



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240



Mr. Michael Bartlett
Supervisor
New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

OCT 09 2007

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be requesting consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the Cape Wind project, a 130 wind turbine generator (WTG) facility located on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts. By notice of this letter, the MMS is advising the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the endangered and threatened species and critical habitat we expect to include in a Biological Assessment for this project and seeking concurrence with the FWS on whether this list is complete and accurate.

Project Description: The Cape Wind project entails the construction of a Wind Park consisting of 130 WTGs located on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts (see enclosed figures). Each of the 130 WTGs will generate electricity independently of each other. Within the nacelle of each turbine, a wind-driven generator will produce low voltage electricity, which will be "stepped up" by an adjacent transformer to produce 33 kilovolts (kV) electric transmission capacity of the WTG. Solid dielectric submarine cables from each WTG will interconnect within the grid and terminate at their spread junctions on the electrical service platform (ESP). The ESP will serve as the common interconnection point for all of the WTGs within the facility. The proposed submarine cable system is approximately 12.5 miles (20.1 km) in length 7.6 miles (12.2 km) within the Massachusetts 3-mile (5.5 km) territorial line) from the ESP to the landfall location in Yarmouth. The submarine transmission cables would travel north to northeast in Nantucket Sound into Lewis Bay past the westerly side of Egg Island, and then make landfall at New Hampshire Avenue. The proposed onshore transmission cable route to its intersection with the NSTAR Electric ROW would be located entirely along existing paved ROWs where other underground utilities already exist. All of the roadways within Yarmouth and Barnstable in which the proposed transmission cable would be placed are town owned and maintained roads with the exception of Routes 6 and 28, which are owned and maintained by MHD. A portion of the onshore transmission cable route would also be located underground within the existing maintained NSTAR Electric ROW. Maps are enclosed of the project area, including information on the placement of the WTGs, ESP and transmission cable.

RECEIVED
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

OCT 15 2007

NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
CONCORD, NH

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

ESA-Listed Species in Project Area: The MMS is aware of the following endangered and threatened species under FWS jurisdiction that have the potential to occur in the area and may be adversely affected by the proposed action.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Kemp's ridley	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	E
Leatherback	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E
Loggerhead	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	T
Green	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	E
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T

The MMS is also aware of some historical but rare sightings of the endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Massachusetts waters but feels the presence of this species in the project area is highly unlikely. We are, therefore, not planning to request consultation on this species. The MMS is also unaware of any designated critical habitat in the project area.

Please notify us of your concurrence with, or necessary revisions to, the above list of species and add any critical habitats which you believe need to be considered in our assessment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Jill Lewandowski, Protected Species Biologist, at (703) 787-1703.

