

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA**

At the end of title XVII add the following:

1 **Subtitle D—Facilitation of Develop-**
2 **ment of Offshore Wind Energy**
3 **Resources**

4 **SEC. 17801. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This subtitle may be cited at the “Advancing Off-
6 shore Wind Production Act”.

7 **SEC. 17802. OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING**
8 **AND MONITORING PROJECTS.**

9 (a) DEFINITION OF AN OFFSHORE METEOROLOG-
10 ICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECT.—In this
11 section, the term “offshore meteorological site testing and
12 monitoring project” means a project carried out on or in
13 the waters of the Outer Continental Shelf administered
14 by the Department of the Interior to test or monitor
15 weather (including wind, tidal, current, and solar energy)
16 using towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastruc-
17 ture, that—

18 (1) causes—

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 for the project in ac-
4 cordance with this subsection.

5 (2) PERMIT TIMELINE AND CONDITIONS.—

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

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

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

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

21 (C) DENIAL OF PERMIT; OPPORTUNITY TO
22 REMEDY DEFICIENCIES.—If the application is
23 denied, the Secretary shall provide the appli-
24 cant—

- 1 (i) in writing, clear and comprehensive
- 2 reasons why the application was not ap-
- 3 proved and detailed information concerning
- 4 any deficiencies in the application; and
- 5 (ii) an opportunity to remedy such de-
- 6 ficiencies.

7 (c) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the
8 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
9 4321 et seq.) shall not apply with respect to an offshore
10 meteorological site testing and monitoring project.

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

