

# U.S. Offshore Wind: Status, Project Development, and Transmission Considerations

PRESENTED TO

HARVARD ELECTRICITY POLICY GROUP  
NINETY-SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

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THE **Brattle** GROUP

# Content

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## ■ **Status of U.S. Offshore Wind Generation**

- Global Context
- U.S. Offshore Wind Generation Potential
- Policy Commitments and Development Efforts
- Cost and Value of U.S. Offshore Wind Generation

## ■ **Project Development and Transmission Considerations**

- Project Development Risks and Challenges
- Advantages of Gen-tie vs. Offshore-Grid Models
- Grid Constraints and Transmission Needs

## ■ **Takeaways**

# Global Context of Wind Generation

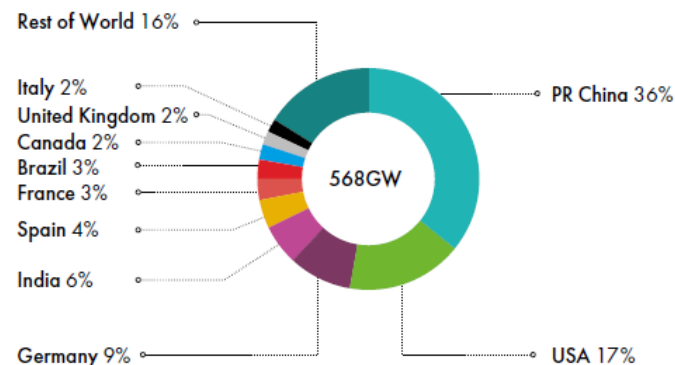
The U.S. now has 100 GW wind generation ... but little offshore wind because focus has been developing abundant low-cost onshore wind resources (though often far from major load centers)

## Total Installed Wind Capacity

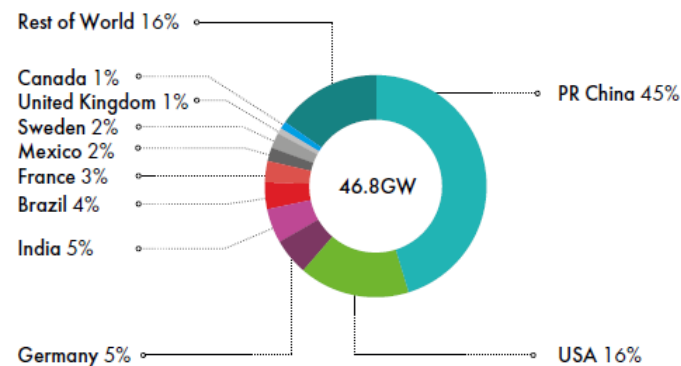
Dec 2018 (GW)

Country	Onshore	Offshore	Total
PR China	206.8	4.8	211.6
USA	96.6	0.03	96.7
Germany	53.2	6.4	59.6
India	35.1	0.0	35.1
Spain*	23.5	0.0	23.5
UK	13.0	8.0	21.0
France	15.3	0.0	15.3
Brazil	14.7	0.0	14.7
Canada	12.8	0.0	12.8
Italy*	10.0	0.0	10.0
Rest of world	87.4	3.9	91.3
Total TO P10	481.0	19.2	500.2
World Total	568.4	23.1	591.5

## Total Onshore (2018):



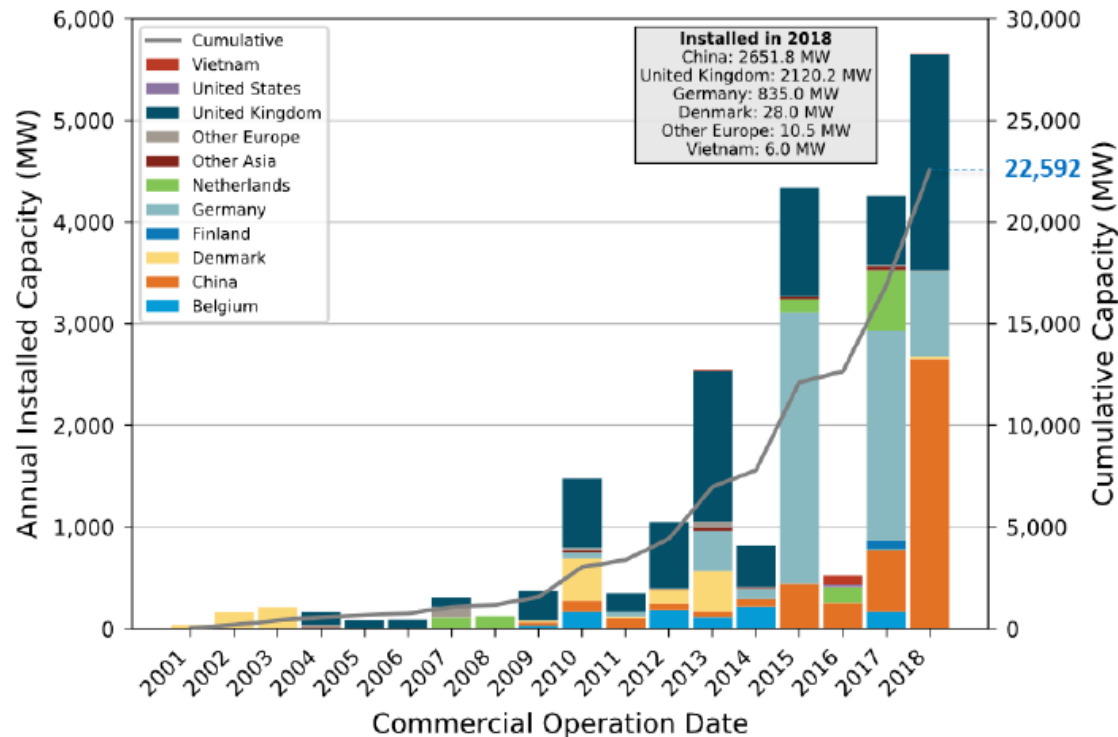
## New 2018 Onshore Installations:



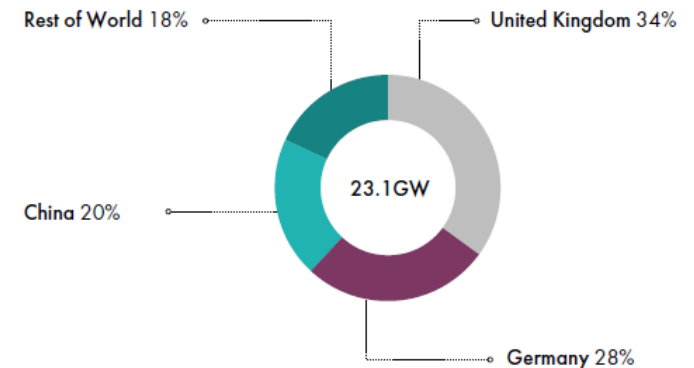
# Global Offshore Wind Market

The installed global offshore wind capacity has reached 23 GW by the end of 2018 (up from 19 GW at the end of 2017) ... mostly in China and Europe

