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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION¹

IN THE MATTER OF THE OPENING OF NEW JERSEY'S THIRD SOLICITATION FOR OFFSHORE WIND RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES (OREC)

[Docket No. QO22080481](#)

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU" or "Board") invites all interested parties and members of the public to provide written responses to the Request for Information ("RFI") contained in this Notice regarding New Jersey's third offshore wind solicitation ("Third Solicitation").

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 8 on January 31, 2018² to reinvigorate the implementation of the State's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act ("OWEDA" or the "Act").³ To this end, Governor Murphy set a "goal of 3,500 MW of offshore wind energy generation by the year 2030."⁴ On November 19, 2019, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 92, increasing the State's offshore wind energy generation goal to 7,500 MW by 2035.⁵ To date, the NJBPU has successfully completed two offshore wind solicitations, awarding three projects and a total of 3,758 MW of capacity.⁶ On September 21, 2022, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 307, increasing the State's offshore wind goal to 11,000 MW by 2040.⁷

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

² Exec. Order N. 8 (2018).

³ N.J.S.A. 48:3-87-1 et seq. L. 2010, c. 57, signed into law August 19, 2010.

⁴ Exec. Order N. 8, at 2.

⁵ Exec. Order N. 92 (2019), at 3.

⁶ See In the Matter of the Opening of Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificate (OREC) Application Window for 1,200 to 2,400 Megawatts of Offshore Wind Capacity in Furtherance of Executive Order No. 8 and Executive Order No. 92; In the Matter of the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation 2 for 1,200 to 2,400 MW – Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project 1, LLC, BPU Docket Nos. QO20080555 and QO21050824, Order dated June 30, 2021 (1,509.6 MW of capacity awarded); In the Matter of the Opening of Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificate (OREC) Application Window for 1,200 to 2,400 Megawatts of Offshore Wind Capacity in Furtherance of Executive Order No. 8 and Executive Order No. 92; In the Matter of the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation 2 for 1,200 to 2,400 MW – Ocean Wind II, LLC, BPU Docket Nos. QO20080555 and QO21050824, Order dated June 30, 2021 (1,148 MW of capacity awarded); In the Matter of the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation for 1,100 MW – Evaluation of the Offshore Wind Applications, BPU Docket No. QO18121289, Order dated June 21, 2019 (1,100 MW of capacity awarded).

⁷ Exec. Order N. 307 (2022).

On February 28, 2022, the NJBPU announced an updated offshore wind solicitation schedule to meet the 7,500 MW goal by 2035, with the Third Solicitation expected to be issued in Q1 2023 with an estimated target of 1,200 MW.⁸ The schedule for the Third Solicitation was revised to accommodate the integration of the Board's decision on the State Agreement Approach ("SAA") coordinated transmission solution and to allow the developers who successfully bid for new lease areas in the New York Bight sufficient time to further develop their proposed projects, including the establishment of stakeholder and supply chain relationships.

On October 26, 2022, the NJBPU issued an Order on the SAA solicitation (the "SAA Decision").⁹ Board Staff is currently in the process of developing the solicitation guidance document ("SGD") for the Third Solicitation and seeks stakeholder responses to the questions included herein to inform that process relative to the SAA Decision and relative to considering a requirement that would allow projects to connect to a future mesh network, as defined in Section D below.

Stakeholders are invited to answer any or all of the questions and are not required to respond to any specific questions. While Board Staff welcomes as much technical detail as stakeholders wish to provide, Board Staff does not expect stakeholders to conduct technical studies to support stakeholder responses. Please be as specific as possible in providing feedback and recommendations.

Each response must include the name and affiliation of the commenter, along with contact information. In order to respond to the questions contained herein, Board Staff recommends that stakeholders thoroughly review the SAA Decision.

COMMENTS

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 14, 2022.

Board Staff is planning to issue the draft SGD for stakeholder comments in late November 2022, with a stakeholder meeting to be held in December 2022 and written comments due approximately one month after issuance of the draft SGD.

Please submit comments directly to the specific docket listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's [Public Document Search](#) tool. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's [Public Document Search](#) tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Confidential information may also be submitted via email to the Acting Secretary of the Board.

⁸ See NJBPU, [New Jersey Updates Schedule for Third Offshore Wind Solicitation, \(Feb. 28, 2022\)](https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220228.html), <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220228.html>.

⁹ [In the Matter of Declaring Transmission to Support Offshore Wind a Public Policy of the State of New Jersey](#), BPU Docket No. QO20100630, Order dated October 26, 2022.

