



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Attn: CENAP-OPR

Public Notice

Comment Period Begins: May 19, 2023
Comment Period Ends: July 3, 2023
File Number: NAP-2017-01069-84
File Name: Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind South
Contact: Brian Anthony
Email: PhiladelphiaDistrictRegulatory@usace.army.mil

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: Atlantic Shores, LLC

AGENT: Scott McBurney, Environmental Design & Research (EDR)

LOCATION: The wind turbine generators (WTG), offshore substations, array cables, and any substation interconnector cables will be located in federal waters at least 8.7 statute miles east of Atlantic City. The offshore export cables will be buried below the seabed surface within federal and state waters. The onshore export cables, substations, and grid connections will be located in Atlantic and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the activity is to develop a wind driven energy generation facility within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Lease Area OCS-A 0499 that meets the need for competitively priced renewable energy and additional capacity in accordance with state and regional renewable energy demands and goals. BOEM is the lead federal agency for this project, responsible for coordinating review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.8, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District (Corps of Engineers) is acting as a cooperating agency with BOEM to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A draft of this document has been published in the federal register and can be viewed at: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-south-draft-environmental-impact>. Comments on the draft EIS may be submitted directly to BOEM at: <https://www.regulations.gov/search/docket?filter=atlantic%20shores>. The EIS will be used to support BOEM's decision whether to approve a Construction and Operations Plan (available at: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-construction-and-operations-plan>) as well as the Section 10 and Section 404 permit decision by the Corps of Engineers.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The applicant proposes to install and maintain two offshore wind energy facilities and the required supporting infrastructure (Projects). The Projects include up to 200 wind turbine generators (WTGs), up to ten offshore substations, one permanent meteorological tower, up to four temporary meteorological towers, array cables linking the individual turbines to the offshore substation(s), substation interconnector cables linking offshore substations to each other, offshore export cables, an onshore export cable system which includes underground cables, at least two onshore substations, and connections to the existing electrical grid in New Jersey.

For a visual summary overview, see the attached figures identified as: Figure 1, Cardiff Offshore Project Overview; Figure 2. Cardiff Onshore Project Overview; Figure 3. Larrabee Offshore Project Overview; and Figure 4. Larrabee Onshore Project Overview; all labeled as “Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, USACE Section 404/10/408 Permitting Plan”; and all prepared by EDR, dated October 11, 2022.

MITIGATION

The applicant has stated that the proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the maximum extent practicable. For unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources, the applicant has proposed compensatory mitigation.

Proposed measures for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation are detailed in the draft EIS.

CORPS EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and welfare of the people.

The evaluation of the impact of this project will also include application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency if the project includes a discharge of dredge or fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, (40 CFR part 230) or of the criteria established under authority of section 102(a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972.

In cases involving construction of artificial islands, installation and other devices on the outer continental shelf lands, the decision as to whether a permit will be issued will be based on evaluation of the impact of the proposed work on navigation and national security.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species and/or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may be present in the action area. BOEM will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as appropriate. ESA Section 7 consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL TRUST

BOEM is currently reviewing the proposed permit action for potential impacts to Historic Properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for potential issues concerning the Tribes. A determination of effects will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Tribes and other consulting parties as necessary.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires all federal agencies to consult with the NMFS for all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application indicates that EFH is present within the project area. BOEM will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on EFH and will consult with NMFS as appropriate. Consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) is required from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State CZM Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office with a copy to the State's CZM office.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST

Any comments received will be considered by this office to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposed project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess the probable impact on the public interest. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work must be submitted, in writing, within the comment period indicated in the header above. Any person may request, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing will not be necessary, however, because BOEM has scheduled meetings that will serve as public hearings for the Corps of Engineers, as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	5:00 p.m. ET	Holiday Inn Manahawkin/Long Beach Island, 151 Route 72 West, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Thursday, June 22, 2023	5:00 p.m. ET	Atlantic City Convention Center, 1 Convention Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Monday, June 26, 2023	1:00 p.m. ET	Virtual
Wednesday, June 28, 2023	5:00 p.m. ET	Virtual

