

Wind farm comment period extended

By [CAPE COD TIMES](#)

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The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) has extended by one month the public comment period on its final environmental report for the Cape Wind energy project.

MMS, the lead federal agency to review Cape Wind's proposal to build 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound, released its largely favorable final environmental report on the project last month. A formal "record of decision" that could have paved the way for a lease to be issued to Cape Wind could have come as early as this week.

Comments on the project's final environmental report are now due by March 21, according to the MMS Web site, which resets the earliest date for a "record of decision."

The report released Jan. 16 indicates the wind farm project would have few negative impacts on the environment and safety. But last week, the Federal Aviation Administration called for more studies on the proposed wind turbines' effect on aviation radar and possible mitigation that could cost Cape Wind millions of dollars. Federal aviation regulators determined the proposed wind turbines posed a "presumed hazard."

A study of the project's effects on historic and Indian tribal sites must also be completed before the "record of decision" can be issued.