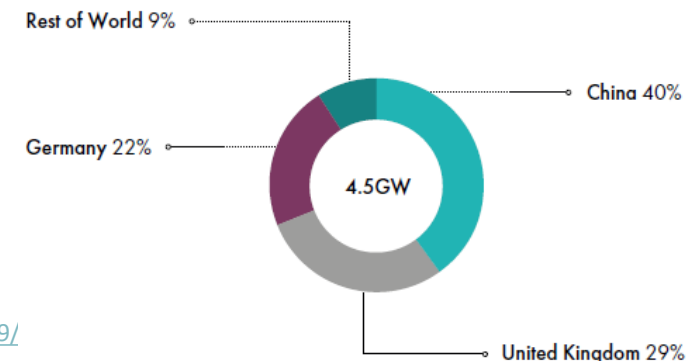
## Global Offshore Wind Installations



## Total Offshore (2018):



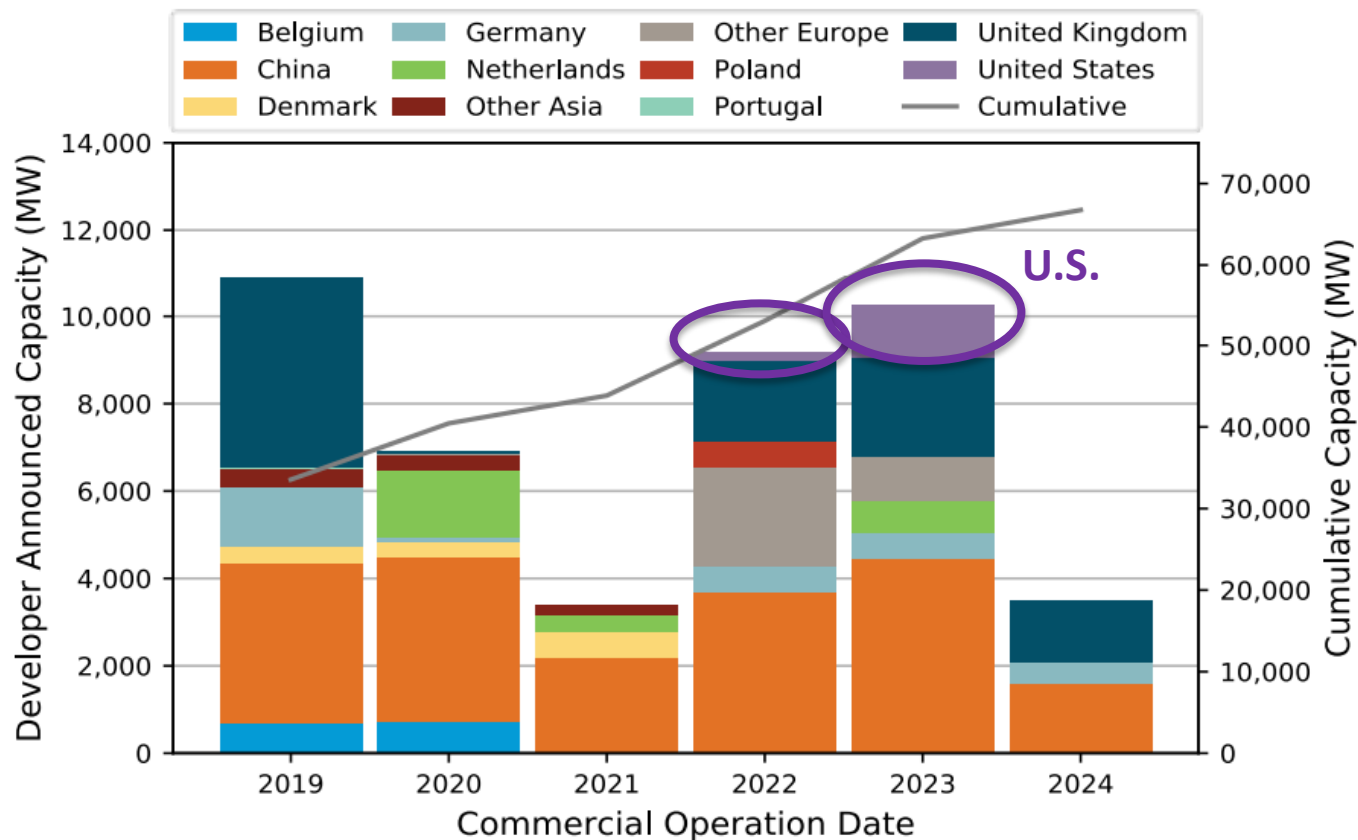
## New 2018 Offshore Installations:



Sources: GWEC (2019) 2018 Global Wind Energy Report. <https://gwec.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/Global-Wind-Report-2018.pdf>,  
US DOE (2018). Offshore Wind Technologies Market Report.  
<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/08/f65/2018%20Offshore%20Wind%20Market%20Report.pdf>

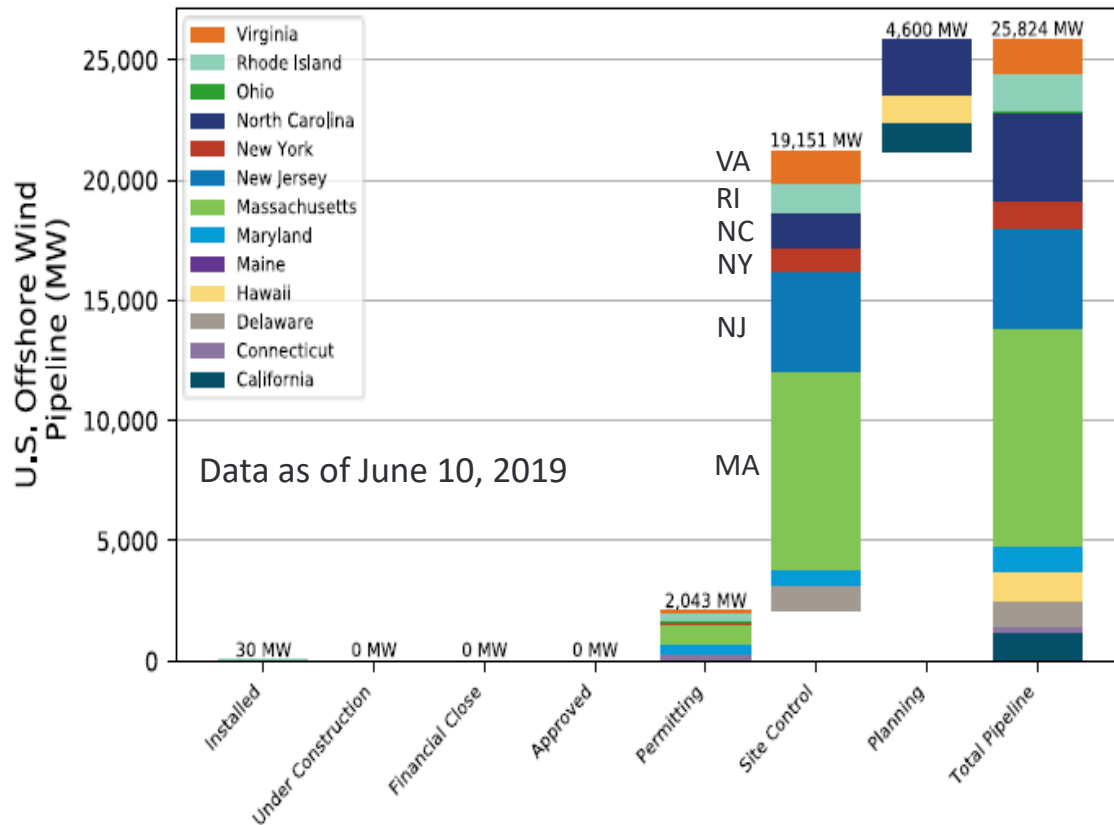
## U.S. Relative to Global Offshore Market: 2019-24

U.S. offshore wind development is expected to increase significantly, but “financially closed” projects still account for only a small share of the global industry growth over the next five years



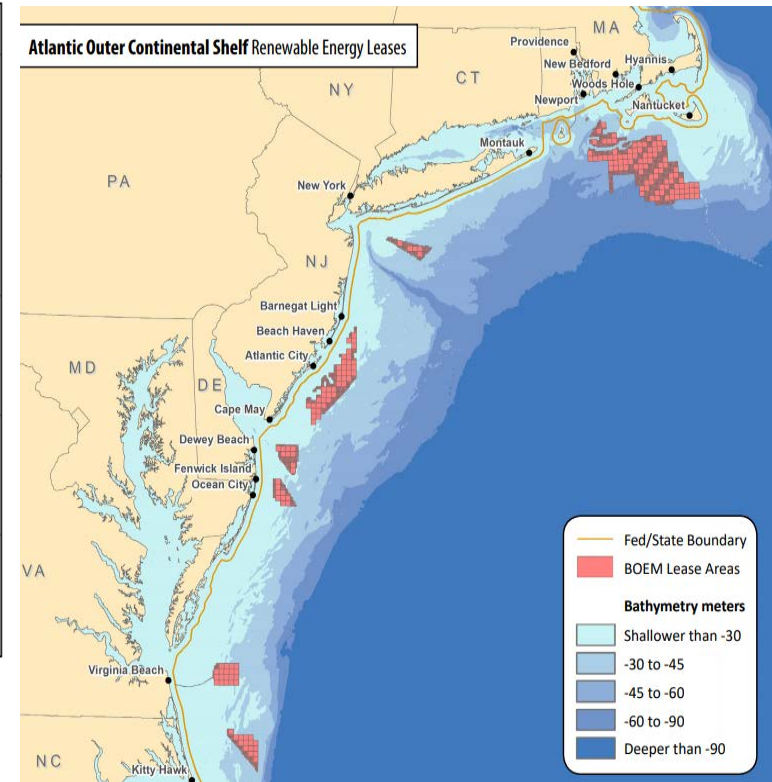
# Currently Proposed U.S. Offshore Wind Projects

**30 projects “under development” (28,464 MW\*)... mostly in North Atlantic**  
 - Compares to 24,000 MW of commitments from U.S. States (as of 2019)



Source: US DOE (2018). Offshore Wind Technologies Market Report, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/08/f65/2018%20Offshore%20Wind%20Market%20Report.pdf>

\*This number includes the 25,824 MW from the bar chart above plus [Dominion Energy's 2,640 MW VA project](#) announced in September, 2019.



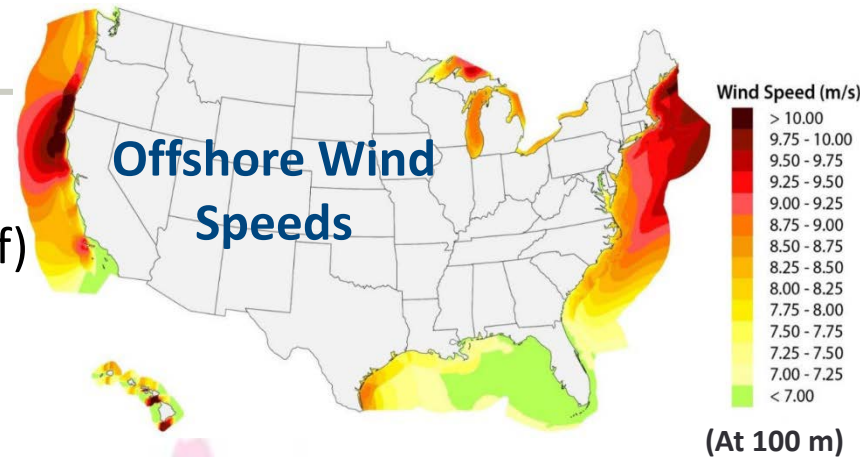
Source: Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Leases Map Book, March 2019, BOEM <https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Lease-Map-Book/>



# U.S. Offshore Wind Quality

## Highest-quality U.S. offshore wind:

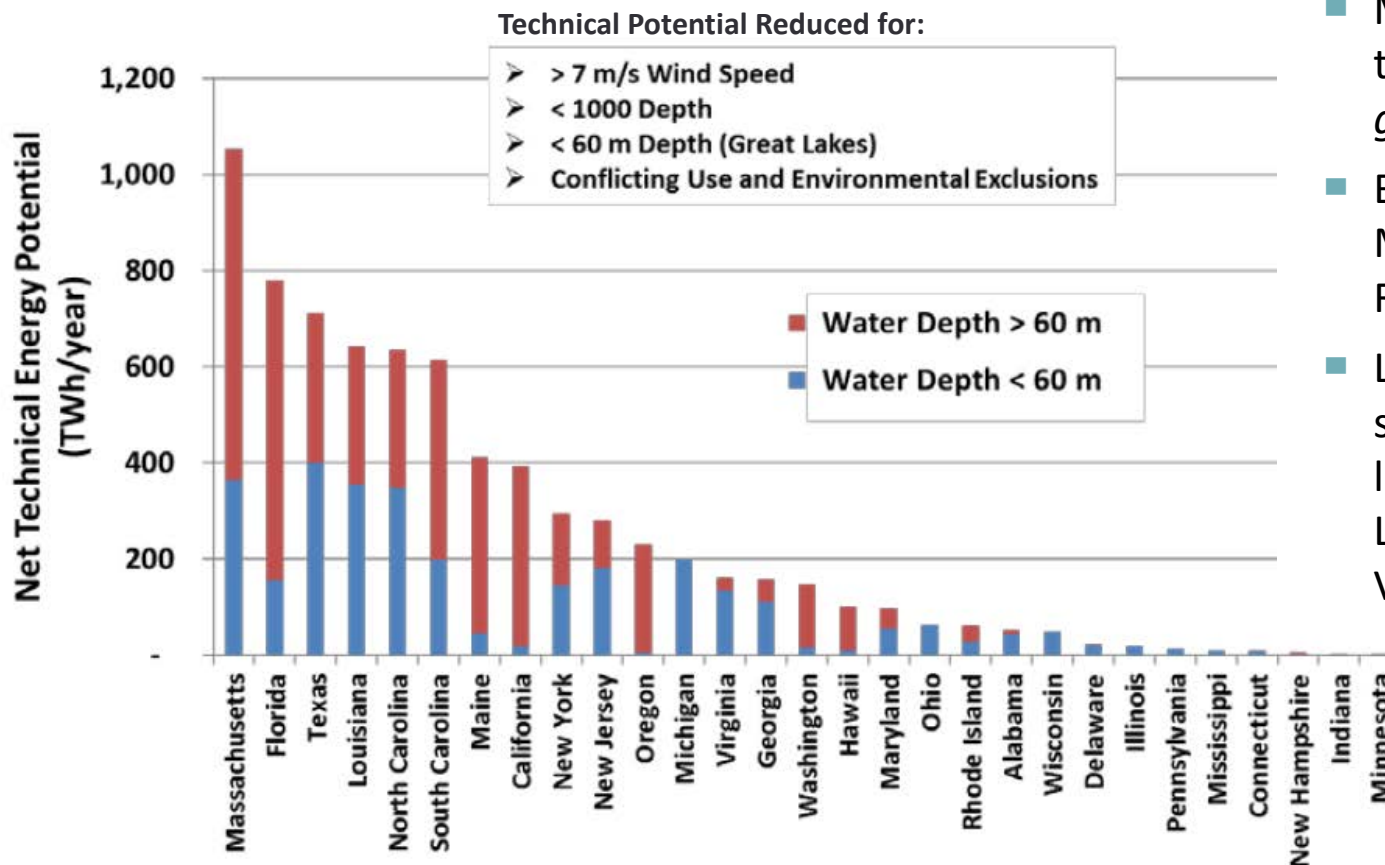
- East and Northeast (shallow Atlantic shelf)
- Northern California and Oregon