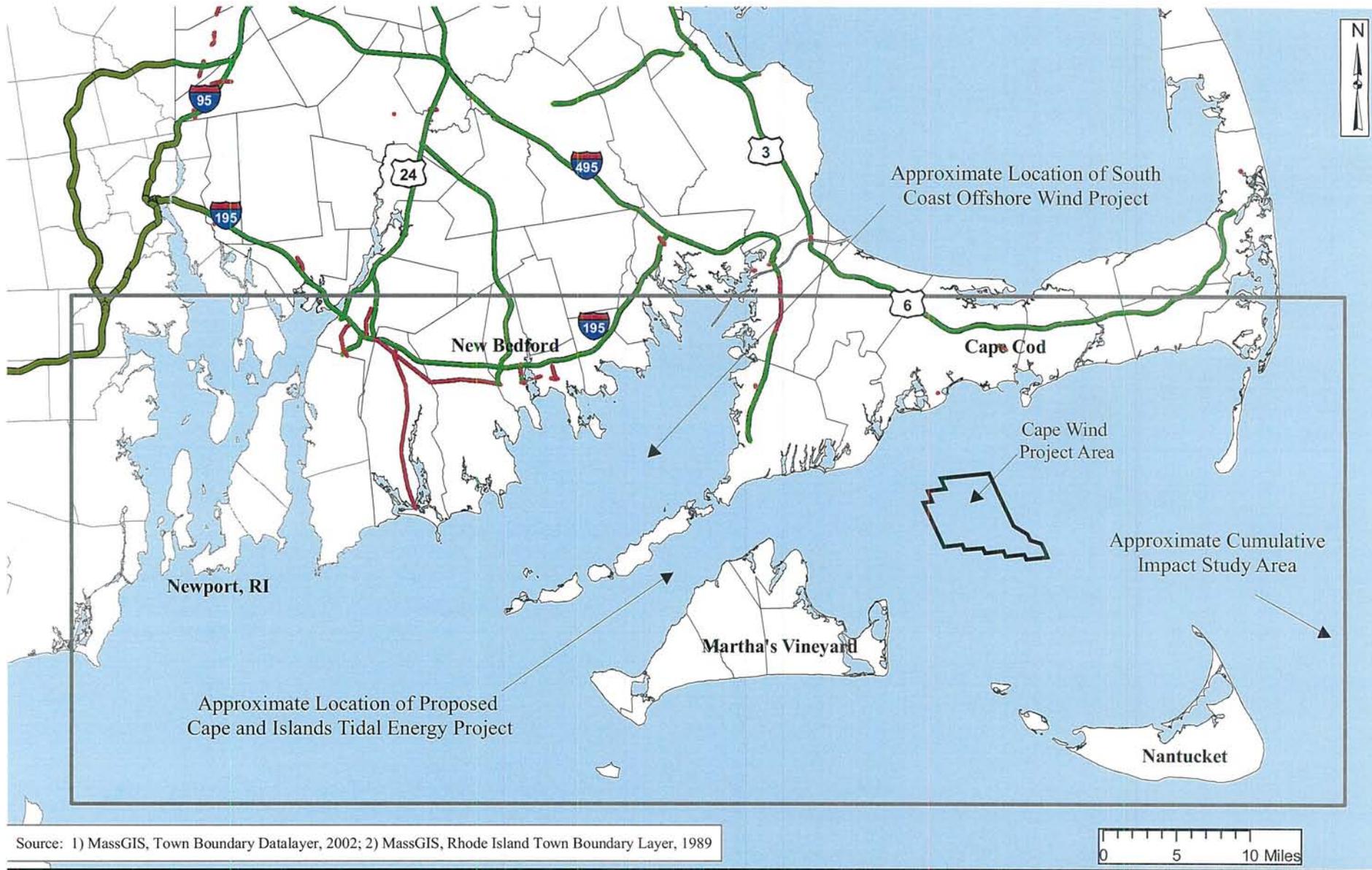
Sincerely,



Gregory J. Gould
Chief, Environmental Division

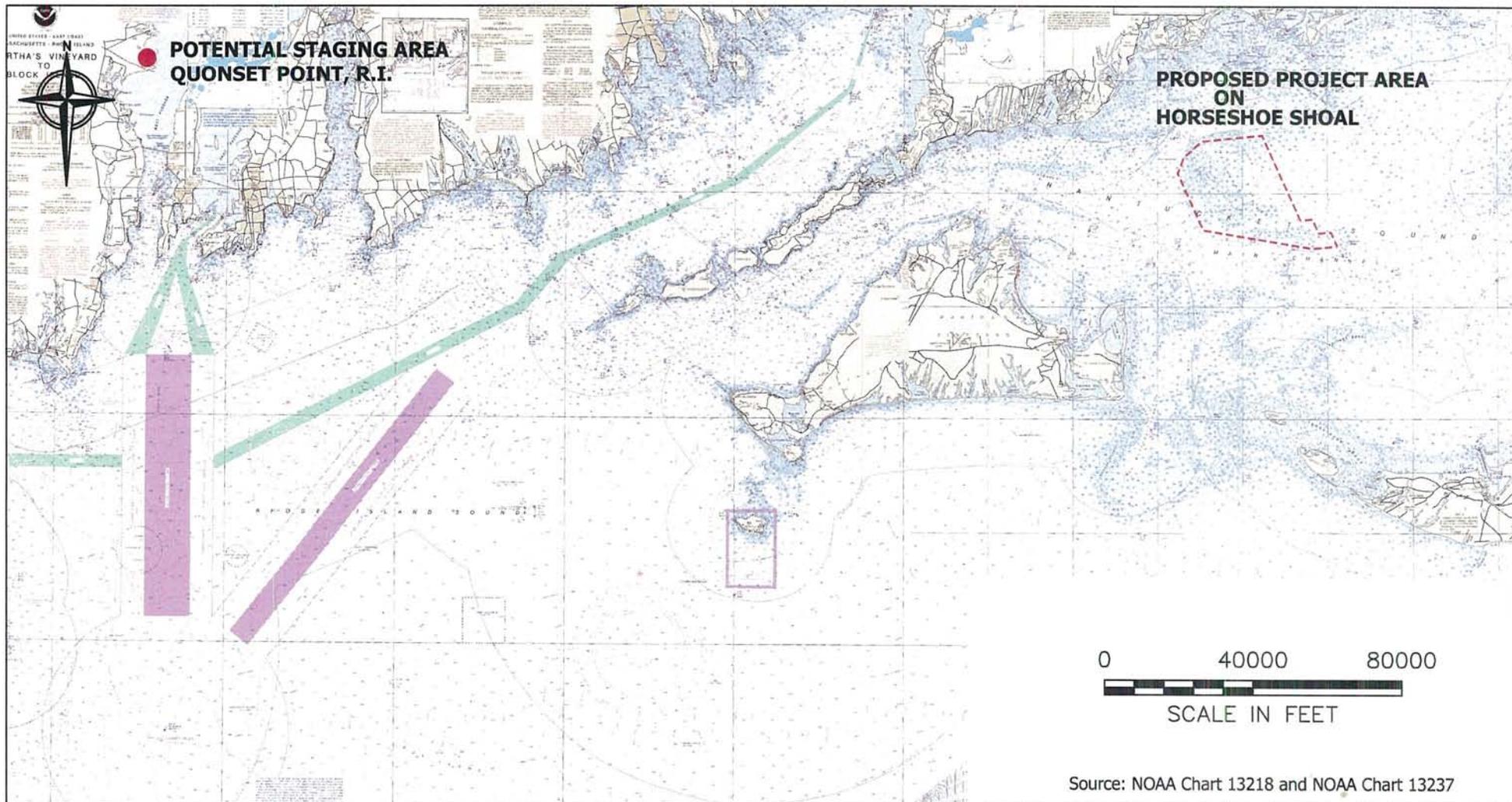
Enclosures

cc: Dr. Rodney Cluck, Cape Wind Project Manager, MMS
Ms. Anne Hecht, Endangered Species Biologist, FWS R5 RO
Ms. Susi vonOettingen, Endangered Species Biologist, FWS R5 NEFO
