Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

October 18, 2012

Mr. Mike Johnson
Marine Habitat Resource Specialist
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Subject: Request for Information - University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to award federal funding to the University of Maine to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. In a letter dated August 6, 2011, your agency concurred with DOE's conclusions that (1) the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any threatened or endangered species under your jurisdiction and (2) that adverse effects to essential fish habitat would be minimal. Your agency also stated in that letter that you did not anticipate any impacts to marine mammals from the proposed action.

The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine for initial testing (see attached figure). The University proposes to deploy a Renewegy wind turbine with a power rating of 20 kilowatts onto a floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet high from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore.

The platform would be deployed around March/April through July/August 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems to be installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish also would occur. Prior to DOE's involvement with the proposed Castine site test, the University conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and data collection for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish.

DOE understands that the University has reached out to you recently regarding their pre-deployment environmental monitoring for the Castine deployment. DOE requests that NMFS provide any information relevant to our federal obligations that relates to the referenced project (e.g., Endangered Species Act [ESA], Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act). Specifically, DOE requests a list of species listed under the ESA and proposed and designated critical habitat that may occur within or near the project site. DOE also requests that NMFS confirm the list of 17 federally managed fish species and respective life stages for which Essential Fish Habitat occurs in waters off of Castine, as presented in Table 1, which was developed from review of NMFS' *Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States*.

Table 1 – Marine Species and Life Stages for which Essential Fish Habitat Occurs in Waters off of Castine

Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon *(Salmo salar)*			X	X
Atlantic cod *(Gadus morhua)*		X	X	X
pollock *(Pollachius virens)*			X	
whiting *(Merluccius bilinearis)*			X	X
red hake *(Urophycis chuss)*			X	X
white hake *(Urophycis tenuis)*			X	X
winter flounder *(Pseudopleuronectes americanus)*	X	X	X	X
yellowtail flounder *(Limanda ferruginea)*	X	X		
windowpane flounder *(Scophthalmus aquosus)*	X	X	X	X
American plaice *(Hippoglossoides platessoides)*	X	X	X	X

ocean pout *(Macrozoarces americanus)*	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea scallop *(Placopecten magellanicus)*	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea herring *(Clupea harengus)*		X	X	X
monkfish *(Lophius americanus)*				
bluefish *(Pomatomus saltatrix)*			X	X
Atlantic mackerel *(Scomber scombrus)*			X	X
bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)*				X

Source: NOAA. 2012. Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd/STATES4/nmaine.htm. (Accessed October 2012)

DOE is in the process of developing a Supplemental EA to cover these new activities proposed at the Castine site. We will notify you when the Draft of that Supplemental EA is available for your review.

DOE looks forward to working collaboratively with NMFS regarding trust resources as they relate to this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-356-1322 or via email at Laura.Margason@go.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
NEPA Document Manager

Attachment (map)

cc:

David Bean, National Marine Fisheries Service
Michelle Magliocca, National Marine Fisheries Service

Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

October 18, 2012

Mr. Mark McCollough
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17 Godfey Drive, Suite 2
Orono, ME 04473

Dear Mr. McCollough:

Subject: Request for Information - University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to award federal funding to the University of Maine to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. In a letter dated August 18, 2011, your office concurred with DOE's conclusion that that proposed action may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, terrestrial threatened or endangered species.

The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure). The University proposes to deploy on a floating platform a Renewegy wind turbine with a power rating of 20 kilowatts. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet, similar in size to a large sailboat. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors, which are similar to sailboat anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore. From just below the low tide line the cable would extend approximately 500 feet along the ground in a protective conduit to the point of interconnection at an existing power pole. The conduit would be removed at the end of the project.

The platform would be deployed from about March or April through to July 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems to be installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish also would occur. The University has already conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and existing data collection for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish for this site.

DOE understands that the University has reached out to you recently regarding pre-deployment environmental monitoring for the Castine deployment and for the 20kw turbine erection on the University of Maine campus for instrumentation prior to Castine deployment. DOE requests that USFWS provide any information relevant to our federal obligations that relates to the referenced project (e.g., Endangered Species Act [ESA]). Specifically, DOE requests a list of species listed under the ESA and proposed and designated critical habitat that may occur within or near the project site.

DOE is in the process of developing a Supplemental EA to cover these new activities off of Castine. We will notify you when the Draft of that Supplemental EA is available for your review.

The DOE looks forward to working collaboratively with the USFWS regarding trust resources as they relate to this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-356-1322 or via my email at Laura.Margason@go.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
NEPA Document Manager

Attachment (map)

Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 2, 2012

Chief Richard Getchell
Aroostook Band of Micmacs
7 Northern Road
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Subject: **University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine**

To Chief Richard Getchell:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Maine (UMaine) to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. The objective of this project is to validate coupled aeroelastic/hydrodynamic computer models developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others for floating offshore wind turbines.

In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure).

The University proposes to deploy a 20 kilowatt power rated Renewegy wind turbine onto a moored floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors, which are similar to sailboat anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore. From just below the low tide line the cable would extend approximately 500 feet along the ground in a protective conduit to the point of interconnection at an existing power pole. The conduit would be removed at the end of the project.

The platform would be deployed for about four to five months, starting in the spring of 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish would also take place post deployment. The University has already conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and data collection for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish for this site to assist in determining affects to these

resources.

A Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently being prepared for the proposed Castine site project by the Department's Golden Field Office to meet the requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act*. DOE will include correspondence with your tribe in an appendix to the EA. The draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room: http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/NEPA_DEA.aspx. You will receive a notice of availability once the draft EA is posted. Please contact DOE if you would like to receive a hardcopy of the document.

Per the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR Section 800.2(c)(5), DOE is requesting information your tribe may have on properties of traditional religious and cultural significance within the vicinity of the proposed deployment near Castine Harbor and any comments or concerns you have on the potential for this proposed project to affect those properties. This information is being requested to aid in the preparation of that Environmental Assessment and to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any such information, require additional information, have any questions or comments about that project or would like DOE to initiate formal consultation, please contact Ms. Laura Margason the Golden Field Office as soon as possible at the following:

Ms. Laura Margason
U.S. Department of Energy
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado

Email: laura.margason@go.doe.gov

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

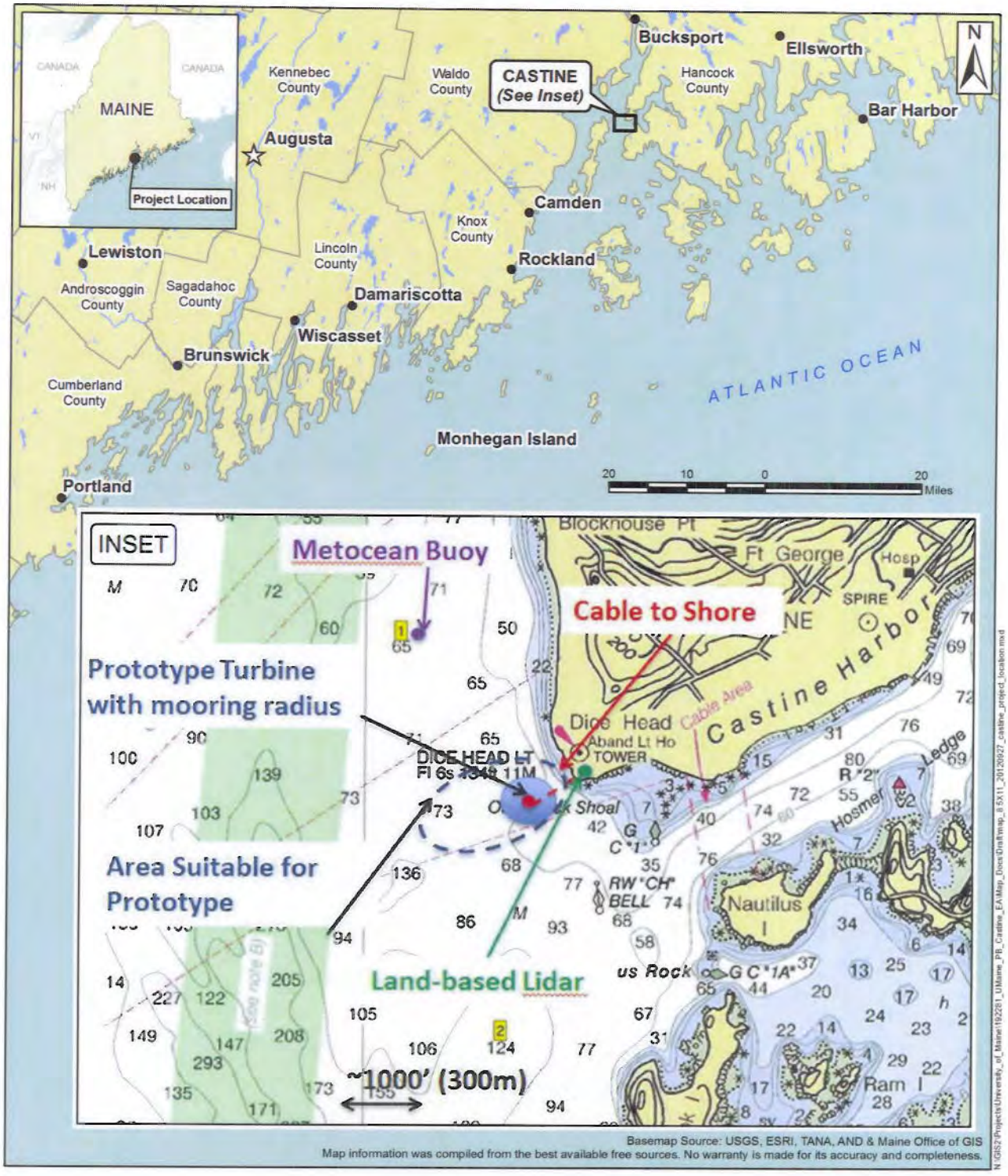
Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
DOE NEPA Document Manager

Attached: Project Location Map

Project Location of University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine



Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 2, 2012

Chief Brenda Commander
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME 04730

Subject: **University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine**

To Chief Brenda Commander:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Maine (UMaine) to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. The objective of this project is to validate coupled aeroelastic/hydrodynamic computer models developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others for floating offshore wind turbines.

In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure).

The University proposes to deploy a 20 kilowatt power rated Renewegy wind turbine onto a moored floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors, which are similar to sailboat anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore. From just below the low tide line the cable would extend approximately 500 feet along the ground in a protective conduit to the point of interconnection at an existing power pole. The conduit would be removed at the end of the project.

The platform would be deployed for about four to five months, starting in the spring of 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish would also take place post deployment. The University has already conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and data collection for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish for this site to assist in determining affects to these

resources.

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U.S. Department of Energy
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado

Email: laura.margason@go.doe.gov

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
DOE NEPA Document Manager

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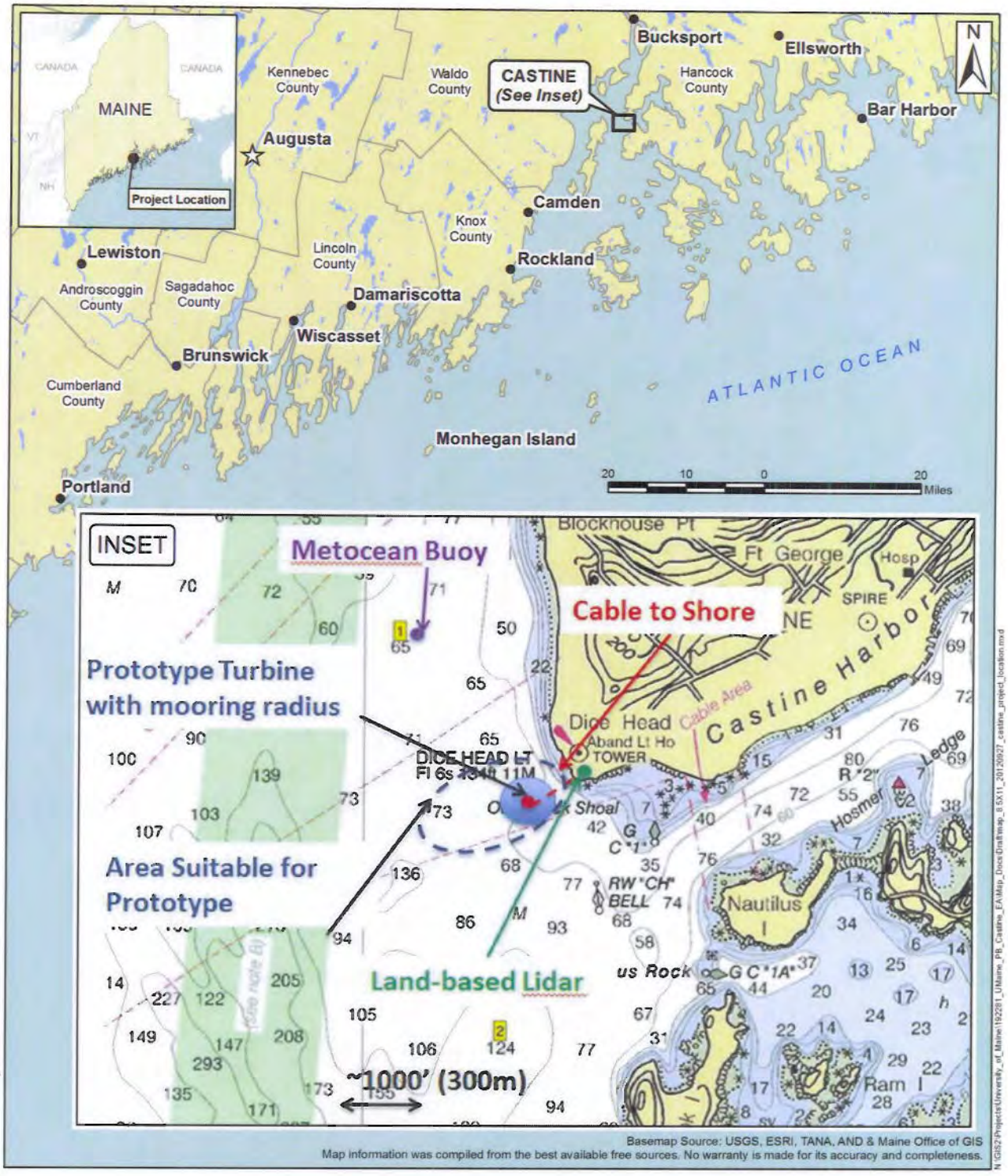