Highest capacity factors for U.S. offshore wind about equal to of onshore wind in Great Plains

# Enormous “Technical Potential” of U.S. Offshore Wind

Considering technological, land-use, environmental limits, the U.S. is estimated to offer **2,000 GW** (7,200 TWh) of offshore wind potential



- More than double total installed U.S. *generation*.
- Best quality: MA, ME, CA, NY, NJ, OR RI
- Lower quality but shallow water and long coast lines: TX, LA, NC, SC, FL, MI, VA

Source: NREL (2016). Computing America's Offshore Wind Energy Potential.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/computing-america-s-offshore-wind-energy-potential>



# BOEM Issued 21 GW Worth of Offshore Wind Leases

## Recent BOEM Lease News:

- BOEM leases now support 21 GW
  - Up from 17 GW in 2018
- Massachusetts (February, 2019)
  - Record auction price of \$135 million for each of three leases
  - Estimated 4.1 GW of potential capacity for all three leases
- Several new BOEM “Call Areas” in NY, NJ and SC to gauge additional industry interest
- BOEM delaying EIS for Vineyard for additional cumulative impact studies
  - Will delay Vineyard wind project and result in lost tax credits (increased costs)
- Five Pacific-based projects submitted unsolicited applications to BOEM
- Transmission-only filing with BOEM by Anbaric and Atlantic Wind

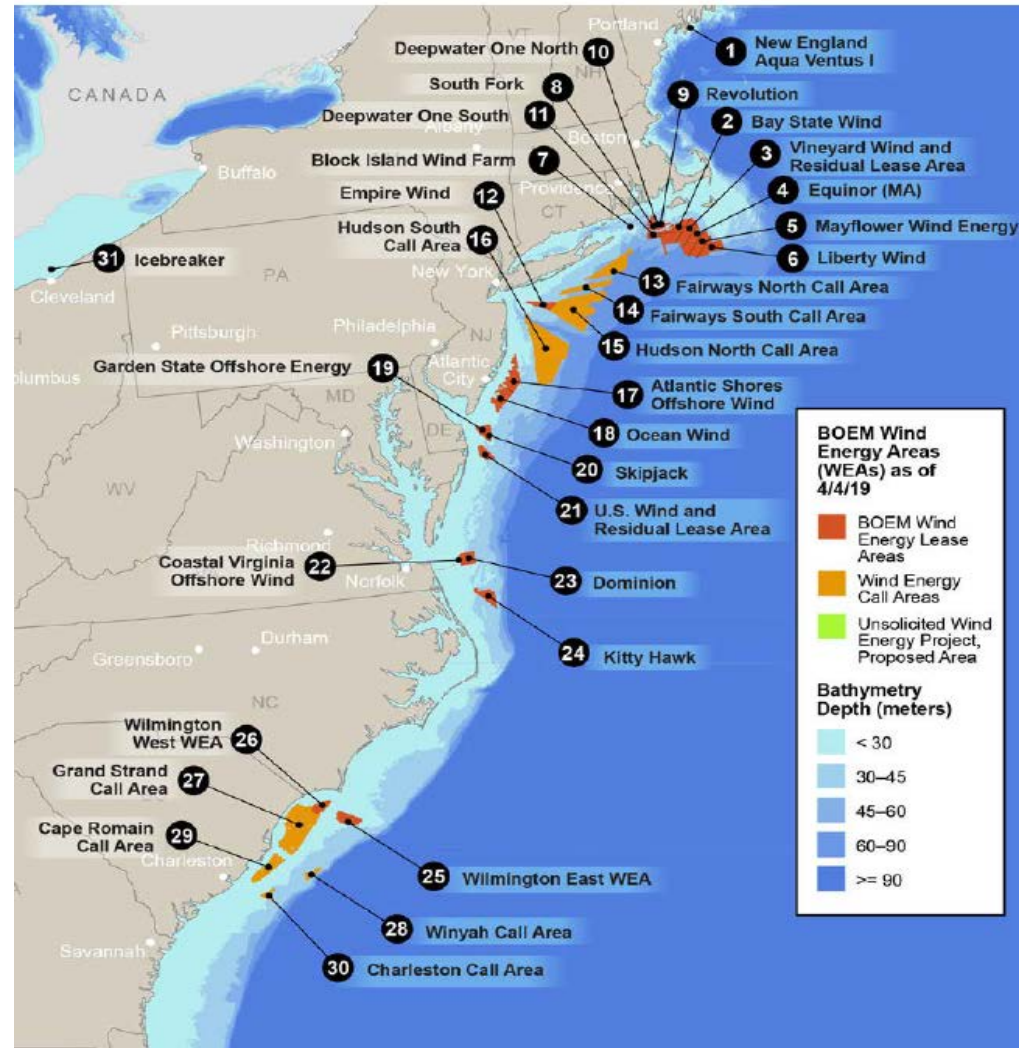


Figure 4. Locations of U.S. Atlantic Coast offshore wind pipeline activity and Call Areas as of March 2019.  
Map provided by NREL

# U.S. Offshore Wind Generation News

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At the end of 2018, committed offshore procurements by U.S. states totaled 24,000 MW by 2035 (up from 5,300 MW by 2030 as of the end of 2017)

## New or expanded state initiatives since end of 2017:

- **RI:** Selected 400 MW project winner in collaboration with MA
- **MD:** Passed bill with 1,200 MW offshore wind carve-out (previous 368 MW commitment)
- **MA:** Passed bill for 3,200 MW by 2035, awarded 2x800 MW (Vineyard and Mayflower Wind)
- **CT:** Bill to solicit 2,300 MW of offshore wind in addition to 1104 MW already awarded
- **NY:** Passed bill for 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035 (up from 2,400 MW by 2030)
- **NJ:** Executive order to increase target to 7,500 MW by 2035 (up from 3,500 MW by 2030)

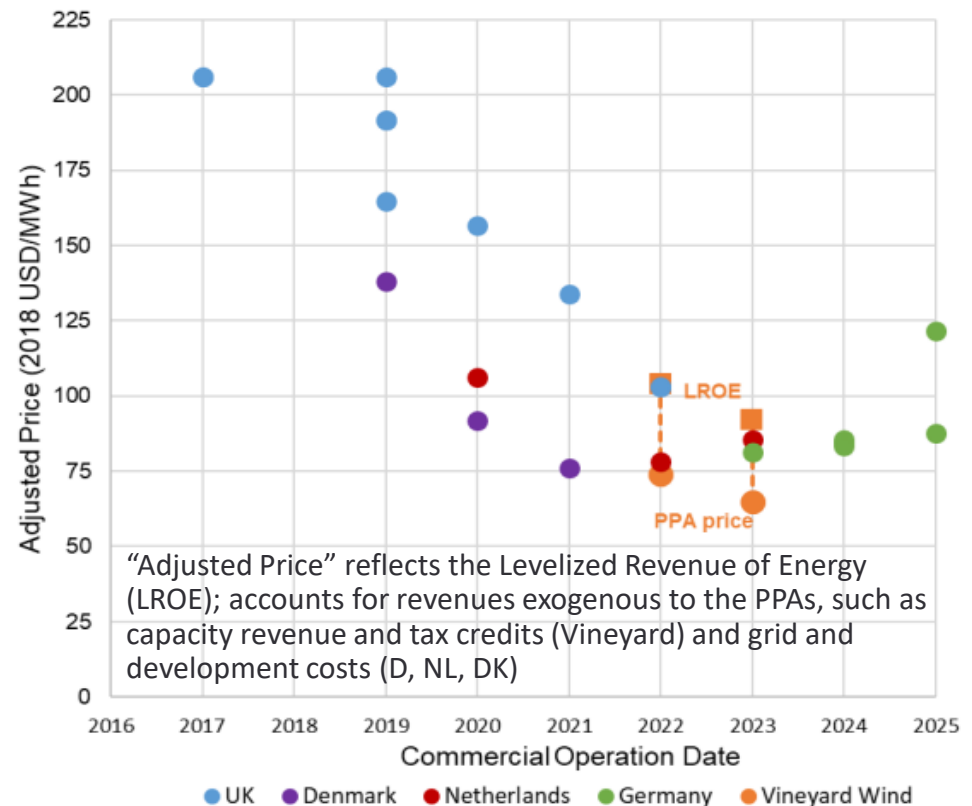
## Examples of developer initiatives:

- **Deepwater Wind:** Revolution Wind 400 MW (MA, RI, CT); 120 MW (MD) and others
- **Ørsted:** Ocean Wind 1,100 MW (NJ); Baystate Wind 400-800 MW (MA); Sunrise Wind 880 MW (NY)
- **Avangrid Renewables:** Vineyard Wind 800 MW (MA), 804 MW (CT); Kitty Hawk 1,500 MW (NC)
- **Equinor (Statoil):** Empire Wind 816 MW (up to 1,500 MW) (NY)
- **US Wind:** 248 MW (MD); up to 1,500 MW (NJ)
- **Dominion:** 2,640 MW (VA), first 880 MW phase to come online in 2024
- **Anbaric:** BOEM applications for offshore grids in NY-NJ and New England
- Others include: Eversource, GE, CIP, RES, Neptune Wind, Georgia Power...

# Cost of Offshore Wind in the U.S. and Europe

**2018 saw large cost decreases for U.S. offshore wind projects, decreasing gap with Europe (despite \$0/MWh premiums in Europe)**

- 2016 Block Island (RI): 30 MW at \$244/MWh
- 2020-23 Revolution Wind (RI): \$98/MWh for energy+RECS
- 2020-25 Vineyard PPA (MA): **\$74/MWh** for first 400 MW **\$65/MWh** for second 400 MW.
  - Includes energy + RECS
  - Capacity value (\$5-10/MWh) and ITC stays with developer
- Ocean Wind (NJ): Levelized OREC price estimated to \$46.46/MWh
  - Does not include energy and capacity revenues
- NY prices are expected to be similar

