any information contained in the your comment that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe any possible harmful consequences of the PII disclosure, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm. BOEM is unable to guarantee that your PII will be protected from public disclosure because a court may determine that the benefits of disclosure about who may influence public policy outweigh possible harms.

XXI. Protection of Privileged or Confidential Information

BOEM will protect privileged or confidential information that you submit consistent with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and 30 CFR 585.113. Exemption 4 of FOIA applies to “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person” that is privileged or confidential. 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4). If you wish to protect the confidentiality of such information, clearly mark it “Contains Privileged or Confidential Information” and consider submitting such information as a separate attachment. BOEM will not disclose such information, except as required by FOIA. Information that is not labeled as privileged or confidential may be regarded by BOEM as suitable for public release. Further, BOEM will not treat as privileged or confidential aggregate summaries of otherwise non-confidential information.

a. Access to Information (54 U.S.C. 307103): BOEM is required, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, cause a significant invasion of privacy, risk harm to the historic resources, or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Tribal entities and other interested parties should designate information that they wish to be held as confidential and provide the reasons why BOEM should do so.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1337(p); 30 CFR 585.211 and 585.216.

Amanda Lefton,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials.

2. U.S. Postal Service or other mail delivery service. Send your comments and other information to the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Emerging Programs, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123.

For information about submitting public comments, please see the section under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION entitled “Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tershara Matthews, Chief, Office of Emerging Programs, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, (504) 736–2676 or tershara.matthews@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Authority
43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3); 30 CFR 585.210 and 585.211.

2. Purpose
BOEM is using this notice both to solicit lease nominations beyond those identified in response to the earlier RFI and to request comments from interested and affected parties regarding site conditions, resources, and uses of the identified area that would be relevant to BOEM’s potential leasing and development authorization process. Those interested in leasing within the Call Area for a commercial wind energy project should provide detailed and specific information described in the section 5 of this Call entitled “Required Nomination Information.” Those interested in providing public comments and information regarding site conditions, resources, and multiple uses in close proximity to, or within, the Call Area should provide information requested in the section 4 of this Call entitled “Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties.” Any nominations, expressions of interest, or any other information and comments that were previously submitted in response to the RFI do not need to be resubmitted. BOEM will consider previously submitted nominations, expressions of interest, and any other information and comments along with any information received in response to this notice.

BOEM is also preparing an environmental assessment, which will analyze leasing and reasonably foreseeable site assessment activities. Additional opportunities will be provided for public involvement during
the environmental assessment process. See the section of this Call entitled “BOEM’s Environmental Review Process.”

The Call Area was established in consultation with BOEM’s GOM Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. Comments received in response to the RFI also were considered when delineating the Call Area. A detailed description of the Call Area is found in section 3 below.

The OCS Lands Act requires BOEM to award leases competitively, unless BOEM determines that there is no competitive interest (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3)). BOEM has determined that competitive interest exists in the identified Call area. BOEM now solicits nominations for any additional areas not previously identified as being of interest for obtaining a lease in the Call Area and requests information from interested and affected parties on issues relevant to BOEM’s review of nominations for potential leases.

The response to this Call could lead BOEM to proceed with the competitive leasing process in some parts of the Call Area (i.e., where competition exists) and a noncompetitive process in other parts of the Call Area (i.e., where no competitive interest exists). The leasing process is described more thoroughly under the “Determination of Competitive Interest” and “Noncompetitive Leasing Process” sections of this Call. In any parts of the Call Area where an entity has nominated or identified an area of interest for a possible lease and where no competing submissions exist, BOEM may proceed with the noncompetitive lease process pursuant to BOEM’s regulations at 30 CFR 585.232. If BOEM determines that competitive interest exists in some or all of the Call Area, then BOEM may proceed with area identification under 30 CFR 585.211(b) and the competitive leasing process under 30 CFR 585.211 through 585.225.

Whether issued through a competitive or noncompetitive process, a lease does not grant the lessee the right to construct any facilities on the OCS. The lease only grants the lessee the exclusive right to submit site assessment and development plans to BOEM. BOEM must approve these plans before the lessee may proceed to the next stages of lease development (30 CFR 585.600 and 585.601).

