

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers





US Army Corps
of Engineers

Detroit District

Corps History

The Corps of Engineers began with the increasing need for military Engineers during the Revolutionary War. The Corps was founded by George Washington in 1775. These Engineers helped build our country, explore, and expand our civil works interests such as flood control projects, construction of bridges and dams, and commercial navigation. Our regulatory role began with protection of navigation interest and investment.



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Regulatory Authorities

- Section 10 of the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 10), requires us to regulate structures and work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S.
- Section 404 of the 1977 Clean Water Act (Section 404), requires regulation of the discharge of dredged and fill material in the waters of the U.S.



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Regulatory Responsibilities

- Conduct a public interest and NEPA review of applications for permits.
- Permit evaluation requires coordination with other government agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, US Environmental Protection Agency, State Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, and most importantly the public.



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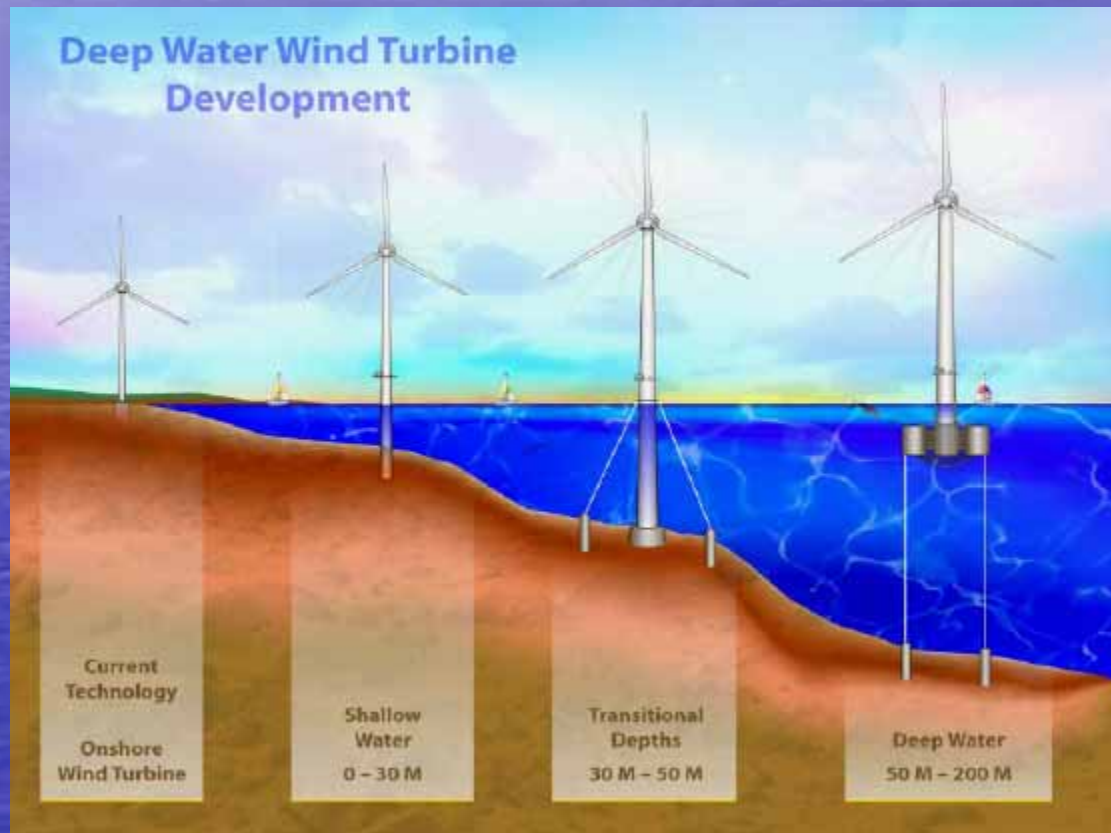
Public Interest Factors