Basemap Source: USGS, ESRI, TANA, AND & Maine Office of GIS
Map information was compiled from the best available free sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy and completeness.

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Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 2, 2012

Governor Reuben Clatyon Cleaves
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Pleasant Point Reservation
P.O. Box 343
Perry, ME 04667

Subject: **University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine**

To Governor Reuben Clatyon Cleaves:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Maine (UMaine) to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. The objective of this project is to validate coupled aeroelastic/hydrodynamic computer models developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others for floating offshore wind turbines.

In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure).

The University proposes to deploy a 20 kilowatt power rated Renewegy wind turbine onto a moored floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors, which are similar to sailboat anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore. From just below the low tide line the cable would extend approximately 500 feet along the ground in a protective conduit to the point of interconnection at an existing power pole. The conduit would be removed at the end of the project.

The platform would be deployed for about four to five months, starting in the spring of 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish would also take place post deployment. The University has already conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and data collection for birds, bats, marine

mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish for this site to assist in determining affects to these resources.

A Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently being prepared for the proposed Castine site project by the Department's Golden Field Office to meet the requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act*. DOE will include correspondence with your tribe in an appendix to the EA. The draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room: http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/NEPA_DEA.aspx. You will receive a notice of availability once the draft EA is posted. Please contact DOE if you would like to receive a hardcopy of the document.

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Golden, Colorado

Email: laura.margason@go.doe.gov

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

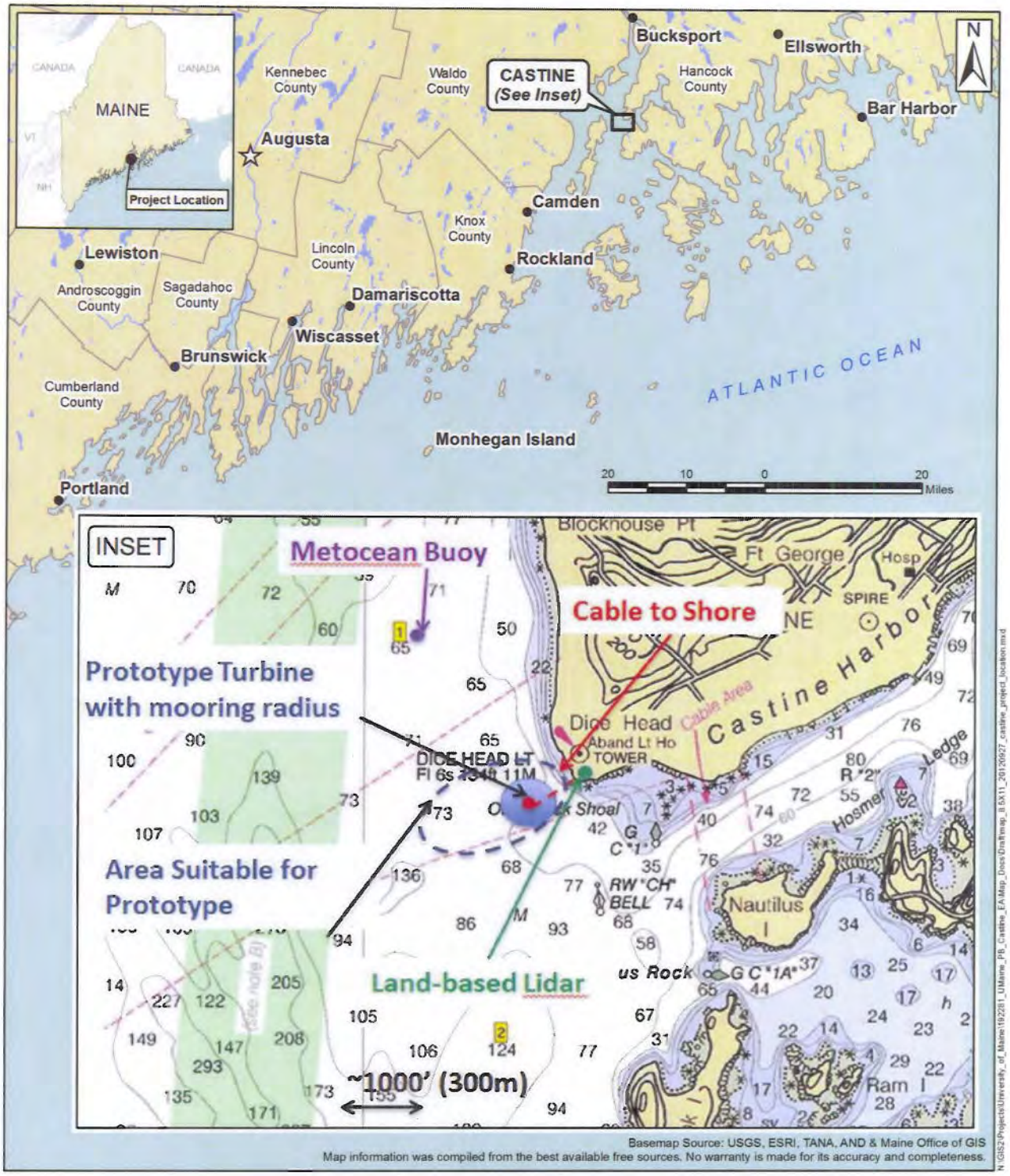
Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
DOE NEPA Document Manager

Attached: Project Location Map

Project Location of University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine



Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 2, 2012

Chief Kirk Francis
Penobscot Indian Nation
12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME 04468

Subject: **University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine**

To Chief Kirk Francis:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Maine (UMaine) to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. The objective of this project is to validate coupled aeroelastic/hydrodynamic computer models developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others for floating offshore wind turbines.

