

Floating wind turbines on horizon?

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A floating wind turbine deployed off the coast of southern Italy by offshore, deep water wind power developer Blue H Technologies. Blue H's subsidiary, Blue H USA, LLC has a floating wind farm off the coast of Massachusetts. **Photo courtesy Blue H USA, LLC**

By Karen Jeffrey
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HYANNIS - Massachusetts - both on shore and off - is a prime location for alternative energy development, according to a Dutch-owned company that hopes to develop a deep-water wind farm off Martha's Vineyard within the next few years.

Blue H USA LLC, a subsidiary of Blue H Technologies, announced today that it has asked to lease a 40-square-mile area 23 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and 45 miles from New Bedford for the first floating deep-water wind energy turbines off the U.S. coast.

The request has been filed with U.S. Minerals Management Services, the same federal agency reviewing Cape Wind's proposal to build a 130-turbine wind farm in 24-square-mile area of Nantucket Sound.

MMS released an interim policy for offshore alternative energy projects last year but regulations for permitting and leasing future projects are not expected to be announced until later this year.

It is no coincidence that Blue H chose Monday - the same day MMS is holding the first of four public hearings on a draft environmental report on the Cape Wind - to make its announcement.

First, said Raymond Dackerman, Blue H general manager, "People keep saying that deep-water technology is years away. That's not true. It's here now."

The company wants the public to understand deep-water technology is viable now and the reason for making the announcement on the Cape is, "Because Cape Cod is at the center of our state and national debate about wind power," said Blue H spokesman Martin Reilly.

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