Whether competitive or noncompetitive, the leasing process will include subsequent opportunities for public input and review of any proposed potential environmental impacts and multiple use conflicts. BOEM has not yet determined which areas may be offered for lease, if any. Further, BOEM may include less than the total footprint of the Call Area in any leasing decision or may offer no areas for leasing at all.

3. Description of Call Area

The Call Area comprises the area located seaward of the Gulf of Mexico Submerged Lands Act boundary, bounded on the east by the north-south line located at 89.8566° W longitude, and bounded on the south by the 400-meter bathymetry contour and the United States–Mexico maritime boundary established by the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf in the Western Gulf of Mexico beyond 200 Nautical Miles, which took effect in January 2001. The area for potential wind energy leasing consists of approximately 29,901,285 acres. BOEM may issue an additional Call for areas in water depths between 400 meters and 1,300 meters when a better understanding exists of the competitive interest for floating wind energy development in the GOM.

4. Requested Information From Interested or Affected Parties

On June 11, 2021, BOEM published in the Federal Register the “Request for Interest in Commercial Leasing for Wind Power Development on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)” (86 FR 31339). Any information that was previously submitted in response to the section of that RFI entitled “Requested Information From Interested or Affected Parties” does not need to be resubmitted; BOEM will consider it along with any information received in response to this notice.

BOEM requests specific and detailed comments from the public and other interested or affected parties regarding the following features, activities, mitigations, or concerns within or around the Call Area:

- a. Geological, geophysical, and biological bathymetric conditions (including bottom and shallow hazards and live bottom).
- b. Known archaeological and cultural resource sites on the seabed.
- c. Information regarding the identification of historic properties or potential effects to historic properties from leasing, site assessment activities (including the construction of meteorological towers or the installation of meteorological buoys), or commercial wind energy development in the areas identified in the Call Area. This includes potential offshore archaeological sites or other historic properties within the areas described in this notice and also onshore historic properties that could potentially be affected by renewable energy activities within the Call Areas. This information will inform BOEM’s review of future undertakings under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- d. Information about potentially conflicting uses of the Call Area, including navigation (in particular, commercial and recreational vessel use), recreation, and fisheries (commercial and recreational). Additional information regarding recreational and commercial fisheries including, but not limited to, the use of the areas, the types of fishing gear used, seasonal use, and recommendations for reducing use conflicts.
- e. Information regarding the identification of protected species, federally designated (or proposed) critical habitat, estuarine resource sites, areas that are environmentally sensitive or crucial to marine productivity and are State or federally managed for their conservation value.
- f. Available and pertinent data and information concerning renewable energy resources and environmental conditions. Where applicable, spatial information should be submitted in a format compatible with ArcGIS 10.8.1 in a geographic coordinate system (NAD 27).
- g. Information relating to visual resources and aesthetics, the potential impacts of wind turbines and associated infrastructure on those resources, and potential strategies to help mitigate or minimize any visual effects.
- h. Other relevant socioeconomic, cultural, biological, and environmental information.
- i. Any other relevant information BOEM should consider during its planning and decision-making process for the purpose of issuing leases in the Call Area.
- j. BOEM is interested in understanding potential opportunities for all types of renewable energy development in the GOM. Please provide information to develop an understanding of the potential opportunities or interest in developing clean energy in the area. BOEM would like information on the economic viability of offshore renewable energy in the GOM, the potential insurance support, private equity investment, capacity of grid expansion, transmission concerns, and any positive net value analysis for industry support.