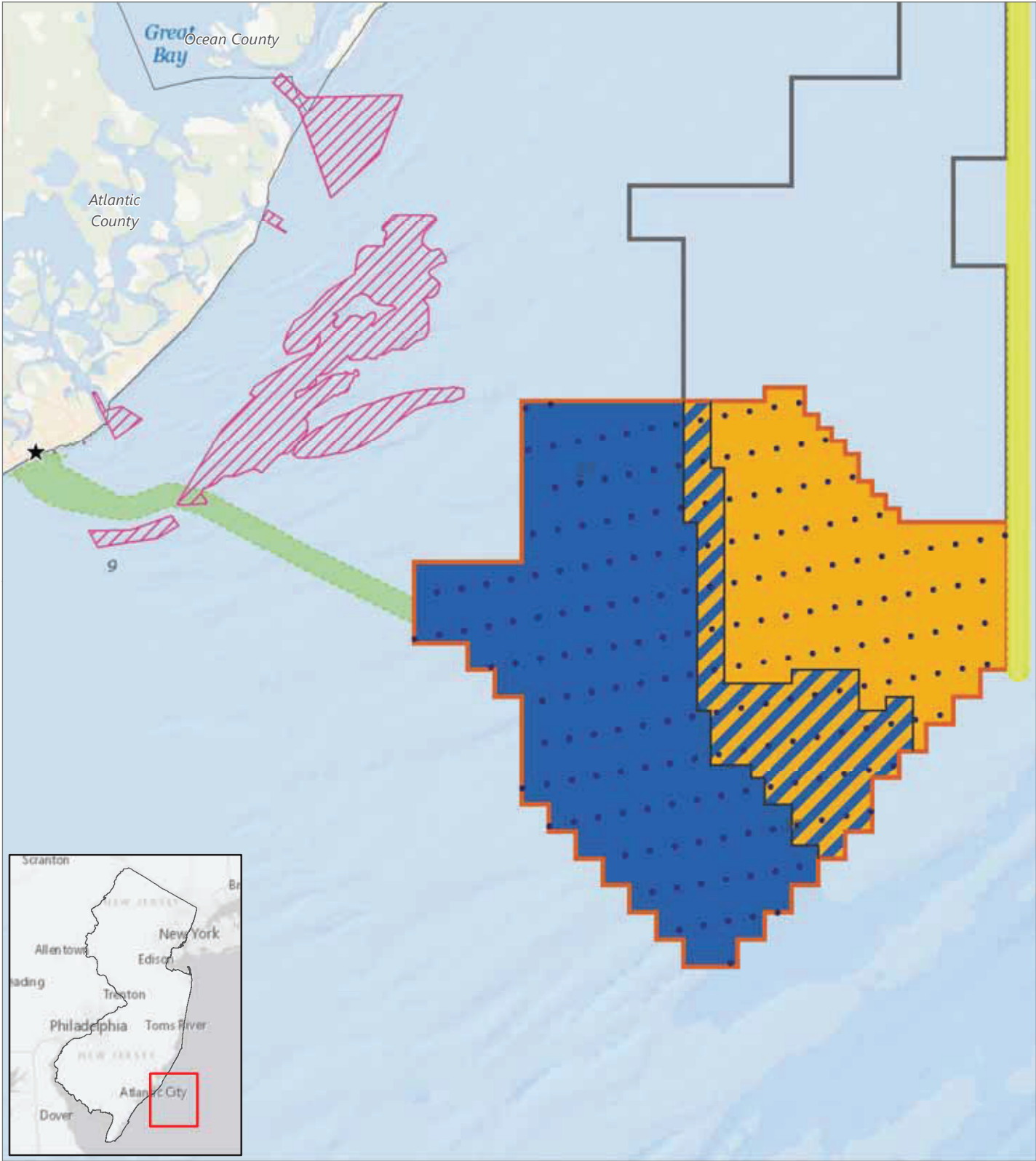
Registration for the virtual public hearings is required and may be completed at <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-south>. Meeting information will be sent to registrants via their email address provided during registration.

Please provide any comments or requests for additional information to the Regulatory Project Manager indicated above. All Public Notices are posted on our website at:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

Todd A. Schaible
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Figure 1. Cardiff Offshore Project Overview



