TIMELINE OF OFFSHORE WIND IN VIRGINIA

The following is a timeline of all events, federal and state level, that have affected the development of the offshore wind industry in Virginia

- **2006 General Assembly session: The Virginia Energy Plan is passed and the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium (VCERC) is established.**
- **Charge to VCERC: "*…serve as an interdisciplinary study, research, and information resource for the Commonwealth on coastal energy issues…*" and "*… facilitate the application and transfer of new coastal energy technologies…*" to commercial interest.**
  - **Nine (originally five) university members:**
    - **College of William & Mary (VIMS)**
    - **George Mason University**
    - **Hampton University**
    - **James Madison University**
    - **Norfolk State University**
    - **Old Dominion University**
    - **University of Virginia**
    - **Virginia Commonwealth University**
    - **Virginia Tech (ARI)**
  - **Other Board members**
    - **DMME**
    - **VMRC**
    - **VA Manufacturers Association**
    - **VA Maritime Association**
    - **Hampton Roads Tech Council**
    - **Virginia Clean Cities Program**
    - **DEQ (Coastal Zone Program)**
    - **VA Maritime Association**
    - **NASA Langley Research Ctr.**
- **2007 General Assembly Session: VCERC funded for a total of $1.5 million, with almost half going to the offshore wind research.**
- **2008 General Assembly Session: VCERC funded for a total of $1.6 million with almost half going to the offshore wind research.**
- **2009 – April: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Minerals Management Service's (MMS) sign an agreement placing offshore wind firmly under the purview of MMS. MMS begins finalizing guidelines to offshore wind in the U.S.**
- **2009 – May: VCERC/City of Virginia Beach/SAIC host a Workshop on Wind, with invited stakeholders from the potential offshore wind industry, the Governor's Administration, MMS, DOD/USN, utilities, and localities. This is a "101" on offshore wind in Virginia.**
- **2009 – June: MMS presents their guidelines, "the Rule," for offshore wind development.**
- **2009 – September: Two unsolicited bids for offshore lease blocks submitted to MMS by developers Seawind Renewable Energy and Apex Wind Energy, (both Virginia-based companies).**
- **2009 – November: Creation of the Virginia Offshore Wind Coalition (VOW) – an industry group comprised of developers, supply chain companies, localities, and utilities. A legislative agenda is developed for bills carried to successful passage in the General Assembly.**
- **2009 – November: Virginia, Maryland and Delaware form the Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Cooperative Agreement.**

- **2009 – December: the MMS/Virginia Taskforce constituted to start the offshore wind leasing process in federal waters off of Virginia, including coordination between federal, state, and local governments, tribes and military. This provides the forum to engage the Department of Defense on possible conflicting uses of the offshore waters.**

- **2010 – General Assembly passes legislation creating the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority. This legislation creates a body with the authority to manage PPEAs, accept contributions, grants, property, etc…, and will be available to assist in smoothing the path to offshore wind in Virginia with state and federal agencies to mitigate barriers to offshore wind. It also has the authority to facilitate data collection, upgrade existing facilities (Ports, Chesapeake Light Tower), identify and facilitate any state barriers (permitting, etc…), and ensure that the interests of military, NASA, avian and marine wildlife and others are maintained.**
- **2010 – General Assembly passes legislation to allow for 3 offshore renewable energy credits (ORECs) toward Renewable Portfolio Standard goals.**
- **2010 – March: Federal General Services "surpluses" the Chesapeake Light Tower (CLT) and the City of Virginia Beach begins due diligence regarding acquiring the CLT for multiple uses, including potential offshore wind data gathering.**
- **2010 – April: MMS/Virginia Taskforce meeting unveils vetted lease blocks, which have been provisionally approved by DOD. DOD representative, Lt. Col. Wash, USAF, is asked to consider more lease blocks, and agrees.**
- **2010 – April: VCERC Final Report completed.**
- **2010 – June: James Madison University hosts a three-day wind symposium. During breakout meetings, an alliance of stakeholders forms to develop the framework for a Virginia-based advanced technology demonstration project to be called the National Offshore Wind Technology Center (NOWTC).**
- **2010 – June: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) releases an RFI for offshore wind stakeholders to provide information to DOE as they begin to develop their strategic plan for offshore wind in the U.S.**
- **2010 – June: Virginia joins Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium, comprised of the Governors or their designees from each of the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. One of the main goals for the Consortium is to work to reduce the permitting timeline for approval of offshore wind projects. DOE's Secretary Salazar agrees to work with the Consortium and pledges reductions in the timeline.**
- **2010 – July: Commonwealth of Virginia, along with approximately 40 Virginia stakeholders to offshore wind, submits a coordinated response to the DOE RFI regarding recommendations for a technology demonstration center..**
- **2010 – Bureau of Offshore Energy Management Regulation & Enforcement (BOEMRE, formerly MMS) works with the state to vet DOD provisionally approved lease blocks**

- **2010 – September: VCERC and VOW respond to the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing scoping meetings on updating EIS/OEIS to encourage the Navy to include areas within the study that might pertain to offshore wind farms and that the information be made available to BOEMRE as it moves forward with its EIS processes for offshore wind.**

- **2010 – September: DOE releases its Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind in the U.S. DOE hosts a webinar and then rolls out the plan with breakout sessions in Washington D.C. Feedback on the plan due back to DOE from stakeholders by October 29, 2010.**
  - **There are three major target areas within the DOE Draft Strategic Plan**
    - **Market Barrier Removal**
    - **Technology Development**
    - **Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects**
      - **Conceivably three projects for funding through DOE in FY '11.**
  - **Virginia well positioned to compete for Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects through the proposed National Offshore Wind Technology Center.**

- **2010 – October: The Commonwealth of Virginia submits its vetted lease blocks to BOEMRE for preparation of RFI for Virginia lease blocks for consideration by offshore wind developers. (Will be posted in the Federal Register, anticipated before year-end 2010.)**

- **2010 – October: American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Offshore Wind Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. The Virginia Offshore Wind Coalition (VOW), Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), Hampton Road Economic Development Alliance (HREDA), and the Port of Virginia collaborate to host a Virginia-centric booth at this conference. Lieutenant Governor Bolling hosts dinner for potential supply chain companies. Interest in Virginia's progress is great and our information well received.**

- **2010 – October: United Kingdom Trade & Investment (UKTI) asks VOW to provide a supply chain member for a November Supply Chain Trade Mission to Scotland.**

- **2010 – October: Gamesa / Northrop Grumman Newport News announcement of partnership to develop and test turbines.**

- **2010 – October: Virginia Governor's First Annual Energy Conference is held. Governor McDonnell is the keynote speaker at the conference luncheon. He speaks favorably about offshore wind. (12:09 to 17:02 minutes)**

- **2010 – October: Core group (VCERC, VOW, VEDP) develop business plan for NOWTC and begin working closely with Gamesa / Northrop Grumman to determine feasibility of partnering on NOWTC project.**

- **2010 – October: Appointments to the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority are announced.**