



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

August 2, 2011

**H.R. 2173  
Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 13, 2011*

H.R. 2173 would exempt certain weather testing and monitoring activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on information from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE), CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2173 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under the bill, environmental impact reviews under NEPA would not be required for weather testing and monitoring activities on the OCS that meet certain requirements related to the duration of the activities, the amount of seafloor or water surface disturbed, and the restoration of the project site. The bill also would establish a permitting process for such activities and require BOEMRE to act on permit applications within 30 days. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO expects that implementing the legislation could affect the workload of certain BOEMRE offices; however, we estimate that the budgetary impact of any such effects would be negligible.

H.R. 2173 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.