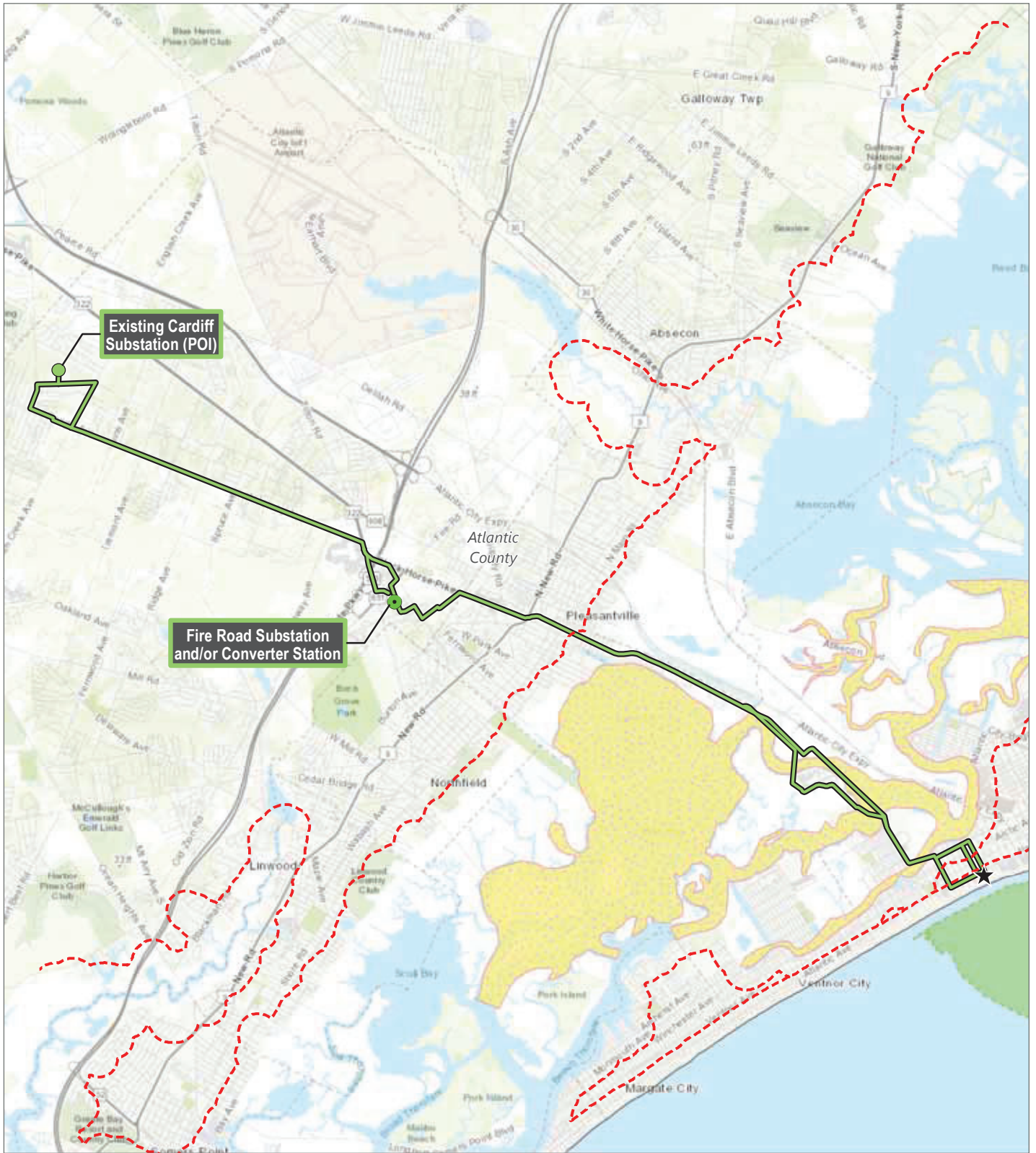
**Atlantic Shores
Offshore Wind**
Philadelphia District

**USACE Section 404/10/408
Permitting Plan**

- Sand Resource Area
- Atlantic Landfall Site
- Wind Turbine Generators
- Atlantic Export Cable Corridor
- Monmouth Export Cable Corridor
- Atlantic Shores Wind Turbine Area
- Atlantic Shores Lease Area OCS-A 0549
- Project 1 Area
- Project 2 Area
- Overlap Area (Project 1 or 2)



Figure 2. Cardiff Onshore Project Overview



**Atlantic Shores
Offshore Wind**
Philadelphia District

**USACE Section 404/10/408
Permitting Plan**

- Hard Clam Area
- Approximate NJDEP Delegable Water Limit (1000' from MHW)

- Atlantic Landfall Site
- Substation and/or Converter Station
- Existing Cardiff Substation (POI)
- Cardiff Onshore Interconnection Cable Route
- Atlantic Export Cable Corridor