- Water Quality
- Navigation concerns
- Aquatic Biota
- Terrestrial Biota
- Energy Needs
- Conservation and Overall Ecology
- Visual Aesthetics
- Noise
- Historic Values
- Economics



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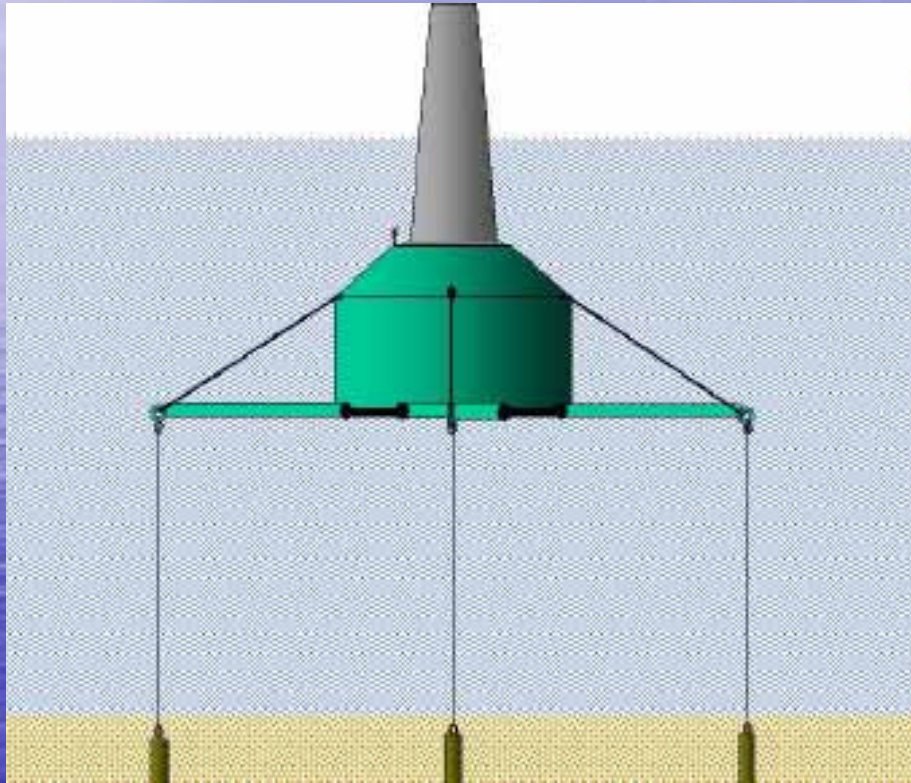
Offshore Wind Turbines





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Offshore Wind Turbines

Relevant Interest Factors

- Impacts on commercial and recreational navigation.
- Water quality impacts due to turbidity changes during dredging and discharge operations
- Impacts to the aquatic organisms and their habitat due to placement of fill and structures such as anchoring devices, support pilings, etc.



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Offshore Wind Turbines Relevant Interest Factors

- Impacts on the wildlife such as bird collisions and interference with migration patterns.
- Noise and vibration associated with the underwater electric cables providing connections.
- Visual impacts



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Offshore Wind Turbines Relevant Interest Factors

- In addition to the potential environmental impacts, siting locations should be carefully planned to consider historical shipping and recreational navigation routes, existing utility locations, aircraft flight patterns, military radar operations, etc.



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Evaluation Criteria

- **Public Interest Review**
 - Completed for all permit actions
 - Balance benefits against detriments to public
 - Corps issues, unless “contrary to the public interest”
- **NEPA Requirements**
 - Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an EIS on all permit actions.



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Possible Permit Decisions

- Issue the permit as proposed
- Issue the permit with modifications
- Issue the permit with special conditions (could include mitigation)
- Deny the application



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Corps of Engineers Review

Although not required, prior to submittal of an application for a permit review, the applicant should consider requesting a pre-application consultation with a Project Manager in the Regulatory Office, in order to identify potential concerns and key issues.