Written comments may also be submitted to:

Carmen D. Diaz
Acting Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-913-6241
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Please direct all questions on this matter to Andrea Hart at andrea.hart@bpu.nj.gov with the subject "In The Matter of the Opening of New Jersey's Third Solicitation for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (OREC), [Docket No. QO22080481](#)."

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your responses.

Carmen D. Diaz

Carmen D. Diaz
Acting Secretary of the Board

Dated: October 28, 2022

Please refer to the SAA Order¹⁰ for more details and definitions of terms used in this RFI.

Design Considerations for the Prebuild Infrastructure¹¹

As set forth in the SAA Decision, the Board directed Board Staff to require the “Prebuild” in the Third Solicitation. The Prebuild would require a single offshore wind developer to construct the necessary transmission infrastructure (“Prebuild Infrastructure”), which includes duct banks and access cable vaults, for its own project as well as the additional project(s) (up to four total cables) needed to fully utilize the SAA capability made available as a result of the Larrabee Tri-Collector Solution.

1. Please identify any requirements that should be included in the SGD to support the design and timely construction of the Prebuild Infrastructure. Please provide any recommendations for specification of these requirements.
2. Are there major challenges or significant limitations to installing up to four circuits for independent projects in a common ROW? If yes, please summarize the nature of these challenges/limitations.

Cost Recovery Structure for Costs Associated with the Prebuild Infrastructure

3. Board Staff expects to require applicants to submit separate an OREC schedule for their offshore wind project with and without the Prebuild Infrastructure included.¹² Over what period of years should the cost of the Prebuild Infrastructure be recovered?

Construction and Operating Considerations for the Prebuild Infrastructure

Awardees in future New Jersey offshore wind solicitations (and other awardees in the Third Solicitation, if multiple projects are selected) will be required to utilize the Prebuild Infrastructure. As part of project construction efforts, awardees would be required to install their transmission cables in the Prebuild Infrastructure, utilizing the prebuilt duct banks and cable vaults designated to their project. To the extent possible, please consider these questions from the perspective of both the entity that constructs the Prebuild Infrastructure and an entity that will utilize the Prebuild Infrastructure.

4. What terms and conditions for construction of the Prebuild Infrastructure between the Board and constructor should be specified in the SGD?
5. What terms and conditions for operation of the Prebuild Infrastructure between the Board, constructor and future users should be specified in the SGD?

¹⁰ See *Id.*; all documents relating to the SAA, including the SAA Order, may be found on the Board’s public document search tool under Docket No. QO22080481, at https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2111375.

¹¹ As set forth in the SAA Order, any awarded project under this solicitation will be required to utilize the awarded project(s) in the Board’s SAA decision; this includes an interconnection point at the Larrabee Tri-Collector. For more specifics on this interconnection point, please see the Board’s SAA Order, at https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2111375.

¹² The Offshore Wind Energy Certificate (“OREC”) term is the period beginning on the commercial operation date when the OSW project is authorized to operate and ending on the conclusion of the energy year that is 20 years after the date of authorization to operate. See N.J.A.C. 14:8-6.1, *et. seq.*

6. Are there any potential challenges for cable installation in the Prebuild Infrastructure for future solicitation awardees? If yes, how might they be mitigated?
7. Please identify any potential adverse cost or schedule implications ascribable to the Prebuild Infrastructure as it relates to awardees of future New Jersey offshore wind solicitations. How might these impacts be mitigated?

Enabling Potential Future Development of a Mesh Network

A mesh network is an offshore transmission configuration in which the offshore substations for individual offshore wind projects are linked by connecting several offshore platforms. Board Staff is considering requiring projects bidding in the Third Solicitation to be built with design elements that will enable future connection to a mesh network.

8. Do you have any general recommendations regarding how preparation for a future mesh network can be implemented in the Third Solicitation?
9. What additional equipment would need to be specified and installed at the time of project construction in order to enable future connectivity to a mesh network, as opposed to equipment that would not need to be installed until the mesh network is implemented?
10. What physical requirements would enable the offshore substation to support the additional equipment, including additional platform space?
11. How would your suggestions regarding what engineering, operational and/or regulatory information should be specified in the SGD to support a future mesh network differ if the mesh network includes (i) only New Jersey projects, (ii) New Jersey and other PJM states' projects, or (iii) New Jersey, other PJM states' and downstate New York projects?
12. What might be the advantages or disadvantages associated with the Board's adoption of the mesh network framework put forth by NYSERDA in ORECRFP22-1?
13. What voltage would you recommend for the future mesh network and why?

Other

14. Please provide any additional information that you would like Board Staff to consider in development of the SGD.