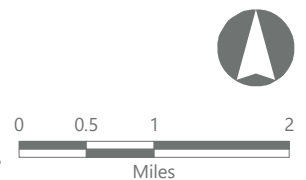
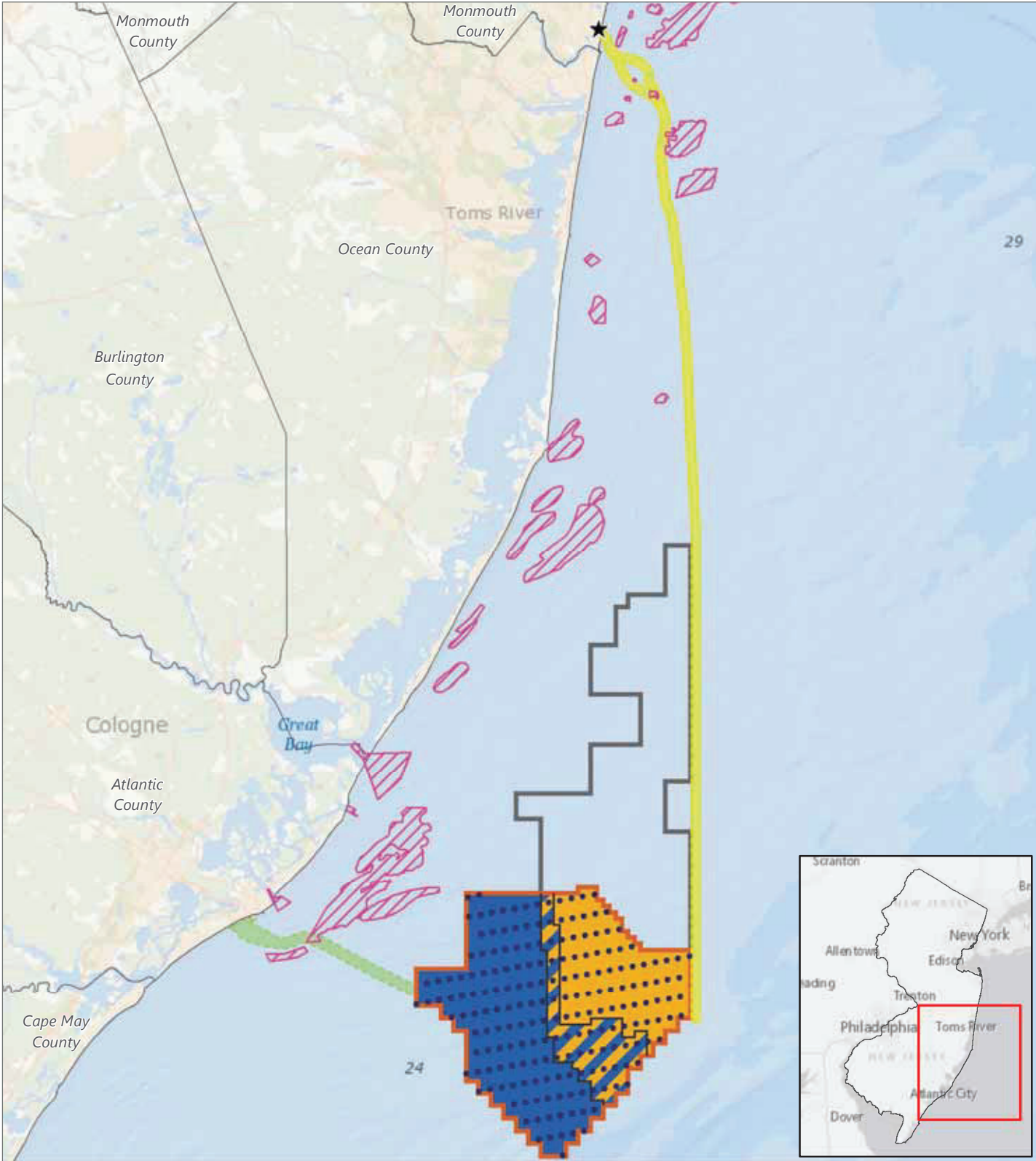


Figure 3. Larrabee Offshore Project Overview



Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Philadelphia District

USACE Section 404/10/408 Permitting Plan

- Sand Resource Area
- Monmouth Landfall Site
- Wind Turbine Generators
- Atlantic Export Cable Corridor
- Monmouth Export Cable Corridor
- Atlantic Shores Wind Turbine Area
- Atlantic Shores Lease Area OCS-A 0549
- Project 1 Area
- Project 2 Area
- Overlap Area (Project 1 or 2)

