

Questions for the Record by Republican Members

Questions from Rep. Pete Stauber for Mr. Ronald Tickle, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Real Property, U.S. Department of Defense

1. In response to one of the questions I asked you during the hearing, you noted that your Department is “very concerned about foreign investment, foreign involvement” regarding the ownership and operation of wind energy facilities in the Pacific. You went on to specify that your concerns center on “access to the wind farms by foreign entities that possibly have nefarious purposes in mind.”

a. Can you please share any examples of foreign adversaries that have manipulated domestic energy production?

Response: Thank you for the opportunity to expand on my response, as I was not referring to manipulation of energy production. The DoD concerns associated with wind farms and foreign investment are focused on the potential for an adversary to present a threat to national security through their presence in the area in which the energy project is located. The construction and maintenance of offshore wind turbines and their associated underwater cables may provide an adversary the ability to observe classified national defense activities or critical infrastructure.

b. Which foreign powers with “nefarious purposes” are you most specifically concerned about?

Response: Off the Pacific coast, the primary concern is with the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The Department recognizes the PRC as our most consequential strategic competitor and the pacing challenge.

c. What kinds of stipulations may be recommended or required by the Department of Defense for wind energy areas in the Pacific to mitigate these national security concerns?

Response: DoD has requested that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) include the stipulations listed below in any lease sale in the defined area to address these types of national security concerns. We would seek mitigation agreements with wind energy developer that contain the following provisions:

- Mitigations may be required in a lessee’s use of Distributed Optical Fiber Sensing Equipment*
- Notification of entities with ownership interest, vendors with physical*

access and foreign entities with access.

- *Notice to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) if the project is assigned to a foreign entity*

- d. Could these stipulations change over time, and if so, may a wind farm be asked to cease operations in response to changing defense or national security needs? What kind of notice would be provided to wind energy operators directing a pause or cessation of operations?

***Response:** DoD has no direct authority to require any change in a developer's lease once issued. DoD has signed agreements with on-land wind energy developers that set curtailment procedures for each project. For planned events, such as launches or test events, the parties work out advance notice requirements and procedures. The agreements also contain provisions for national security emergencies. The DoD has signed numerous similar agreements for land-based projects. While advance notice is not possible for emergencies, the DoD has not to date ever had to activate an emergency curtailment event. If DoD found that it had cause to change the terms of the agreement, it would approach the developer to determine whether voluntary discussion could overcome the concerns.*