
Main Conclusions of the Roadmap for Offshore Wind Energy

Legal Flash Colombia

May, 2022



On May 3, 2022, the roadmap for offshore wind energy was officially presented.

In addition to highlighting that Colombia's total estimated potential is of 109 GW, which is 3 times the current installed capacity, the country has 12,200 km² in areas located between the eastern part of the Guajira and the Venezuelan border that harbor some of the best wind resources to be found anywhere in the world.

It is estimated that by 2050 offshore wind energy could represent 20% of the country's installed capacity. Below we highlight the most relevant conclusions and business opportunities, identified in the roadmap, that offshore wind energy could bring to Colombia:



Competitive Bids

- The Colombian Maritime Authority (Dirección General Marítima – DIMAR) will define and manage a competitive concession process for offshore areas that will be coordinated with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Mining and Energy Planning Unit-UPME, which will grant exclusive rights over a determined area that will provide certainty to developers and allow them to move forward with their investments.
- Given the potential of wind energy, it is expected that it could represent a reliable source of energy and could therefore participate in the auctions of firm energy obligations under the reliability charge mechanism.

Challenges

- The main constraint to consider is the future development of power transmission lines. As major investments are required in the power grid, in addition to the Colectora substation that is currently under construction. It is expected that the Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética will launch calls for bids for the construction of the Colectora II and Colectora III substations and a high voltage line to interconnect the Alta Guajira region with the center of the country.
- The National Infrastructure Agency (ANI) will evaluate the development and investment needs of new local port infrastructure such as dedicated port facilities and reinforcement and expansion of the capacity of existing docks. The ports of Cartagena, Barranquilla and Santa Marta are expected to be of great support to the development of the offshore wind activities.
- It is expected that the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) will formulate generic terms of reference for offshore wind projects, as currently only specific terms are issued for each wind project that requests them.
- Policies are expected to be developed to promote the creation and evolution of offshore wind energy industrial clusters around the port industry.



For more information about the contents of this Legal Flash, please get in touch with your usual contact person at Cuatrecasas. If you do not have one, you can contact the expert lawyer below.

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