In September 2011 DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential effects of the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale. Because of this change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure).

The University proposes to deploy a 20 kilowatt power rated Renewegy wind turbine onto a moored floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is 40 to 70 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors, which are similar to sailboat anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable to be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along the seabed to shore. From just below the low tide line the cable would extend approximately 500 feet along the ground in a protective conduit to the point of interconnection at an existing power pole. The conduit would be removed at the end of the project.

The platform would be deployed for about four to five months, starting in the spring of 2013, and its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment in the open ocean at Monhegan Island. During the deployment at Castine, the University would use sensors and telemetry systems installed on the platform to evaluate how it performs under varying wind and wave conditions. Environmental monitoring for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish would also take place post deployment. The University has already conducted pre-deployment environmental monitoring and data collection for birds, bats, marine mammals, benthic invertebrates, and fish for this site to assist in determining affects to these

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A Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently being prepared for the proposed Castine site project by the Department's Golden Field Office to meet the requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act*. DOE will include correspondence with your tribe in an appendix to the EA. The draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room: http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/NEPA_DEA.aspx. You will receive a notice of availability once the draft EA is posted. Please contact DOE if you would like to receive a hardcopy of the document.

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U.S. Department of Energy
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado

Email: laura.margason@go.doe.gov

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
DOE NEPA Document Manager

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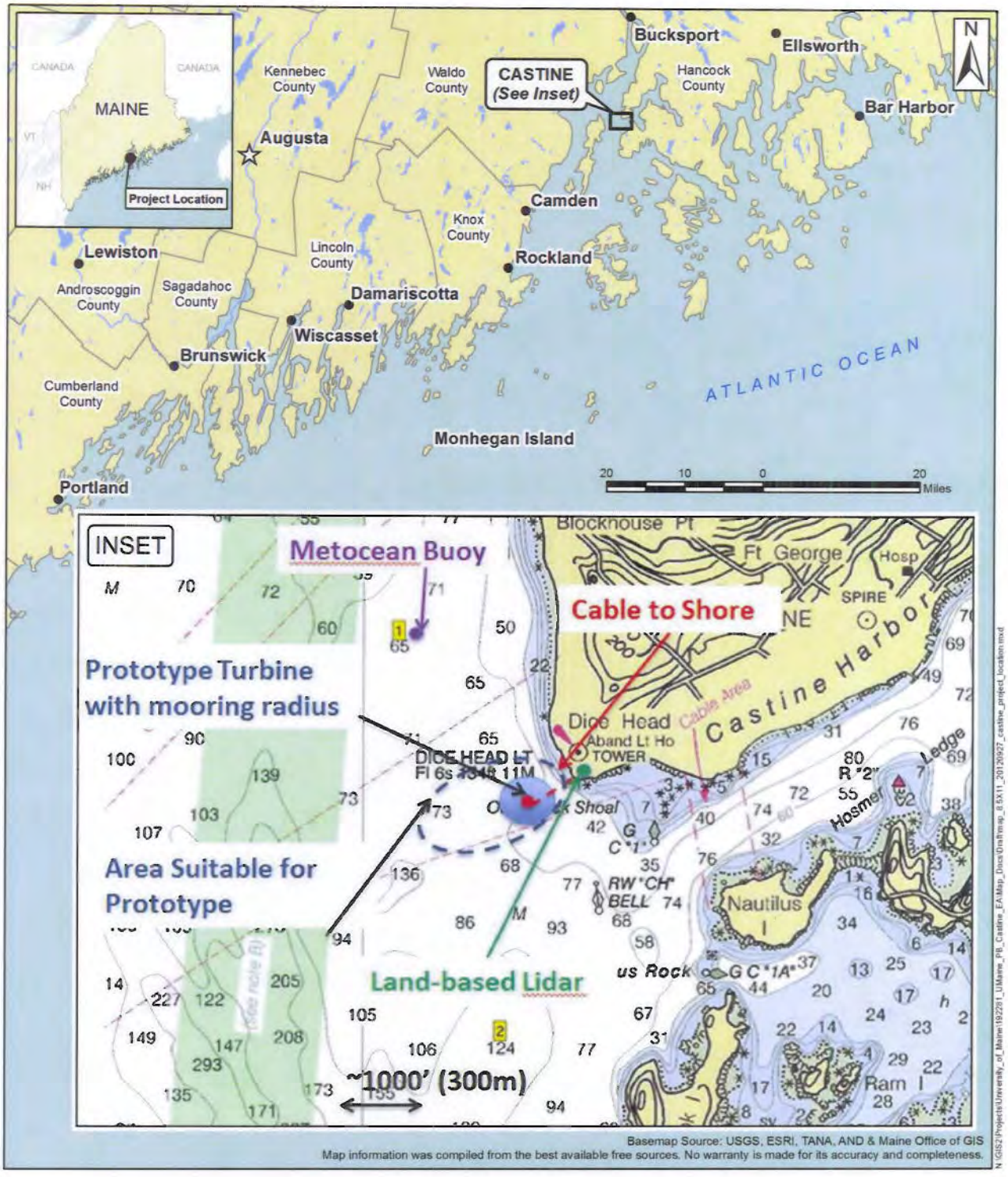
Project Location of University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine



Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 2, 2012

Chief Joseph Socobasin
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Indian Township
P.O. Box 301
Princeton, ME 04668

Subject: **University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine**

To Chief Joseph Socobasin:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Maine (UMaine) to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. The objective of this project is to validate coupled aeroelastic/hydrodynamic computer models developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others for floating offshore wind turbines.

