

Delaware Congressional Delegation Urges U.S. Department of the Interior to Issue Offshore Wind Development Regulations -- June 26, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Days after congratulating Delmarva Power and Bluewater Wind, a subsidiary of Babcock and Brown, for reaching an agreement to develop a wind park off of Delaware's coast, Delaware's Congressional Delegation - Sens. Joe Biden and Tom Carper (both D-Del.) and U.S. Representative Mike Castle (R-Del.) -- sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne urging that the long overdue regulations for alternative energy projects in federal waters be issued by the Minerals Management Service (MMS), as directed by the 2005 Energy Policy Act.

Without the timely publication of these guidelines, offshore wind projects, like Bluewater Wind's in Delaware, face expensive delays and regulatory uncertainty. Delaware is poised to have the first offshore wind farm in the entire country, and the regulations from MMS are crucial to moving forward with permitting and construction. A draft of these regulations was supposed to be released this spring, a full two years after the original deadline put forth by Congress.

The delegation released the following statement:

"We are very anxious to ensure that the regulations for offshore alternative energy projects are issued without further delay, especially with the recent announcement that agreement has been reached to build a wind park off the coast of Delaware. This is a wonderful opportunity for Delaware to be a national leader in combating climate change, reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and improving the quality of the air we breathe. To begin construction of wind turbines offshore, it is imperative that these regulations be issued. We are united in our commitment to working with the Department of Interior and interested parties to ensure the regulatory framework is in place."

Below is the full text of the letter Delaware's Congressional Delegation sent to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne:

June 24, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne

Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

We are writing today regarding the Minerals Management Service (MMS) and its responsibility to promulgate regulations for alternative energy projects in federal waters. As you know, this responsibility was granted to the MMS as part of Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The state of Delaware has recently announced that the state's major power delivery company, Delmarva Power and Bluewater Wind, a subsidiary of Babcock and Brown have reached an agreement to supply Delmarva residential customers in the state with wind energy produced by an offshore wind farm, located off the coast of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. This may very well be the first offshore wind farm to be constructed in the entire country and we are very excited about leading the nation in pursuing clean, renewable and stable energy sources.

However, it is our understanding that the MMS has yet to release draft regulations required by Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. We are aware that the MMS is currently reviewing offshore wind farm applications on an individual basis, including one submitted by Bluewater Wind, but before any offshore wind farm can be constructed, these regulations must be in place. We were originally told that the MMS would release these important draft regulations during the Spring of 2008. We are now approaching July 2008 and the draft regulations have not been made available.

It is extremely important not only to us, but to the state of Delaware that these regulations be promulgated as soon as possible. Anything that you can do to hasten this process would be greatly appreciated.

We want to thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, Jr,

Thomas R. Carper

Michael N. Castle

United States Senator

United States Senator

Member of Congress