Specifically,
5. Required Nomination Information

If you wish to nominate one or more areas for a commercial wind energy lease within the Call Area, you must provide the following information for each nomination. Any nominations or information submitted in response to the RFI section entitled “Required Indication of Interest Information,” does not need to be resubmitted; BOEM will consider it along with any information received in response to this notice.

a. The BOEM leasing map name and number, or official protraction diagram number, and the specific whole or partial OCS blocks within the Call Area that you are interested in leasing. This information should be submitted as a spatial file compatible with ArcGIS 10.8.1 in a geographic coordinate system (NAD 27).

b. A description of your objectives and the facilities that you would use to achieve those objectives.

c. A preliminary schedule of proposed activities, including those leading to commercial operations.

d. Available and pertinent data and information concerning renewable energy resources and environmental conditions in each area that you wish to lease, including energy and resource data and information used to evaluate the area. Where applicable, spatial information should be submitted in a format compatible with ArcGIS 10.8.1 in a geographic coordinate system (NAD 27).

e. Documentation demonstrating that you are legally qualified to hold a lease in accordance with the requirements in 30 CFR 585.106 and 585.107(c). Examples of the documentation appropriate for demonstrating your legal qualifications and related guidance can be found in BOEM’s “Qualification Guidelines to Acquire and Hold Renewable Energy Leases and Grants and Alternate Use Grants on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf,” available at http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/Regulatory-Information/QualificationGuidelines-pdf.aspx. Legal qualification documents that you provide to BOEM may be made available for public review. If you wish that any part of your legal qualification documentation be kept confidential, clearly identify what should be kept confidential and submit it under separate cover (see section 6 of this Call entitled “Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information Section,” below).

f. Documentation demonstrating that you are technically and financially capable of constructing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the commercial wind energy facility described in your submission in accordance with 30 CFR 585.107(a).

Guidance regarding the documentation to demonstrate your technical and financial qualifications can be found in “Qualification Guidelines to Acquire and Hold Renewable Energy Leases and Grants and Alternate Use Grants on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf,” available at: http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/Regulatory-Information/QualificationGuidelines-pdf.aspx. Any documentation you submit to demonstrate your legal, technical, and financial qualifications must be provided to BOEM in both paper and electronic formats. BOEM considers an Adobe PDF file on a media storage device to be an acceptable format for an electronic copy.

6. Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information

a. Freedom of Information Act

BOEM will protect your privileged or confidential information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Exemption 4 of FOIA applies to trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. If you wish to protect the confidentiality of such information, clearly label it and request that BOEM treat it as confidential. BOEM will not disclose such information if BOEM determines under 30 CFR 585.113(b) that it qualifies for exemption from disclosure under FOIA. Please label privileged or confidential information with the words “Contains Confidential Information” and consider submitting such information as a separate attachment.

BOEM will not treat as confidential any aggregate summaries of such information or comments not containing such privileged or confidential information. Additionally, BOEM will not treat as confidential (1) the legal title of the nominating entity (for example, the name of your company), or (2) the list of whole or partial blocks that you are nominating. Information that is not labeled as privileged or confidential may be regarded by BOEM as suitable for public release.

b. Personally Identifiable Information

BOEM does not consider anonymous comments; please include your name and address as part of your comment. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your name, address, and any personally identifiable information (PII) included in your comment may be made publicly available. All submissions from identified individuals, businesses, and organizations will be available for public viewing on regulations.gov. For BOEM to withhold your PII from disclosure, you must identify any information contained in your comments that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe any possible harmful consequences of the disclosure of such information, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm.

c. Section 304 of NHPA (54 U.S.C. 307103(a))

After consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, BOEM is required to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, risk harm to the historic resources or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Tribal entities should designate in their submissions information that falls under section 304 of NHPA as confidential.
7. BOEM's Environmental Review Process

Before deciding whether and where leases may be issued, BOEM will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) under the NEPA process, including a public scoping period to determine the scope of the EA and a public review and comment period on the draft EA. The EA will consider the reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences associated with leasing, such as site characterization activities (including geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological, and biological surveys) and site assessment activities (including installation of a meteorological tower or meteorological buoy). BOEM also will conduct consultations to consider the environmental consequences associated with issuing commercial wind energy leases within the Call Area. These consultations include, but are not limited to, those required by the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, section 106 of NHPA, and Executive Order 13175—“Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.” Through the NEPA and consultation process, BOEM may evaluate mitigation measures to minimize possible impacts resulting from potential project activities to resources, such as migratory birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles.

Before BOEM allows a lessee to begin construction of a wind energy project on a lease issued within the Call Area, BOEM will consider the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of any wind energy facility under a separate, project-specific NEPA process. This separate NEPA process will include additional opportunities for public involvement and likely will result in the publication of an environmental impact statement.

8. BOEM's Planning and Leasing Process

1. Determination of Competitive Interest: Subsection 8(p)(3) of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3)) states that “the Secretary shall issue a lease, easement, or right-of-way . . . on a competitive basis unless the Secretary determines after public notice of a proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way that there is no competitive interest.” Accordingly, BOEM must first determine whether competitive interest exists in acquiring a lease within the Call Area to develop offshore wind energy. At the conclusion of the comment period for this Call, BOEM will review the Call and RFI nominations received and determine if competitive interest exists in any part area of the Call Area.

For areas with two or more valid nominations, BOEM may consider proceeding with competitive leasing as described in section 8.2 of this Call entitled “Competitive Leasing Process.” For areas where BOEM determines that there is only one interested entity, BOEM may consider proceeding with noncompetitive leasing, as described in section 8.3 entitled “Noncompetitive Leasing Process.”

If BOEM determines that competitive interest exists and that those areas are appropriate to lease, BOEM may hold one or more competitive lease sales for those areas. In the event BOEM holds a lease sale, all qualified bidders, including bidders that did not submit a nomination in response to this Call or the RFI, will be able to participate in the lease sale. BOEM reserves the right to not lease nominated areas or to modify nominated areas before offering them for lease.

2. Competitive Leasing Process: BOEM will follow these steps required by 30 CFR 585.211 through 585.225 if it decides to proceed with the competitive leasing process:

(a) Area Identification: Based on the information received in response to this Call and the RFI, BOEM will determine the level of commercial interest and will identify the areas that would be appropriate to analyze for potential leasing. The areas identified will constitute wind energy areas (WEA) and will be subject to an EA as described in section 7 above, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, federally recognized Tribes, State and local governments, and other interested parties.

(b) Proposed Sale Notice (PSN): If BOEM decides to proceed with a competitive lease sale within the WEA after completion of its EA and consultations, BOEM will publish a PSN in the Federal Register with a comment period of 60 days. The PSN will describe the areas BOEM intends to offer for leasing and the proposed conditions of sale, auction format, and lease instrument, including lease addenda. Additionally, the PSN will describe the criteria and process for evaluating bids in the auction.

(c) Final Sale Notice (FSN): After considering the comments on the PSN, if BOEM decides to proceed with a competitive lease sale, it will publish a FSN in the Federal Register at least 30 days before the date of the lease sale.

(d) Bid Submission and Evaluation: Following publication of the FSN in the Federal Register, BOEM will offer the lease areas through a competitive sale process, using procedures specified in the FSN. Afterward, BOEM will review the sale, including bids and bid deposits, for technical and legal adequacy. BOEM will ensure that bidders have complied with the FSN and all applicable regulations. BOEM reserves the rights to reject any or all bids and to withdraw its offer to lease an area, even after bids have been submitted.

(e) Issuance of a Lease: Following identification of the winning bid on a lease area, BOEM will notify the successful bidder and will provide lease documents for signature. BOEM requires a successful bidder to sign and return the lease documents, pay the remainder of the bonus bid, if applicable, and file the required financial assurance within 10-business days of receiving the lease documents. Upon receipt of the required payments, financial assurance, and properly signed lease documents, BOEM may execute a lease with the successful bidder.

3. Noncompetitive Leasing Process: BOEM will follow these steps if it decides to proceed with a noncompetitive leasing process:

(a) Determination of No Competitive Interest: If, after evaluating all relevant information, including responses to this Call and the RFI, BOEM determines competitive interest does not exist in all or a portion of the Call Area, it may proceed with noncompetitive leasing under 30 CFR 585.231 and 585.232.

