



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Buffalo District

BUILDING STRONG®

March 2014

FACT SHEET

Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) – Project Icebreaker Processing No. 2010-00223

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)
Regulatory

Location

- In Lake Erie - Approximately 7 miles northwest of downtown Cleveland, Ohio Lake Erie shoreline

Project Description

- Construct an offshore wind energy demonstration project, entitled Project Icebreaker. The proposed project will be comprised of 5-6, 3MW direct drive wind turbines placed in Lake Erie, located approximately 7 miles northwest of downtown Cleveland. The proposed turbines will be connected via an electrical transmission line that is being proposed for routing under the federal breakwall, under the federal navigation channel, and under the confined disposal facility, all located off of the Cleveland waterfront

Congressional Interests

- Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11)
- Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-9)
- Representative David Joyce (R-OH-14)
- Senator Rob Portman (R)
- Senator Sherrod Brown (D)

Project Sponsor

- Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo)

Project Manager

- Joe Krawczyk (716) 879-4186

Current Status

Pre-application discussions & communications have been ongoing between the Buffalo District and the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo). In order to meet Department of Energy (DOE) permitting progress goals LEEDCo submitted a formal Section 404/10 permit application packet to the Buffalo District, on February 10, 2014. Buffalo District will evaluate the permit application packet for completeness. If determined to be complete a 30-day Public Notice pwill be published.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) received a complete application for submerged land lease from LEEDCo on January 16, 2014.

The Corps provided an e-mail message to the applicant, on February 10, 2014, outlining additional informational needs. The e-mail message provides specific guidance on the types of information that will assist in the Corps' evaluation of the proposed project.

On November 25, 2013, the Corps sent a pre-Public Notice Tribal Coordination Letter to relevant tribes in Ohio and copied the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.

Issues

General: Permitting issues for the Corps will be complex and include potential impacts to both local and migratory avian/bat species, , difficulties due to ice flows and currents, impacts to air traffic/radar capabilities, acoustic disturbances to aquatic species, potential shipping disruptions and aesthetic concerns for on shore residents. The greatest unknowns currently include potential avian/bat impacts, potential impacts to historic viewsheds, ice concerns, and potential acoustic impacts to aquatic species. This project may require a Corps real estate license and will require a Section 408 permit, as the applicant proposes boring beneath a federal breakwall, federal channel, and confined disposal facility.

Path Forward

Upon receipt of a permit application, the Corps will evaluate the activity using standard permit procedures under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 10) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), including a public notice and agency coordination. Involved agencies will include the US Coast Guard, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, International Joint Commission and State regulatory and resource agencies, among others. Input will also be solicited from the public, as well as other interested parties such as the Great Lakes shipping community, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, Lake Erie Commission, etc. State agencies will also play an important role, primarily through Coastal Zone Management, Water Quality Certification and Submerged Lands Lease programs. Concerns raised through the public notice process will be fully considered by the Corps, and data deficiencies will need to be addressed prior to reaching a permit decision.

The Corps had an initial conference call with the Department of Energy (DOE) on November 13, 2013 and a follow-up call on January 16, 2014, to discuss coordination between the two federal agencies. There was agreement to coordinate actions, where possible, to improve efficiency. Areas of coordination may include National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation, Tribal Notifications, and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation. The two agencies also agreed to keep the other informed of their respective NEPA processes and progress.

Background

Off shore, utility-scale wind farms have been discussed among agencies and wind power proponents for several years. Initial impressions from these meetings were that Lake Erie, particularly in Ohio, might be the likely location for the first of these projects, due to lake morphology, wind resource, and proximity to large population centers. The Corps has recommended that smaller, "pilot" projects be considered in order to study turbine impacts. Data from such a project would be useful in predicting potential impacts that would result from larger projects.

On December 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that seven projects nationwide were awarded federal funding for wind technology development. The LEEDCo project was the only project selected in the Great Lakes. Through a one-year cooperative agreement, the DOE has committed \$4 million to support the advancement of the offshore wind energy project known as "Project Icebreaker," which proposes five to six wind turbines seven miles off the coast of Cleveland in Lake Erie. LEEDCo's private partners have committed an additional \$1 million in cost share as part of the agreement. At the end of Budget Period 1 (February 15, 2013 – February 15, 2014) the DOE will grade initial grant recipients on the following down-select criteria:

1. Technical performance and progress toward stated project objectives;
2. Innovations and their potential reductions in levelized cost of energy (LCOE);
3. Likelihood of project success, advancement of the national knowledge base, and commercial impact in the U.S.

The seven initial projects will then compete for an additional \$46.7 million of DOE funding that will be awarded to three projects. A selection by DOE on the three projects is expected in Spring 2014.

LOCATION MAP FOR LEEDCO'S PROPOSED PROJECT ICEBREAKER:

