

Vineyard Northeast/Lease Area OCS-A 0522

Native American Tribes Communication Plan

Vineyard Offshore

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List of Abbreviations

NATCP	Native American Tribes Communication Plan
US	United States

Native American Tribes Communication Plan

I. Overview

Vineyard Offshore is an offshore wind development company established by the same team that developed Vineyard Wind 1 (Lease Area OCS-A 0501), the nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind project. Vineyard Offshore leads the development of two lease areas along the United States (US) East Coast – Lease Area OCS-A 0522 (also known as Vineyard Northeast) and Lease Area OCS-A 0544 (also known as Vineyard Mid-Atlantic).

This Native American Tribes Communication Plan (NATCP) describes the strategies that we intend to use for communicating with Native American tribes and outlines specific methods for engaging with and disseminating information to tribal communities with cultural and/or historical ties to the region surrounding Vineyard Northeast's offshore and onshore facilities.

Vineyard Offshore understands and respects that the areas surrounding Vineyard Northeast's offshore and onshore facilities are part of Native American tribes' cultural heritage and their traditional bonds to the past and that these areas are important to their cultural identity, sense of self, and future well-being. Open communication and consultation are therefore essential, given the potential for Vineyard Northeast to affect tribal communities' historical and cultural properties.

Throughout this NATCP, "Native American tribes" and "tribal communities" refers to both federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations and other Native American communities. However, Vineyard Offshore understands and respects that federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations are sovereign entities with particular standing when it comes to the potential impacts and benefits of offshore wind developments. Vineyard Offshore respects the sovereignty of the Tribes/Tribal Nations associated with its projects and is committed to the industry's most robust Tribal engagement process, with attention to economic, cultural, environmental, and capacity issues, among others, in the interest of environmental justice, equity, and partnership. Where appropriate, consultations or communications with federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations are identified.

This NATCP is based on our experience working with federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations in conjunction with Vineyard Wind 1 and reflects the best practice recommendations outlined in the handbook published by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 2019.¹ This document will be updated, as needed, to reflect feedback from tribal communities and federal agencies and to ensure communication and information sharing protocols remain relevant and effective.

¹ See https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-10/EarlyCoordinationHandbook_102819_highRes.pdf.

II. NATCP Approach

Vineyard Offshore has gained experience engaging and communicating with tribal communities both informally and through the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 consultation process. We fully understand that effective communication, early coordination, and information sharing are key to building productive working relationships with tribal communities and addressing tribal concerns. Because Vineyard Offshore is developing multiple lease areas, the company is taking a comprehensive approach to communication with Native American tribes about the company's project development plans.

Through the implementation of this NATCP, Vineyard Offshore aims to:

- develop and maintain positive, long-term working relationships with tribal communities in support of tribal efforts to preserve and maintain cultural heritage and histories.
- identify opportunities to recruit, mentor, and train tribal community members for careers in the offshore wind industry.
- ensure that tribal communities are aware of Vineyard Northeast's development milestones, provided with up-to-date information, and informed of and invited to local outreach events and public meetings.
- give timely notice ahead of geological surveys and afford ample opportunities for tribal representatives to review and discuss survey results with Vineyard Offshore and contracted experts.
- understand tribal concerns about potential impacts to historical and cultural properties from the development of Vineyard Northeast.
- where appropriate, develop collaborative mitigation strategies for potentially unavoidable impacts.
- solicit input from tribal communities on offshore wind survey plans as well as project siting and design elements.

Vineyard Offshore will work with tribal communities to develop mutually acceptable protocols for effective communication and information-sharing. As much as possible, these protocols will account for how tribal communities prefer to engage with offshore wind developers and receive information.

III. Federally Recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations

Lease OCS-A 0522 requires coordination of tribal pre-survey meetings with the following federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations:

- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- The Narragansett Indian Tribe
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

In addition to these Tribes, Vineyard Offshore is including those Tribes/Tribal Nations that are identified in Lease OCS-A 0544 and may also have historical or cultural connections to Vineyard Northeast:

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians
- The Delaware Nation
- The Shinnecock Indian Nation

IV. Tribal Lead

Vineyard Offshore has designated a Tribal Lead who will be the primary point of contact for tribal communities for Vineyard Northeast and other lease areas. The Tribal Lead's name and contact details are provided below:

Tribal Lead

Name: Jacob Miller

Email: jmiller@vineyardoffshore.com

Phone: 774-929-0835

The name and contact details for the secondary point of contact for tribal communities are provided below:

Secondary Contact

Name: Nate Mayo

Email: nmayo@vineyardoffshore.com

Phone: 617-840-4045

The Tribal Lead will work with individual tribal representatives to ensure open lines of communication between tribal communities and Vineyard Offshore and to identify opportunities for engagement on the job training, work opportunities, energy savings projects, and sponsorship opportunities through which Vineyard Offshore and Native American tribes engage with one another and build and maintain long-term mutually beneficial relationships.

The Tribal Lead will also be responsible for coordinating pre-survey meetings as well as regular check-ins with Native American tribes either by text, email, phone calls, or meetings (in-person or virtual). The Tribal Lead will also provide timely notice to tribal communities on critical development milestones and public comment opportunities during the federal, state, and local permitting processes. The Tribal Lead will proactively identify opportunities for Native American tribes to participate in open houses or set up tribal-specific events for tribal members including, but not limited to, workforce opportunities, project updates, or Tribal Council meetings.

V. Tribal Communication and Collaboration Strategies

Vineyard Offshore's tribal communication and collaboration strategies will utilize a number of methods and tools to engage and consult with Native American tribes, disseminate information, and keep tribal stakeholders informed. Based on our experience with Vineyard Wind 1, we expect that a combination of in-person, virtual, and digital communication approaches will be essential to build relationships, ensure effective two-way communication, and share information. These approaches will include, but will not be limited to, one-on-one and group meetings, conference calls, text messages, listening sessions, e-mail updates, certified letters, virtual and in-person vessel tours and site visits, and social media updates. Vineyard Offshore will also explore with the Native American tribes opportunities to attend, present at, and support tribal meetings and events.

To ensure that Native American tribes have ready and timely access to data and information, Vineyard Offshore has developed a dedicated tribal page on our website. This "Tribal Nations" webpage will be a public resource that hosts information and documents on topics relevant to tribal communities, such as the Section 106 process, survey activities, fisheries science, and, eventually, construction updates. This page will serve as a one-stop-shop for tribal communities interested in learning about Vineyard Northeast and opportunities to engage with Vineyard Offshore. Vineyard Offshore will also create a separate non-public, log-in-only page for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from the Native American tribes. This log-in-only page will host sensitive and confidential information that will not be available to the public, such as archaeology reports.

a. Communication and Information Sharing Protocols

Vineyard Offshore will work with Native American tribes individually to develop communication and information sharing protocols that reflect each Native American tribe's preferred method(s) and frequency of communication. Effective communication is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor, and we will attempt to tailor our approach to the needs of each Native American tribe. We are committed to working with tribal leadership and members to ensure that concerns are heard and addressed. Through a mix of trainings, programs, and conferences, we continue to build relationships that will greatly assist our communication efforts. Our Tribal Lead maintains communications through all means including calls, texts, e-mails, and in-person meetings.

We will also collaborate with other offshore wind developers as well as federal agencies, where appropriate, to identify opportunities to streamline communication and information sharing efforts to reduce the demand for limited tribal resources to participate in the offshore wind project development process.

b. Tribal Pre-Survey Meetings

Vineyard Offshore held tribal pre-survey meetings for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) as required in Section 4.2.3 of Lease OCS-A 0522 Addendum "C." The purpose of these meetings was to provide these federally recognized Tribes/Tribal Nations with an opportunity to discuss

Vineyard Northeast's Survey Plan with Vineyard Offshore and a Qualified Marine Archaeologist and to request the ability to monitor portions of the survey, including the visual logging and analysis of geotechnical sampling. Tribal pre-survey meeting notifications were sent at least 15 calendar days prior to the date of the proposed tribal pre-survey meetings, and the meetings were held for each individual Tribe/Tribal Nation at least 30 calendar days prior to the commencement of survey activities.

Once survey data have been collected and reviewed, Vineyard Offshore will offer the Tribes/Tribal Nations opportunities to discuss and review the findings.

c. Workforce Development

Vineyard Offshore will work proactively with Native American tribes to identify opportunities to recruit, mentor, and train interested tribal community members for careers in the offshore wind industry. As a first step, we will discuss with Native American tribes their interest in a tribal workforce assessment to identify individuals and Native American tribe-affiliated businesses who are interested in working in the offshore wind industry during construction or operations, within the supply chain, or in support of development work such as surveys and permitting. A similar assessment was conducted for Vineyard Wind 1 to classify skills gaps and associated needs and map out pathways forward with existing training programs and barrier-reduction tools.