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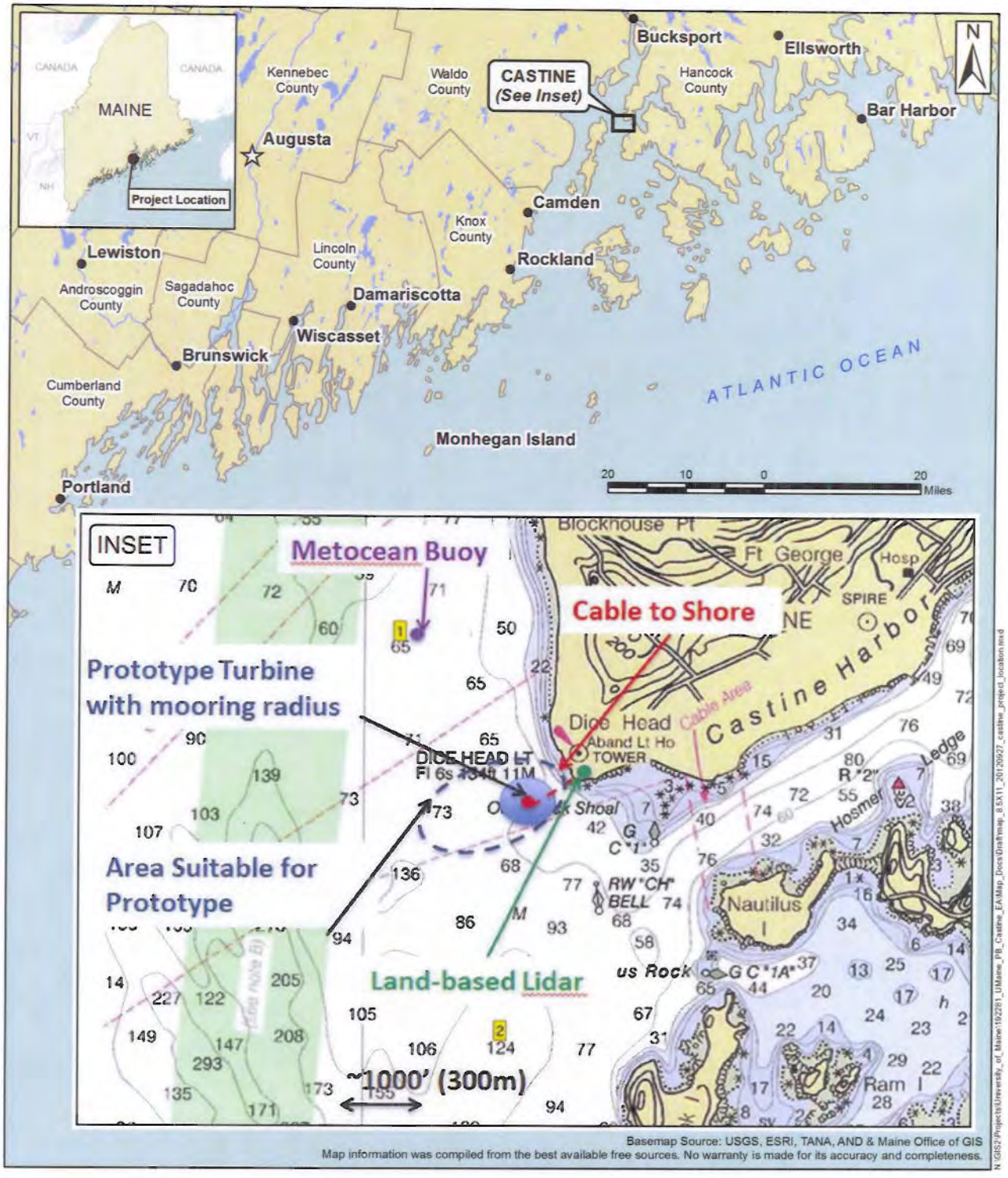
Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
DOE NEPA Document Manager

Attached: Project Location Map

Project Location of University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

NOV 16 2012

Laura Margason
Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

RE: University of Maine Interim Offshore Wind Test Site Castine, Maine

Dear Ms. Margason,

Your October 18, 2012, letter, requests updated information on NOAA trust resources near the University of Maine's proposed interim offshore wind test site off Castine Harbor in Maine. Below, we provide updated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) information.

NMFS listed ESA species
Several species of fish listed under our jurisdiction occur in the Gulf of Maine and the project area. The Federally endangered Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (GOM DPS) of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) occurs in the action area. The GOM DPS includes all anadromous Atlantic salmon whose freshwater range occurs in the watersheds from the Androscoggin River northward along the Maine coast to the Dennys River. Included in the DPS are all associated conservation hatchery populations used to supplement these natural populations. Currently, such conservation hatchery populations are maintained at Green Lake National Fish Hatchery (GLNFH) and Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery (CBNFH). This project is located within the range of the GOM DPS of Atlantic salmon.

Federally endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) occur in the action area. Additionally, endangered New York Bight (NYB) and threatened Gulf of Maine (GOM) Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) occur in the action area. Most Atlantic sturgeon in the action area are likely to be GOM DPS origin. However, some Atlantic sturgeon occurring in the action area are of Canadian origin (and therefore, not listed under the ESA) and a small portion of Atlantic sturgeon occurring in the action area are likely to be NYB origin. Sub-adult and adult Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon are most likely to be present in the action area during warmer months while participating in coastal migrations and while foraging.

Several species of listed whales and sea turtles occur seasonally in the waters off of Maine. North Atlantic right whales *(Eubalaena glacialis)* are present in the Gulf of Maine year-round, however, sightings are uncommon in nearshore waters such as Castine Harbor. Humpback

whales *(Megaptera novaeangliae)* feed during the spring, summer, and fall over a range that encompasses the eastern coast of the United States, including waters off the coast of Maine. Fin *(Balaenoptera physalus),* sei *(Balaenoptera borealis)* and sperm *(Physter macrocephalus)* whales are also seasonally present in New England waters but are typically found in deeper offshore waters and are not likely to occur in the action area.

Federally endangered leatherback *(Dermochelys coriacea)* and threatened loggerhead *(Caretta caretta)* sea turtles may also occur seasonally in the action area. These species are typically present in New England waters from June through October. While Kemp's ridley *(Lepidochelys kempi)* and green sea turtles *(Chelonia mydas)* also occur seasonally in New England waters, occurrence in the action area would be extremely rare.

Critical habitat
Critical habitat has been designated for listed Atlantic salmon pursuant to Section 4(b)(2) of the ESA. The critical habitat designation for the GOM DPS includes 45 specific areas occupied by Atlantic salmon at the time of listing that include approximately 19,571 km of perennial river, stream, and estuary habitat and 799 square km of lake habitat within the range of the GOM DPS which include those physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the species. The entire occupied range of the GOM DPS in which critical habitat is designated is within the State of Maine. Castine Harbor is not located within designated critical habitat for the Atlantic salmon GOM DPS. There is no other critical habitat designated by NMFS in Maine.

ESA Section 7 Consultation
Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, states that each Federal agency shall, in consultation with the Secretary, ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. Any discretionary federal action that may affect a listed species must undergo Section 7 consultation. It is our understanding that depending on project siting, authorizations or permits may be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and/or the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). We encourage you and the applicant to work with the ACOE and/or BOEM to initiate section 7 consultation as appropriate. We recommend that you complete any necessary consultation with us prior to issuing any final permits or authorizations. We also request that you identify a lead Federal agency for purposes of section 7 consultation and that your determination be provided to us in writing in a letter that identifies all of the federal authorizations or permits necessary for the project.

Marine Mammal Protection Act
All marine mammals listed under the ESA are also protected under the MMPA. In addition, other non-ESA listed marine mammal species may occur near Castine Harbor. Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) are common in New England waters during spring and summer when their distributions are widespread. Minke whales are also present in New England waters during the fall at reduced levels and generally absent during winter months. In addition, based on information from stranding records, we know that grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagernorhynchus acutus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), short- and long- finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrohynchus and G.*

melas) and Kogia (pygmy sperm whale) (*Kogia breviceps*) are also found in Maine coastal waters. If it is determined the project or alterations to the project technology could impact marine mammals the applicant needs to apply for an incidental take authorization pursuant to section 101 (a)(5)(A-D) of the MMPA. More information on the MMPA permitting program is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm. You can also contact the Office of Protected Resources' Permits and Conservation Division in Silver Spring, Maryland at (301) 427-8400.

Essential Fish Habitat and Other Fishery Habitats

As noted in your letter, the proposed offshore wind test site in Castine Harbor, Maine, has been identified as EFH for federally-managed species. We concur that the adverse effects on EFH and other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) trust resources from the proposed project may be minimal. However, because some adverse effects on fishery habitats may result from anchoring and from the power cable, you should consult with us under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). The EFH regulations (50 CFR§600.905) guide the consultation requirements for EFH. The regulations mandate the preparation of EFH assessments and generally outlines each agency's obligations in this consultation procedure. An EFH Assessment should include at a minimum the following information:

1) a description of the proposed action;
2) an analysis of reasonably foreseeable impacts including secondary and cumulative effects on EFH, Federally-managed species and major prey species;
3) the action agencies views regarding the effects on EFH; and,
4) proposed mitigation, as appropriate.

Table 1 in your letter correctly lists the species and life history stages of EFH in the project area. Additional information on individual species' and life stage requirements can be found in a series of source documents published by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and are available at the following website: http://nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/tm/.

In addition, a number of NOAA-trust resources will require consultation under the FWCA. The FWCA requires that Federal agencies consult with us for projects that may modify a water body. Because the waters in the vicinity of Castine, Maine, support populations of diadromous species, including blueback herring, alewife, rainbow smelt, striped bass, American eel, and American shad, the DOE should also consider the effects of the proposed project on these species. Diadromous fishery resources serve as prey for a number of federally-managed species and several species are considered a component of EFH pursuant to the MSA.

As noted above, there is a potential for adverse impacts on benthic habitats resulting from anchors, anchor lines, and the power cable during construction and operation of the test facility. We previously recommended, in our letter dated August 16, 2011, that a monitoring plan be developed to include an assessment of benthic impacts resulting from anchor placement and configuration (i.e., anchor line scour) as well as to assess recovery of benthic habitats once the mooring system is removed. We continue to recommend that a monitoring plan be developed for

the site in Castine Harbor, Maine, for potential anchor-related scour and power cable impacts. The monitoring plan should be appropriately designed to identify benthic impacts occurring during construction and operation of the facility.

Conclusions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the proposed offshore wind test site off Castine Harbor, Maine. Should you have any questions regarding EFH and FWCA consultations, please contact Michael Johnson in our Habitat Conservation Division (Mike.R.Johnson@noaa.gov or (978) 281-9130). Please address questions related to the MMPA and any associated permitting to Michelle Magliocca in the Office of Protected Resources (Michelle.Magliocca@noaa.gov or (301)427-8426). Should you have any ESA related questions, please contact David Bean in our Maine Field Office (David.Bean@noaa.gov or (207) 866-4172).

Sincerely,

John Bullard
Northeast Regional Administrator

Cc: Johnson, Boelke – F/NER4
Bean – F/NER3
Magliocca – F/PR1

PRD Filing Code: Sec 7 tech assist - Dept. Energy: UMaine wind test site

AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS
7 NORTHERN ROAD
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-1972

November 29, 2012

Laura Margason
US Department of Energy
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden Colorado 80401-3393

RE: Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform
Applicant: University of Maine
Municipality: Castine, Maine

Dear Laura Margason,
Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-referenced project for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements.

Based on the project description, we do not have knowledge of any specific sites or cultural features that exist at the proposed project location. However, this geographic area does constitute traditional areas that were historically utilized by members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and other northeaster Tribes. Therefore, we respectfully, request that if during the course of excavation/construction activities, human remains, artifacts, or any other evidence of Native American presence is discovered, that site activities in the vicinity of the discovery immediately cease, pending notification to us.

In addition, if this project results in wetland disturbances requiring mitigation, we are requesting that you utilize the black ash (Fraginus nigra) as the principle wetland species for wetland restoration activities. The black ash tree has special significance in the culture of the northeastern Tribes and is used extensively for weaving baskets and other Native American crafts. The black ash tree also provides valuable food and habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. Unfortunately however, this species has been selected against by foresters and landowners who favor other tree species. As a result of this, and other environmental factors, the black ash tree is in serious decline in Maine. The Aroostook Band of Micmacs has completed several black ash wetland restoration

projects and we have a dependable source for highly-quality seedlings, and the experience and expertise to assist you with black ash wetland restoration projects.

On the subject of human remains, artifacts, or any other evidence of Native American presence is discovered. The human remains will be reburied with the appropriate respect for the remains that is required at a distinctive and respectable site. The artifacts and other evidence of Native American discovery will be documented with appropriate detail. The items will be analyzed for the precise period of the items distinctive period and will be documented by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from the Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (207) 764-1972.

Sincerely,

John J. Dennis
Cultural Director / Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Designee

cc: Richard Getchell
Chief of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION
CULTURAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT
CHRIS SOCKALEXIS – TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
12 WABANAKI WAY, INDIAN ISLAND, ME 04468
E-MAIL: Chris.Sockalexis@penobscotnation.org FAX: 207-817-7450

NAME	Laura Margason
ADDRESS	US Department of Energy 1617 Cole Boulevard Golden, CO 80401-3393
OWNER'S NAME	University of Maine
TELEPHONE	
FAX	
EMAIL	laura.margason@go.doe.gov
PROJECT NAME	Floating offshore wind turbine platform
PROJECT SITE	Castine, ME
DATE OF REQUEST	November 2, 2012
DATE REVIEWED	November 29, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This project appears to have no impact on a structure or site of historic, architectural or archaeological significance to the Penobscot Nation as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and subsequent updates.

Also, if Native American cultural materials are encountered during the course of the project, please contact me at (207) 817-7471. Thank you.

Ch Sk

CHRIS SOCKALEXIS, THPO
Penobscot Nation

Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director,
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station
Augusta, ME, 04333-0065

Dear Mr. Shettleworth:

Subject: University of Maine Testing of a Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Platform, Castine, Maine

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to award federal funding to the University of Maine to construct, deploy, and retrieve one small-scale floating turbine offshore of Maine. In September 2011, DOE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated the potential effects resulting from the University's plans to deploy two 1/3-scale wind turbines on floating platforms within the deepwater offshore wind test site in the Gulf of Maine near Monhegan Island. In a letter to DOE dated April 29, 2011, your office concurred with DOE's finding that the Monhegan project would have no adverse effect on historic properties, as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The University has since downscaled the size of their planned platform and turbine from 1/3 scale to 1/8 scale and plans to install one turbine, not two. Because of the change to a smaller size, for part of the year the platform and turbine would be deployed at a more sheltered nearshore location, near Castine Harbor, Maine (see attached figure). The project would be deployed for three to four months this spring/summer season (the University anticipates late March or April, of 2013) where its performance would be monitored to study the design prior to deployment into the open ocean at Monhegan Island.

The University proposes to deploy a Renewegy wind turbine with a power rating of 20 kilowatts onto a floating platform. The platform would be located in an existing cableway in water that is about 100 feet deep. The turbine would measure about 41 feet from the waterline to the hub, the rotor diameter would be about 32 feet, and the total height of the turbine above the water line would be up to about 57 feet. The platform would be moored with drag embedment anchors or gravity anchors, and catenary mooring lines. The turbine would be connected to the Central Maine Power grid via a cable that would be temporarily installed about 500 to 1,000 feet along

the seabed to shore. On shore, the cable would be positioned along the ground for 300 feet and cross one residential property, for which landowner permission has been granted.

DOE understands that the University has had several preliminary discussions with your staff regarding this project. To comply with obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, DOE has defined the area of potential effects to historic properties based on two components. First, the area of the seabed that would be directly disturbed by deployment of anchors is included to account for the potential direct effects of the project on shipwrecks. Second, the area of the Castine peninsula from which the platform and turbine could be visible is included to address indirect impacts from a change in the viewshed from historic properties.

To identify historic properties in the area of potential effects, the University has reviewed the National Historic Register, conducted a dive survey and magnetometer survey, and has discussed the project with the Castine Historic Society. DOE has reached out to five Maine tribes that may have historic ties to the area. The Penobscot Indian Nation and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, both in transmittals dated November 29, 2012, indicated that the project would not affect any sites of tribal significance. The remaining tribes have not responded to the consultation request or identified any concerns.

There are numerous historic markers in Castine, and the National Historic Register lists three historic or archeological districts and four historic properties in Castine:

- Castine Historic District,
- Pentagoet Archeological District,
- Off-the-Neck Historic District,
- Fort George,
- *Bowdoin* (schooner),
- Cate House, and
- John Perkins House.

The Castine Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, and includes the peninsula of Castine (referred to as On-neck Castine). The Pentagoet Archeological District is the site of a trading post built by the French during the 17th century located on the shore of Castine Harbor (National Historic Landmarks Program 2012). The Off-the-Neck Historic District is located north of the Castine peninsula, facing the Bagaduce River, and contains a number of dwellings, many in the Federal style of architecture (Downeast and Acadia 2012). Fort George is an earthworks fort built by the British in 1779 during the American Revolutionary War. It has been partially restored as a state memorial. The *Bowdoin* is a historic ship built in 1921 for Arctic exploration and owned by Maine Maritime Academy. Cate House and Perkins House both located in the Village of Castine, are historic colonial residences (National Historic Register 2012). Also, Dyce Head Lighthouse is listed in the inventory of historic light stations and is included in the Castine Historical District. The Town of Castine also

has established an historic district, which consists of the downtown area of Castine. That local historic district and is on the opposite side of the peninsula from the proposed turbine location (Town of Castine 2011).

The turbine platform would be located in a previously disturbed cable ROW to minimize the risk of disturbing shipwrecks or other underwater cultural and natural resources. No known shipwrecks have occurred in the project area and no signs of shipwrecks were observed during the University's diver surveys conducted at the site in 2012. As directed by the Maine SHPO, the University staff consulted with Dr. Warren Riess, a marine archaeology professor at the University, to further evaluate whether any Penobscot Expedition shipwrecks or other related historic resource concerns could be located in the project area (Pers. comm. R. Reed, Maine SHPO with D. Brady, University of Maine, October 18, 2012). In correspondence with SHPO staff, Dr. Reiss stated "...that all of the known and assumed locations of the Penobscot Expedition vessel remains are well north of the proposed site. The only exception is the privateer *Defence*, which is miles west of Castine", (Pers. comm. Dr. W. Reiss, University of Maine with R. Reed, Maine SHPO, October 19, 2012).

Dr. Riess oversaw a magnetometer survey of the proposed project site on December 10, 2012, and survey results confirmed that there are no shipwrecks at the site. Results of that survey were submitted to your office by Dr. Riess on December 12.

The University would locate the turbine off of the western shore of the Castine peninsula in part to minimize its visibility from historic properties. As such, it would not be visible from the Off-the-Neck Historic District or most occupied areas on the peninsula, including much of the Village of Castine, such as where the Cate and Perkins houses and the Pentagoet Archeological District are located and the schooner *Bowdoin* is docked. The closest historic property to the proposed turbine location is the Dyce Head lighthouse, which is accessible to the public. The turbine would not be visible to the public from that lighthouse or from some other areas on the western side of the peninsula because of the steep shoreline and dense vegetation located there (see attached photograph). However, the turbine might be visible from some areas along the western portion of the Castine Historic District and from some of the higher points on the peninsula. There might also be some properties from which the turbine could be viewed that are eligible for listing under the National Register of Historic Places. Because the 1/8-scale turbine would have a maximum height of 57 feet above the waterline, it would appear small from any location within the Castine Historic District or elsewhere on the peninsula. In emails to SHPO dated November 16, 2012, the Town Manager stated, regarding the Town of Castine historic district, that "the turbine site is approximately 1 mile from the closest boundary of our historic district and can't be seen from the district", and the Chair of the Castine Historic Preservation Commission stated that they "...do not feel there is any impact to the Historic District viewscape" (Emails dated November 16, 2012 from Jimmy Goodson, Chair of Historic Preservation Commission and Dale Abernethy, Town Manager, to Robin Reed, SHPO). Finally, because the turbine would be deployed for less than four months, any change in the view from an

historic property would be temporary. Therefore, the turbine and platform would not dominate or otherwise substantially change the view from historic properties in a way that would diminish the integrity of the properties' significant historic features.

Based on this analysis, DOE finds that there would be no direct adverse effect to underwater historic properties from deployment and retrieval of the floating platform or indirect adverse effects to the viewshed from historic properties on the Castine peninsula, and we request your input and/or concurrence with this conclusion.

