cost savings and economic benefits associated with economies of scale, reduced siting and permitting uncertainties, and from the onshore grid reliability and transmission congestion relief provided by our project as compared to radial connections of individual offshore wind energy projects. Transmission should be built in advance of wind energy projects to ensure the generation projects can deliver their power when they are completed. We will, however, coordinate

closely with PJM, BOEM and wind project developers to make sure that offshore transmission capacity is built and added as it is needed.

**10. What are the next steps?**

BOEM will review our application and issue a public notice to determine if others have an interest in building transmission in the areas that we have identified. We will continue meeting with stakeholders, determine where to site the land-based parts of the project, and apply for the various environmental permits needed to construct the project. All required permits are expected to be in place by 2013, which would enable us to construct the first phase of the project by 2016.

For more information, please contact Bryan Lee of the Atlantic Wind Connection at:  
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Also, see our general project FAQs in the “News” tab of our website at:  
[www.AtlanticWindConnection.com](http://www.AtlanticWindConnection.com)