1 Scope

This document applies to offshore wind farm assets that extract kinetic energy from wind, transmit electricity to the grid, and/or store energy using facilities or devices located offshore or on land. The scope includes wind farm assets that may potentially be installed in state and federal waters in the contiguous U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii, including inland bodies of water such as the Great Lakes. The scope includes wind farm assets installed in salt or fresh water with a rotor swept area greater than 200 m². The scope includes the design, manufacturing, installation, commissioning, operation and service, decommissioning, and re-powering within the project life-cycle of a wind farm. The equipment covered in the scope shall include rotor-nacelle assemblies, towers, substructures, foundations, offshore substations, inter-array and export cables (by reference to ACP OCRP-5 Recommended Practices for Submarine Cables), measurement and monitoring equipment, and any other permanently installed auxiliary platforms or equipment.

The initial planning activities for offshore wind facilities, which include site development, ecological issues, socio-economic issues, and other leasing and permitting issues, are not covered by this document. This document is not intended to address land-based wind turbines; or service, installation, or survey vessels. Floating wind farm assets are included by reference to ACP OCRP-2 U.S. Floating Wind Systems Recommended Practices. Where the guidance for floating wind farm structures in ACP OCRP-2 conflicts with this document, ACP OCRP-2 shall govern.

This consensus document points to national and international codes and standards that are applicable for use in the U.S. It addresses many unique U.S. issues including hurricanes and safety regulations, but may not provide comprehensive treatment in all areas. In areas where existing codes and standards do not provide adequate guidance, or require adjustment or modifications, the document attempts to provide clarifications or deviations to fill specific gaps. Chapter 10 describes some of these gaps and the effort necessary to fill the gaps.