Mr. Michael Amaral, Branch Chief, Endangered Species, FWS R5 NEFO

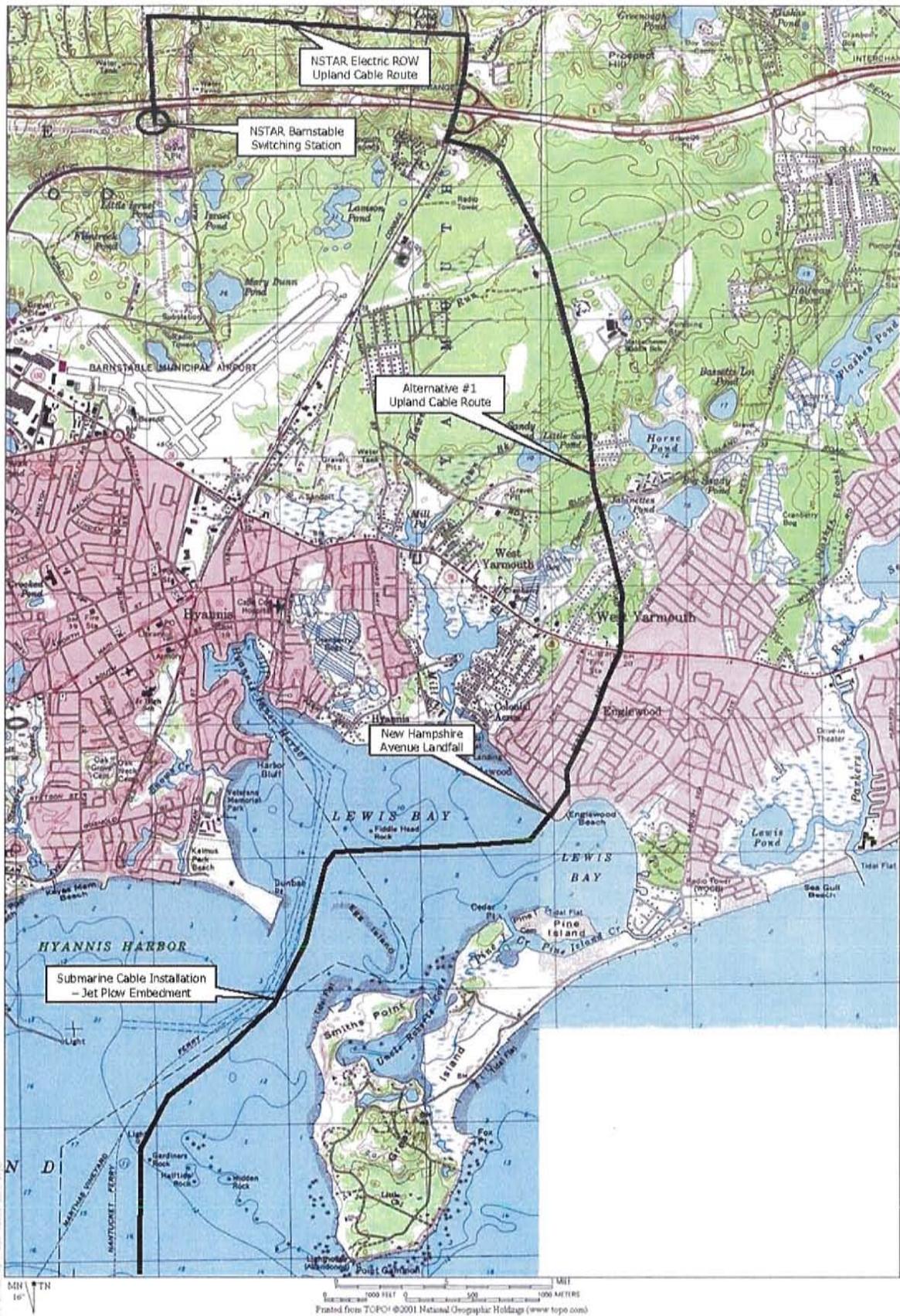


CAPE WIND ENERGY PROJECT
Cumulative Impact Study Area

Figure 6.1-1



CAPE WIND ENERGY PROJECT
Regional Project Locus



CAPE WIND ENERGY PROJECT
 Submarine and Upland Transmission Line Route
 Figure 2.1.3-2