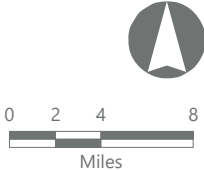
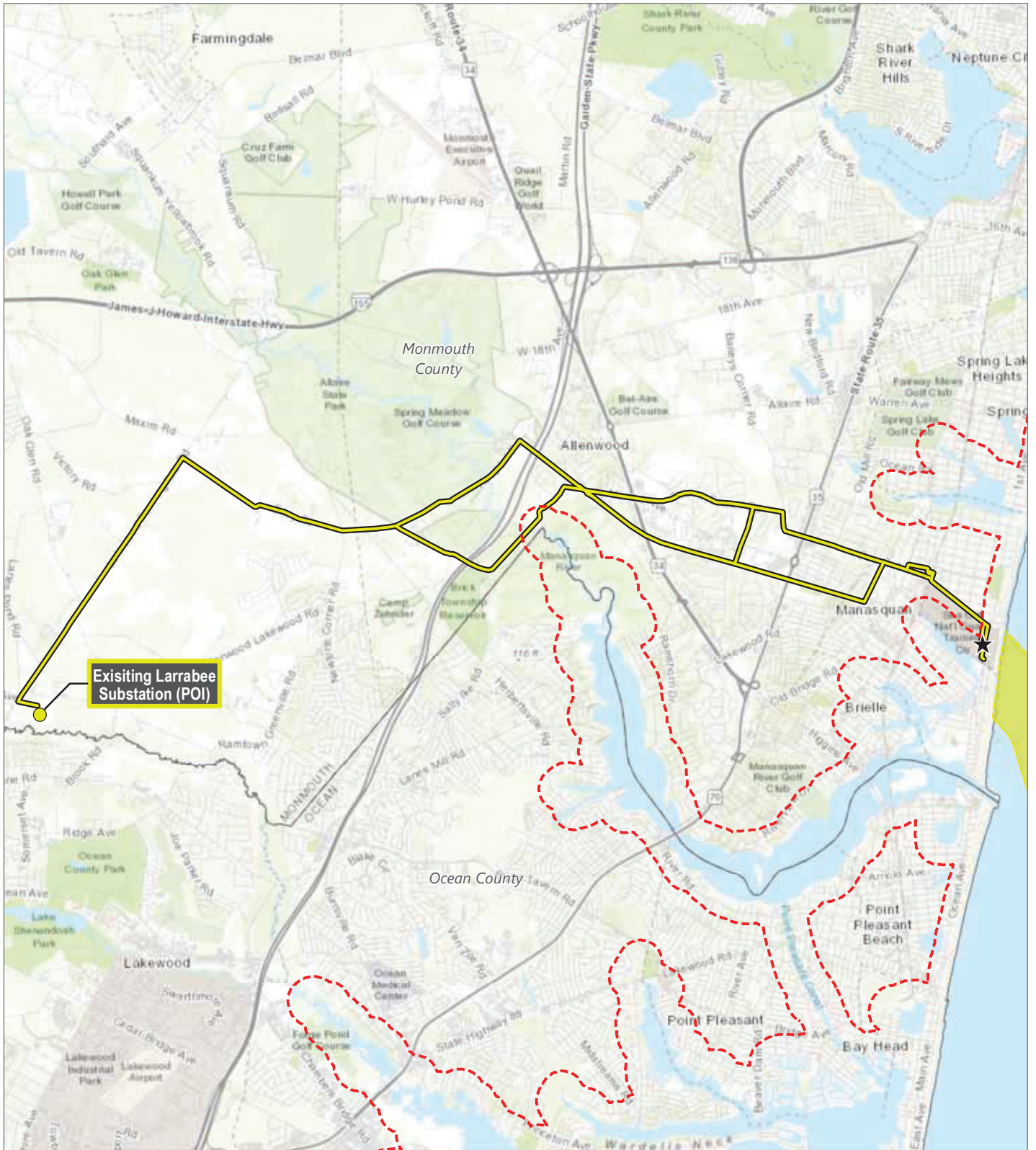


Figure 4. Larrabee Onshore Project Overview



**Atlantic Shores
Offshore Wind**
Philadelphia District

USACE Section 404/10/408
Permitting Plan



- ★ Monmouth Landfall Site
- Existing Larrabee Substation (POI)
- Approximate NJDEP Delegable Water Limit (1000' from MHW)
- Larrabee Onshore Interconnection Cable Route
- Monmouth Export Cable Corridor