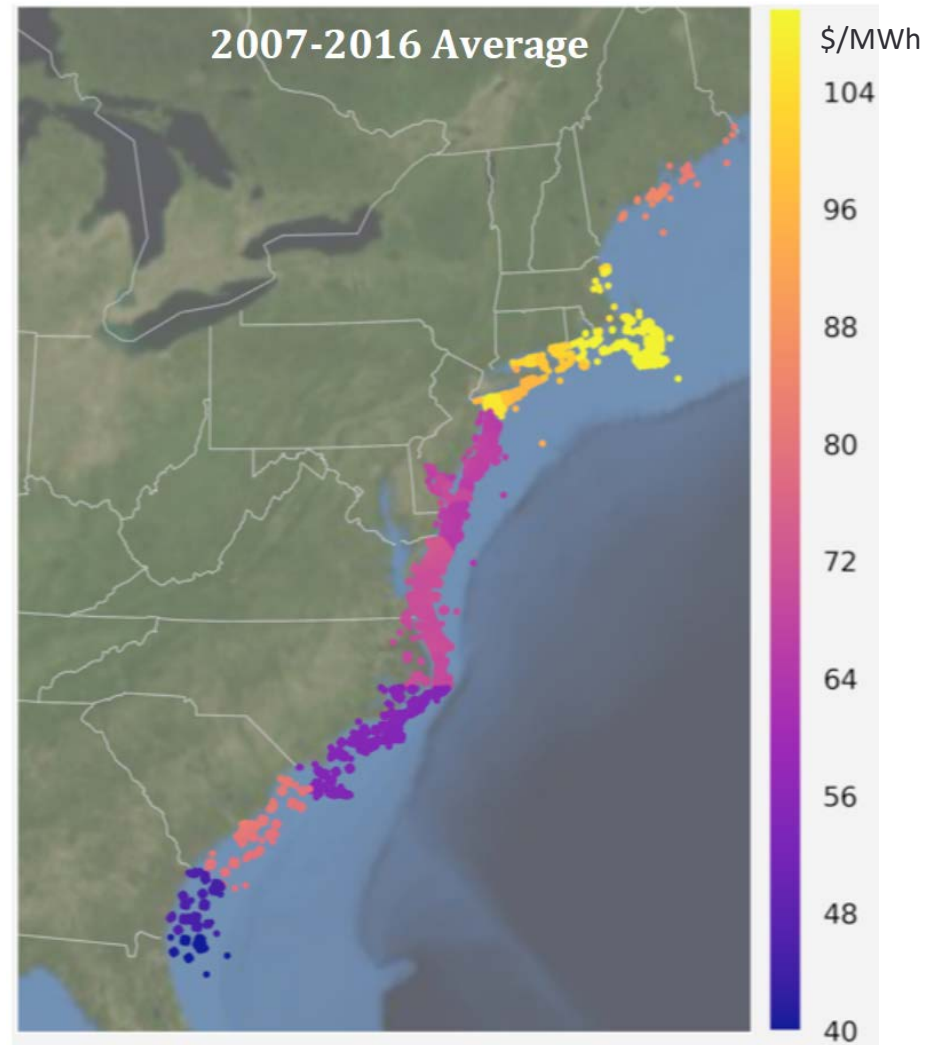


Source: Beiter (2017), The Vineyard Wind Power Purchase Agreement: Insights for Estimating Costs of U.S. Offshore Wind Projects, National Renewable Energy Laboratory <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy19osti/72981.pdf>

# The Value of Offshore Wind in the U.S.

**LBNL estimated the total market value of offshore wind generation based on historical market prices for energy, capacity, and RECs in various U.S. wholesale power markets:**

- Highest value in New England at \$100-110/MWh
- New York: \$100/MWh
- Mid-Atlantic (PJM): \$70/MWh
- South of PJM: \$40-55/MWh



# Offshore Wind Procurement Models and Risks

Expected costs and risks of U.S. offshore wind development depends on contract and investment models:

Contract/Investment Model				
Model	PPA	Indexed OREC	Fixed OREC	Market/Merchant
<b>Mechanism</b>	Fixed contract for energy+ORECs	Fixed price minus energy/capacity index for ORECs	Fixed price for ORECs	No premium for "clean" attributes
<b>Implications for Owner/ Developer</b>	Fixed revenue stream (capacity market risk may remain)	Basis risk and shape risk relative to energy and capacity index	Energy and capacity risk	Relies on market prices, potential for hedges with banks or insurance companies
<b>Example</b>	Vineyard Wind (MA) (excl. capacity)	NYSERDA Solicitation	Ocean Wind (NJ)	Zero premium in Germany and NL (w/o transmission costs)

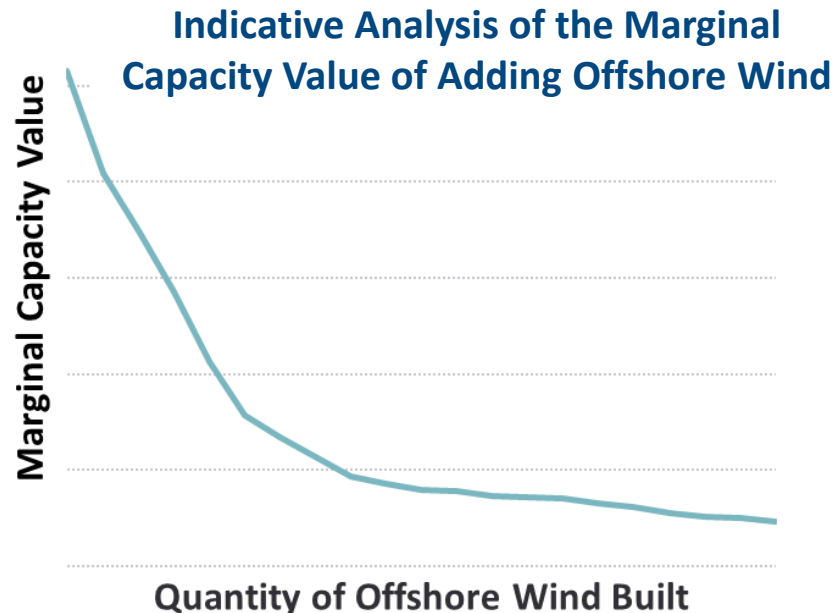
More risk for owner/developer



# Offshore Project Development Risks

## Expected value and risk of U.S. offshore wind depends on many factors:

- Energy and OREC market price risks:
  - Level of market prices (if not part of PPA)
  - Basis risks due to uncertain transmission costs, congestion, and market price differentials (which also depend on future volume of wind development)
    - Especially for large additions or if correlated with large amounts of similar resources at similar locations
  - Shape risks if payment is on typical, not actual wind profile
- Capacity market risk as future UCAP ratings could be substantially derated with increased off-shore wind development
- Added risks also reduce the expected value of a project





# Strategic Implications of Offshore Transmission

## Locations of onshore interconnection points have important implications for offshore project costs, bids, and bid evaluation

- The choice of landing points is a major strategic decision, affecting both the project costs and revenues
  - Bidders have to propose a landing point before they know their onshore network upgrade costs
  - Under OREC-only approaches, the bidder must evaluate different costs and “basis risk” associated with different landing points
  - Under PPA approaches, the bid evaluator must compare the value of resources at different landing points
- An offshore grid would create a level playing field for competing projects
  - Positive recent experience in Germany, where transmission system operator owns and manages offshore grid while the substations are owned by developers
  - Offshore grids being developed in Belgium (1,030 MW) and the Netherlands (3,500 MW)
  - UK coordination study documents cost reductions offered by offshore grid transmission
- Separating offshore transmission and generation development introduces substantial project-on-project risks that need to be mitigated
- Large-scale offshore grid introduces sizing challenges with added up-front costs unless it can be phased-in and synchronized with offshore generation development
  - WindEurope Study: offshore grid for 450,000 MW of offshore wind by 2050

# Offshore Gen-Ties vs. Offshore Grids

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## Advantages of gen-ties to individual offshore wind plants:

- Offshore wind plant and transmission can be synchronized and integrated in development effort of individual companies (reduced project-on-project risk)
- Development of individual wind plants does not depend on common offshore transmission infrastructure becoming available in time
- More cost effective for limited wind development and short distances to shore

## Advantages of off-shore grids to integrate multiple wind plants:

- More cost effective for large-scale wind development that are far offshore or in locations with few onshore landing points (or sensitive shoreline)
- Reduced risk that gen-ties of first several wind plants inefficiently use up available rights-of-ways, blocking subsequent developments
- Better coordination with and reinforcement of onshore grid
- Added offshore redundancy if designed with meshed configuration
- Open access to enable more competition among wind developers
- Competition between experienced transmission developers

# Choosing between Gen-ties and Offshore Grids

## Factors favoring offshore grids to serve multiple wind plants

- Large size of total wind generation commitment with sizable individual steps
  - More than 1600 MW within a few years?
- Several plants close to each other but long distances from shore or from sufficiently-robust onshore transmission nodes
  - Greater than 40 miles?
- More efficient use of scarce right-of-way
  - Few landing points with robust on-shore transmission
  - Difficult permitting of landing points and onshore interconnection study process
- Network benefit (offshore redundancy and reinforcement of on-shore grid)
- Create more competition for wind developers through open access to offshore hubs
- Create competition between experienced offshore transmission developers

