

U.S. Offshore Wind Standards

Webinar September 26th 2017

Questions & Answers

Logistical Questions:

1. Where will committee meetings be held?

The two annual face-to-face meetings for the OWTAP and the sub-working groups will likely coincide with offshore wind industry events, the International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum and AWEA WindPower Conference.

2. When will more information be available about the OWTAP meeting on October 23rd?

The OWTAP meeting on October 23rd in NYC is an invitation only face-to-face planning meeting. We are working on finalizing the meeting space and planning the logistics of the meeting. As information is finalized it will be provided to the OWTAP participants.

Working Group Questions:

1. What is the estimated in-kind effort in the working groups, e.g. how many meeting annually, text contributions, etc.?

Working Group participants should be available for 2 face-to-face meetings per year along with several additional conference calls or online meetings.

2. Do participants in working groups need to be members of AWEA or the Business Network for Offshore Wind?

No, working group participants are not required to be members of any organization.

Please note, the working group rosters will be approved by the OWTAP and AWEA Wind Standards Committee (WSC) to ensure the proper level of organizational diversity.

3. Is there interest to have non-US participation in working groups to benefit from experience gained in Europe?

Yes, we welcome European experience from those willing to address U.S. issues, but all members must be approved by the WSC and OWTAP.

4. Have the members of the OWTAP been decided and if so have they been invited already? When will the list of members be published?

The OWTAP is in the process of forming and the roster will soon be approved by the AWEA WSC. Once the OWTAP roster is finalized it will be shared publicly.

Technical Questions:

1. Will the proposed standards be new documents?

The way the standards are presented will be decided by the OWTAP. Most likely the AWEA OCRP 2012 document will be revised or amended and three new documents related to the other OSW specific working groups will be created.

2. What role do you anticipate State and Local Governments will have? Will there be opportunity for public comment?

Ultimately, any state Offshore Wind project (like Fisherman's Energy for example) would go through a process of approval similar to that described in 30 CFR 585. In developing this more transparent approach for BOEM I could see that states would benefit from the work because states would be able to adopt the same standards and federal protocols without attempting to duplicate these efforts themselves. As far as state participation on OWTAP is concerned I would like to have at least one representative from a state government agency on the steering committee to make sure non-BOEM interests are being addressed.

3. Is the timing of the output from the technical workgroups – three years – satisfactory to meet the needs of the industry schedule for OSW implementation?

The timeline for the creation of the standards is based on a typical timeline for creating similar documents, for example the AWEA OCRP 2012 which was completed in 3 years. As projects move into the pipeline the industry may request information.

4. How close will the context of the standards to the Offshore Drilling regulations? Wind turbines have a 50m/s standard and for a hurricane the ideal max would be 90m/s. Would requirements to move these turbines as such with the OCS Drilling be a starting point for the future?

The oil and gas industry complies with the API standards among others. For the wind turbine support structures we are already using these same standards and will continue

to do so. The protocols for hurricanes, which were developed in the Gulf of Mexico will be followed for the support structures to ensure high probability of survival. The turbines are designed to IEC 61400-03 which has a maximum 3 sec gust condition of 70 m/s (156 mph). The maintenance team for AWEA OCRP 2012 will debate if we should adopt a typhoon class for certain regions which would bump that to 80 m/s.

5. Will material standards be developed for corrosion protection through NREL?

No, NREL is not a standards development organization. There are several existing corrosion standards and the AWEA OCRP 2012 maintenance team will evaluate whether they are sufficient.

6. Are the new standards going to consider benthic environmental sediment sampling and/or video imagery for habitat assessment?

Most likely the standards will not address benthic environmental sediment sampling or video imagery for habitat assessment. Those environmental issues are part of the permitting process which is out of the scope for this standards development effort. These issues are very important but cannot be codified easily in a prescriptive standard since the findings vary depending on the site.

7. Will the standards developed incorporate training requirements for offshore personnel according to the Global Wind Organization standards?

The scope of the offshore standards and guidelines will be determined by the OWTAP and if deemed necessary, an additional working group to address training could be established. Presently the scope does not address training requirements. This would be new business.

8. Will the FAA will be involved from a radar interference perspective and from the point of view of Installation and O&M support?

The FAA is involved on the permitting side of a project. Generally, permitting is not covered in standards. However we would appreciate input from the FAA while developing the standards especially as it pertains to proper marking/lighting of turbines.

9. Will the standards address energy storage to accompany OSW?

Most likely the standards will not address energy storage. The scope of the standards will be determined by the OWTAP and the working groups but currently it does not address grid integration issues.

10. How does this tie in with the BOEM proposal awarded in April 2017 to generate metocean guidelines for the design of safe offshore wind turbines?

The OWTAP and the metocean working group will decide whether the effort awarded by BOEM will promulgate into a seed document for a consensus guideline on metocean requirements.

11. How are similar types of codes developed and maintained in Europe?

In Europe, national standards and regulation requirement exist and each country has a set of regulations to guide offshore development. IEC design standards are universally applied around the world to wind turbine design and the US participates in all aspects of those standards.