BOEM will seek to determine if the sole respondent who nominated a particular area intends to proceed with acquiring the lease. If so, the respondent must submit an acquisition fee as specified in 30 CFR 585.502(a). After the acquisition fee is paid, BOEM will follow the process outlined in 30 CFR 585.231(d) through (i), which includes the publication of a determination of no competitive interest in the Federal Register.

(b) Review of Lease Request: BOEM will complete an EA and required consultations as discussed in section 7 before issuing a lease noncompetitively. Specifically, BOEM will coordinate and consult, as appropriate, with relevant Federal agencies, federally recognized Tribes, affected State and local governments, and other affected or interested parties in formulating lease terms, conditions, and stipulations.

(c) Lease Issuance: After completing its review of the lease request, BOEM may offer a noncompetitive lease. Within 10-business days of receiving the lease documents, the respondent must sign them and provide a $100,000 lease-
specific bond, under 30 CFR 585.515, to guarantee compliance with all terms and conditions of the lease. Within 45 days of receiving the lease documents, the respondent must pay the first 12 months’ rent pursuant to 30 CFR 585.231(g)(2).

Amanda Lefton,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

[FR Doc. 2021–23800 Filed 10–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Investigation Nos. 731–TA–1174–1175 (Second Review)

Seamless Refined Copper Pipe and Tube From China and Mexico; Institution of Five-Year Reviews


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice that it has instituted reviews pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act"), as amended, to determine whether revocation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of seamless refined copper pipe and tube from China and Mexico (75 FR 71070). Following the five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective December 21, 2016, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of seamless refined copper pipe and tube from China and Mexico (81 FR 93664). The Commission is now conducting second reviews pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)), to determine whether revocation of the orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time. Provisions concerning the conduct of this proceeding may be found in the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure at 19 CFR part 201, subparts A and B, and 19 CFR part 207, subparts A and F. The Commission will assess the adequacy of interested party responses to this notice of institution to determine whether to conduct full or expedited reviews. The Commission’s determinations in any expedited reviews will be based on the facts available, which may include information provided in response to this notice.

Definitions.—The following definitions apply to these reviews:

1. Subject Merchandise is the class or kind of merchandise that is within the scope of the five-year reviews, as defined by Commerce.

2. The Subject Countries are China and Mexico.

3. The Domestic Like Product is the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the Subject Merchandise. In its original and full first five-year review determinations, the Commission defined one Domestic Like Product, coexistent with Commerce’s scope, consisting of seamless refined copper pipe and tube.

4. The Domestic Industry is the U.S. producers as a whole of the Domestic Like Product, or those producers whose collective output of the Domestic Like Product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. In its original and full first five-year review determinations, the Commission defined a single Domestic Industry consisting of all domestic producers of seamless refined copper pipe and tube.

5. An Importer is any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing the Subject Merchandise into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Participation in the proceeding and public service list.—Persons, including industrial users of the Subject Merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the proceeding as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in § 201.11(b)(4) of the Commission’s rules, no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the proceeding.

Former Commission employees who are seeking to appear in Commission five-year reviews are advised that they may appear in a review even if they participated personally and substantially in the corresponding underlying original investigation or an earlier review of the same underlying investigation. The Commission’s designated agency ethics official has advised that a five-year review is not the same particular matter as the underlying original investigation, and a five-year review is not the same particular matter as an earlier review of the same underlying investigation for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 207, the post-employment statute for Federal employees, and Commission rule 201.15(b) (19 CFR 201.15(b)), 79 FR 3246 (Jan. 17, 2014), 73 FR 24609 (May 5, 2008). Consequently, former employees are not required to seek Commission approval to appear in a review under Commission rule 19 CFR 201.15, even if the corresponding underlying original investigation or an earlier review of the same underlying investigation was pending when they were Commission employees. For further ethics advice on this matter, contact Charles Smith, Office of the General Counsel, at 202–205–3408.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and APO service list.—Pursuant to § 207.7(a) of the Commission’s rules, the Secretary will make BPI submitted in this proceeding available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the proceeding, provided that the application is made no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1677(9),