



1 (A) less than 1 acre of surface or seafloor  
2 disruption at the location of each meteorological  
3 tower or other device; and

4 (B) not more than 5 acres of surface or  
5 seafloor disruption within the proposed area af-  
6 fected by for the project (including hazards to  
7 navigation);

8 (2) is decommissioned not more than 5 years  
9 after the date of commencement of the project, in-  
10 cluding—

11 (A) removal of towers, buoys, or other tem-  
12 porary ocean infrastructure from the project  
13 site; and

14 (B) restoration of the project site to ap-  
15 proximately the original condition of the site;  
16 and

17 (3) provides meteorological information ob-  
18 tained by the project to the Secretary of the Inte-  
19 rior.

20 (b) OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL PROJECT PERMIT-  
21 TING.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
23 rior shall by regulation require that any applicant  
24 seeking to conduct an offshore meteorological site  
25 testing and monitoring project on the outer Conti-

1        mental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer  
2        Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et  
3        seq.)) must obtain a permit and right of way for the  
4        project in accordance with this subsection.

5                (2) PERMIT AND RIGHT OF WAY TIMELINE AND  
6        CONDITIONS.—

7                (A) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—The Sec-  
8        retary shall decide whether to issue a permit  
9        and right of way for an offshore meteorological  
10       site testing and monitoring project within 30  
11       days after receiving an application.

12               (B) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTA-  
13       TION.—During the period referred to in sub-  
14       paragraph (A), the Secretary shall—

15                    (i) provide an opportunity for submis-  
16                    sion of comments by the public; and

17                    (ii) consult with the Secretary of De-  
18                    fense, the Commandant of the Coast  
19                    Guard, and the heads of other Federal,  
20                    State, and local agencies that would be af-  
21                    fected by issuance of the permit and right  
22                    of way.

23                (C) DENIAL OF PERMIT; OPPORTUNITY TO  
24        REMEDY DEFICIENCIES.—If the application is

1           denied, the Secretary shall provide the appli-  
2           cant—

3                   (i) in writing, clear and comprehensive  
4                   reasons why the application was not ap-  
5                   proved and detailed information concerning  
6                   any deficiencies in the application; and

7                   (ii) an opportunity to remedy such de-  
8                   ficiencies.

9           (c) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the Na-  
10          tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
11          4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to an offshore  
12          meteorological site testing and monitoring project.

13          (d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The informa-  
14          tion provided to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to  
15          subsection (a)(3) shall be treated by the Secretary as pro-  
16          prietary information and protected against disclosure.