DOE is in the process of developing a Supplemental EA to cover these activities off of Castine. A notification will be sent to your office when the Draft Supplemental EA is available for public review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-356-1322 or via my email at Laura.Margason@go.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Margason

Laura Margason
NEPA Document Manager

Attachments (map and photograph)

References:

Castine Patriot. 2012. Commision tries, again, to expand Castine historic district. By Anne Berleant. April 12, 2012. [Online] URL: http://castinepatriot.com/news/2012/apr/12/commission-tries-again-to-expand-castine-historic/. Accessed December 2012.

Downeast and Acadia. 2012. Castine Historic District. [Online] URL: http://www.downeastacadia.com/highlights/history/historic_districts/castine_historic_district/. Accessed November 2012.

National Historic Landmarks Program. 2012. Pentagoet Archeological District. [Online] URL: http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=2148&ResourceType . Accessed November 2012.

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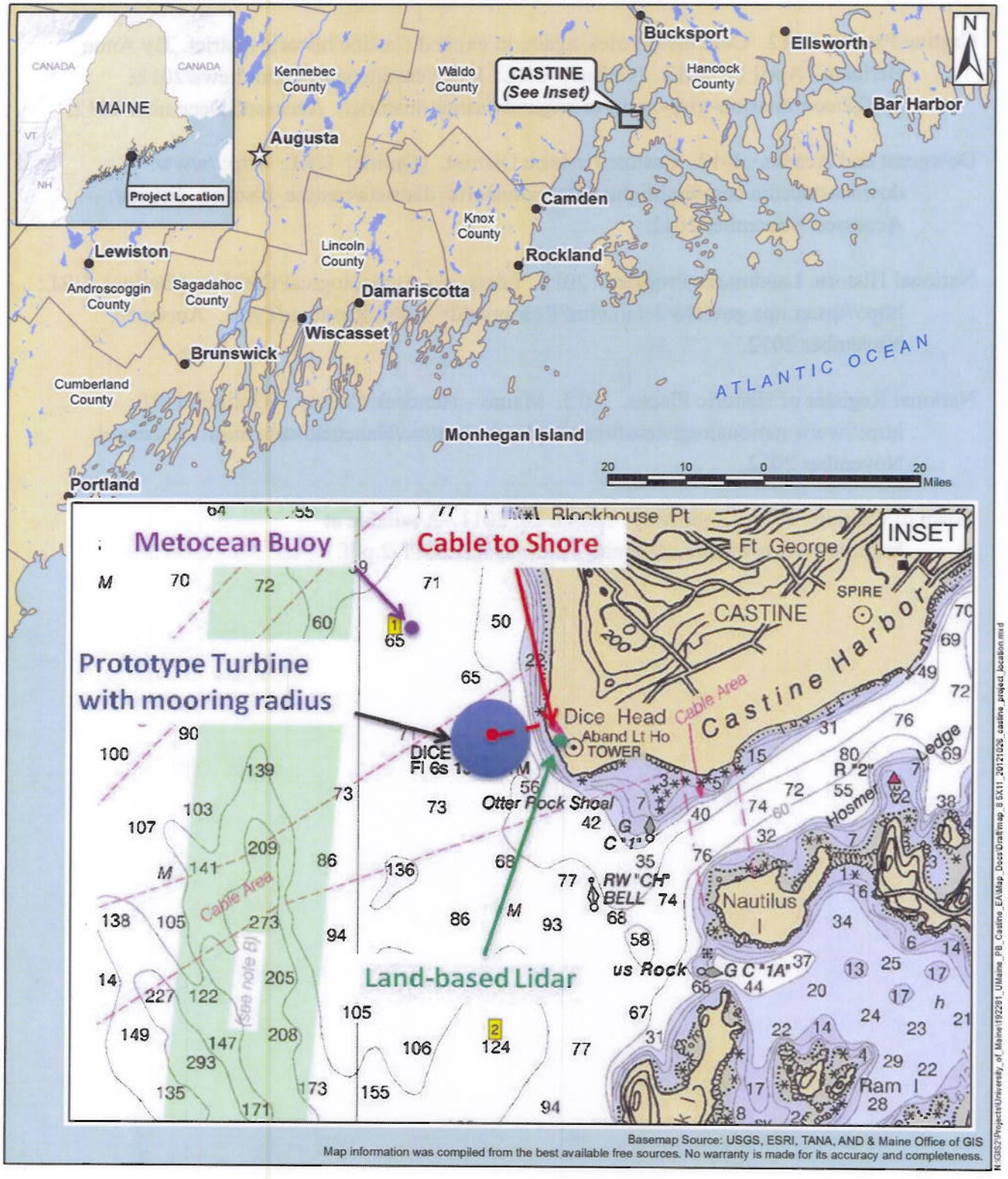
Town of Castine. 2011. Zone Map. March 26, 2011. Available at http://www.castine.me.us/Zoning%20Map%202011-2.pdf.


CANADA
CANADA
MAINE
VT
NH
Project Location
Kennebec County
Waldo County
CASTINE
(See Inset)
Hancock County
Bucksport
Ellsworth
Bar Harbor
N
Augusta
Camden
Knox County
Lincoln County
Rockland
Lewiston
Androscoggin County
Sagadahoc County
Damariscotta
Wiscasset
Brunswick
Cumberland County
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Monhegan Island
Portland
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Miles
INSET
Metocean Buoy
Cable to Shore
Prototype Turbine
with mooring radius
Land-based Lidar
Blockhouse Pt
Ft George
SPIRE
CASTINE
Castine Harbor
Dice Head
Aband Lt Ho
TOWER
Cable Area
Otter Rock Shoal
DICE
Fl 6s
Hosmer
Ledge
R "2"
Nautilus
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Basemap Source: USGS, ESRI, TANA, AND & Maine Office of GIS
Map information was compiled from the best available free sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy and completeness.
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VIEW FROM THE BASE OF THE DYCE HEAD LIGHTHOUSE TOWARD THE SHORE.

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

January 2, 2013

Mr. Andrew D. Qua
Kleinschmidt
P.O. Box 650
Pittsfield, ME 04967

Project: MHPC# 1539-12 - University of Maine deepwater offshore floating wind turbine testing and demonstration project: Castine Harbor

Town: Castine, ME

Dear Mr. Qua:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received December 12 and 20, 2012 to continue consultation on the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Based on the information submitted, I have concluded that the proposed undertaking will have **no adverse effect** on historic properties, as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

However, our concurrence is conditional upon the following understanding: This deployment of the floating wind turbine off of the shore of Castine will be a temporary installation only.

Please contact Robin Reed of my staff if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney

Kirk F. Mohney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Laura Margason, U.S. Department of Energy
Dr. Damian Brady, University of Maine
Dr. Warren Riess, University of Maine
Dale Abernathy, Town of Castine

PHONE: (207) 287-2132 FAX: (207) 287-2335