



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Ms. Rachel Pachter  
Chief Development Officer  
Vineyard Wind, LLC  
700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Ms. Pachter:

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Office of Renewable Energy Programs, regarding Vineyard Wind, LLC's (Vineyard Wind) regulatory departure request submitted on December 22, 2020, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.103. BOEM hereby approves Vineyard Wind's departure request subject to the conditions set forth below.

Vineyard Wind requests a regulatory departure from BOEM's regulations at 30 C.F.R. § 585.626(b)(20), which require Vineyard Wind to include a nomination for a Certified Verification Agent (CVA) for Phase 2 of Vineyard Wind's Lease OCS-A 0501 South ("Park City Wind and Phase 2") in their Construction and Operations Plan (COP). As specified in the COP, the timing of Phase 2 development is uncertain and largely dependent upon market conditions. It is possible that Phase 2 construction could begin immediately following Phase 1 or could follow Phase 1 construction by up to five or more years.

BOEM approves Vineyard Wind's request for a departure from 30 C.F.R. § 585.626(b)(20) with respect to a CVA nomination only for Phase 2 of the project. The requested departure facilitates appropriate lease activities in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(a)(1) by accommodating phased development of the lease, avoiding premature selection of a CVA, and reducing the administrative burden of reviewing a nomination that could change in the future. As a condition of approval, Vineyard Wind must notify BOEM and submit the CVA nomination for Phase 2 as an amendment to the COP for review and approval in advance of Vineyard Wind's submission of the Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report (FDR/FIR) for Phase 2.

BOEM determined that granting the requested departure will not adversely impact project safety or reliability. Once the timing of Phase 2 is more certain, Vineyard Wind must notify BOEM and submit the CVA nomination as an amendment to the COP for review and approval in advance of Vineyard Wind's submission of the FDR/FIR. As such, BOEM's review and approval of the CVA would not be compromised by the departure.

The departure will protect the environment and the public health and safety to the same extent as if there was no approved departure from the regulations and will not impair the rights of third parties. The requested departure is also consistent with subsection (8)(p) of the Outer

Continental Shelf Lands Act, (43 U.S.C. § 1337(p)), as all provisions for safety, protection of the environment, and conservation of natural resources are maintained.

If there are any questions, please contact Emily Hildreth at [emily.hildreth@boem.gov](mailto:emily.hildreth@boem.gov) or (703) 787-1137.

Sincerely,

**JAMES  
BENNETT**

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James F. Bennett  
Chief  
Office of Renewable Energy Programs