## Factors favoring gen ties to individual offshore wind plants

- Modest total development and small incremental steps
  - 400 MW plants per circuit only?
- Modest distance from shore
  - Less than 40 miles?
- Many landing points with robust on-shore transmission
  - Requires 4 circuits for every 1,600 MW of total OSW development?
- Long distances between offshore locations to be interconnected
- Easy permitting of landing points and interconnection studies
- Wind developer has significant offshore transmission experience

# Implications for U.S. Offshore Transmission Needs

## U.S. offshore wind development will require substantial offshore transmission infrastructure

- The ~24,000 MW of committed off-shore wind development in the Northeastern US will require about **3,000 miles of offshore transmission** plus significant onshore reinforcements
  - For example: to integrate 24,000 MW with single 220kV HVAC **gen-ties** for every 400 MW of wind plants (up to 30-60 miles offshore) would require **60 landing points** with associated onshore grid interconnections reinforcements
  - **Off-shore grids** to integrate multiple wind plants—such as used in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and proposed by Atlantic Wind and Anbaric in NJ and Anbaric, Bluewater, and Ørsted in MA—would **create scale economies and reduce the number of necessary landing points**

## Integrating the already-proposed amounts of offshore wind plants will almost certainly require the development of **offshore grids**

- Networked offshore grids can also reinforce the onshore network and reduce the cost of onshore-interconnection-related upgrades
- Additionally offers scale economies and competitive advantages
- Likely necessary in NY, with 9000 MW target and limited interconnection options

# Offshore Wind Transmission Options in ISO-NE

**ISO-NE: 40 to 90+ miles from interconnections with southern on-shore grid**

	State	Owner	Approximate Total Cable Route Length (Miles)	Approximate Land Cable Route Length <sup>32</sup>	Approximate Submarine Cable Route Length	Substation Improvement for a 1,000 MW Project	Proximity of Potential Converter Station Parcel	Rank
Brayton Point	MA	National Grid	45 – 95	<1	45 – 95	\$10M	Close	Tier 1
Canal	MA	NSTAR	60 – 100	10	50 – 90	\$2.5M	Close	Tier 1
Kent County	RI	National Grid	51 – 96	1	40 – 95	\$2.5M	Close	Tier 1
Carver	MA	NSTAR	65 – 105	20	45 – 85	\$2.5M	Not Close	Tier 2
Oak Street	MA	NSTAR	50 – 60	10	45 – 60	\$2.5M	Not Close	Tier 2
Millstone	CT	Northeast Utilities	60 – 120	<1	60 – 120	\$2.5M	Close	Tier 3
Montville	CT	Northeast Utilities	65 – 130	<1	65 - 130	\$2.5M	Close	Tier 3

Source:  
<https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/northeast-offshore-wind-regional-market-characterization/>

**ISO-NE estimated that each of these interconnection points should be able to accommodate the injection of 1,000 MW of offshore wind generation, with a cumulative total of 6,000 MW**

- Injections at these points will also benefit onshore grid by reducing north-south congestion and within south-eastern ISO-NE

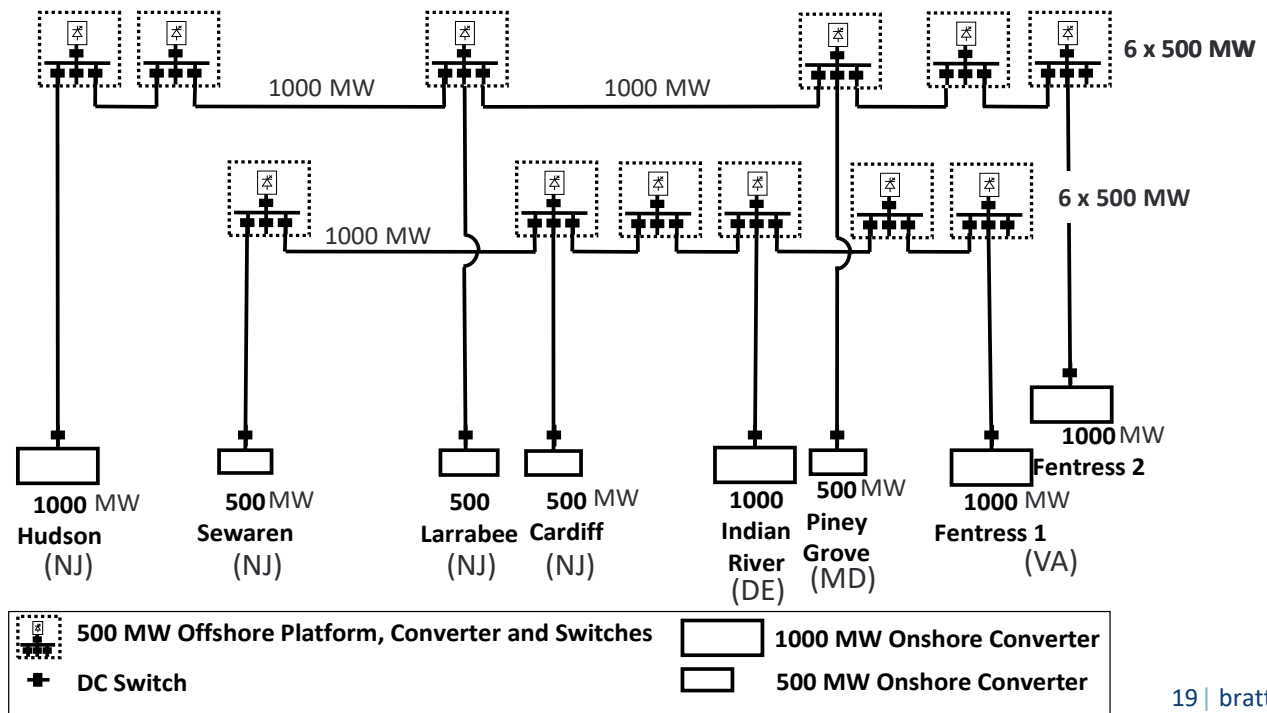
**Injections in ME and NH would require north-south onshore grid expansion**

# Offshore Transmission Needs for NJ and PJM

## New Jersey: wind areas in southern NJ, approx. 17 miles from shore

- Beyond Oyster Creek, the onshore grid in southern NJ is fairly weak, likely requiring:
  - Reinforcements of the on-shore grid at local landing points in southern NJ; or
  - Off-shore connections to more robust but distant landing points (in northern NJ)

PJM: in 2013 Atlantic Wind Connection outlined example of how to integrate 6,000 MW of offshore wind into PJM, reinforcing the onshore grid between NJ, DE, MD, and VA





# Offshore Transmission Needs for NY

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## **New York wind energy areas located 14-30 miles offshore**

- Limited by shipping lanes emanating from New York City (narrow harbor entrance)
- Very limited interconnection opportunities with on-shore grid in Long Island

## **As part of Governor's earlier commitment to develop 2,400 MW of offshore wind by 2030, NYSERDA had already begun the Master Plan process:**

- Conducted a [Cable Landfall Permitting Study](#) to consider potential cable landfall sites
- Hard constraints were identified: National Priority List sites, DOE Conservation remediation sites, and hardened shorelines (Newtown Creek, Harlem River)
- Suggests very limited interconnection opportunities, particularly for a gen-ties model

## **NYPA's [recent offshore wind study](#) analyzed European case studies of offshore wind development, highlighting the opportunities and challenges of offshore wind development:**

- "Long-term grid planning for both on and offshore, coordination and performance incentive alignment are really important so parties are incentivized to finish projects in a timely manner."

## **NYSERDA now taking the lead on studying interconnecting 9,000 MW by 2035**

# Planning Onshore Transmission for Offshore Wind

**The ISOs “generation interconnection” processes are workable for connecting offshore wind with individual gen ties**

- Though ISOs existing generation interconnection study processes are challenging
  - Generators face long study timelines and highly uncertain network upgrade costs
  - Queue-based processes can reduce competition among OSW developers
- Does not generally work for interconnecting an offshore grid

**ISO “regional transmission planning” processes are not set up well to develop cost-effective plans for offshore grids in a timely fashion**

- ISO stakeholder-based regional planning processes are time consuming and often take several years to complete; frequently undefined for addressing public policy needs
- Limited ISO and stakeholder expertise with “wet” transmission facilities and offshore transmission technology options
- NYISO’s solutions-based process for public-policy projects may be a good model
- Developing a cost-effective offshore grid would require:
  - Phased-in plan that aligns timing of transmission investments with generation development
  - Project-on-project risk mitigation for generators (e.g., compensation for delayed transmission)
  - Coordinated planning so offshore transmission can also reinforce the on-shore grid
  - Tap into synergies from (currently ineffective) inter-regional planning

# Takeaways

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**The U.S. is relying less on offshore wind resources than Europe and China, but is poised to make major developments in the next decade**

- **U.S. Onshore Wind:** Abundant low-cost, high-quality locations (many greater than 50% capacity factor) ... but often far from major load centers.
- **U.S. Offshore Wind:** just 30 MW installed now, but 24,000 MW of existing state-level commitments and 28,000 MW of proposed projects
  - Closer to major load centers and higher-priced wholesale power markets

**The U.S. will require substantial offshore+onshore transmission infrastructure investments to integrate the already-proposed and additionally-needed projects**

- **Gen-ties** to individual offshore wind plants that are 30-60 miles from shore (and far from other plants) can be cost effective. But can create barrier to larger developments.
- **Offshore grids** with open access can offer significant cost and competitive advantages for (1) large plants far from shore and relatively close to each other; (2) limited onshore interconnection opportunities. But project-on-project risk must be mitigated.

**ISO transmission planning processes work reasonably well for interconnecting individual generators (with gen ties) but are not set up well for effectively planning offshore grids**

# Speaker Bio and Contact Information

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**Note:**

**The views expressed in this presentation are strictly those of the presenter and do not necessarily state or reflect the views of *The Brattle Group, Inc.***

Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger is an economist with a background in power engineering and over 20 years of experience in the areas of public utility economics and finance. He has published widely, assisted clients and stakeholder groups in the formulation of business and regulatory strategy, and submitted expert testimony to the U.S. Congress, courts, state and federal regulatory agencies, and in arbitration proceedings.

Hannes has extensive experience in the economic analyses of wholesale power markets and transmission systems. His recent experience includes the analysis of transmission benefits, reviews of RTO capacity market and resource adequacy designs, testimony in contract disputes, cost allocation, and rate design. He has performed market assessments, market design reviews, asset valuations, and cost-benefit studies for investor-owned utilities, independent system operators, transmission companies, regulatory agencies, public power companies, and generators across North America.

Hannes received an M.A. in Economics and Finance from Brandeis University and an M.S. in Power Engineering and Energy Economics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria.

# Examples of Brattle Offshore Wind Experience

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## **Evaluation of Offshore Wind Contract Terms**

For the Massachusetts' Attorney General's office, Brattle experts submitted testimony before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, comparing the proposed contract price and terms of the Cape Wind offshore wind project with the price and costs of other U.S.-based and European offshore wind projects. The testimony also estimated Cape Wind likely project costs and evaluated the potential ratepayer value of various proposed contract terms.

## **Locational and Zonal Long-Term Pricing for Off-shore Wind in New York**

For an offshore wind developer participating in an offshore wind procurement by NYSEDA, Brattle prepared a number of price forecasts to help the client understand risks associated with the two PPA structures under the offshore wind procurement. To do so, we used nodal market simulations to forecast near-term (five years out) as well as longer-term energy and capacity prices in New York for various zones and nodes. The forecasts included assumptions about the development of demand in line with broader greenhouse gas policy goals and relaxed transmission constraints for longer-range forecasts.

## **U.S. Offshore Wind Generation and Transmission Needs**

For a transmission developer Brattle experts developed a grid framework to evaluate the relative advantages and tradeoffs between using individual gen-ties versus offshore grids to interconnect offshore wind projects of different sizes and configurations.

## **FERC Testimony**

Brattle experts testified before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in support of the public policy, reliability, congestion relief, and economic benefits of the Atlantic Wind Connection Project. The project proposed to construct an offshore transmission grid to integrate 6,000 MW of offshore wind farms to the on-shore grid in the Mid-Atlantic region from New Jersey to Virginia.

## **Economic Stimulus of Offshore Wind Generation Investments**

Brattle experts conducted several studies estimating the economic stimulus and employment impacts of major offshore wind generation investments.

## **Assessment of Market Design Improvements for Interconnecting Wind Generators**

For a large regional transmission organization, Brattle assessed the potential risks associated with existing procedures for interconnecting wind generators on wind generators with different types of interconnections agreements, and proposed recommendations for improvements to the RTO procedures.

## **Transmission Planning for a Carbon-Constrained Future**

In a report for the WIRES Group, a transmission trade association, Brattle analyzed the impact of accelerated decarbonization efforts on the transmission grid. In their study, Brattle experts took a comprehensive look at the rapid changes occurring in the electricity industry, particularly as they relate to the impact of environmental regulations, market forces, and new technologies on the generation fleet. Their analysis found that anticipatory transmission planning, which moves beyond the standard 5 to 10 year planning horizon, is key to addressing the next generation of electricity supplies and consumption in an effective manner.

# About The Brattle Group

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The Brattle Group provides consulting and expert testimony in economics, finance, and regulation to corporations, law firms, and governmental agencies worldwide.

We combine in-depth industry experience and rigorous analyses to help clients answer complex economic and financial questions in litigation and regulation, develop strategies for changing markets, and make critical business decisions.

Our services to the electric power industry include:

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- Cost of Capital
- Demand Forecasting Methodology
- Demand Response and Energy Efficiency
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- Energy Asset Valuation
- Energy Contract Litigation
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