



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Mr. Christer af Geijerstam
Equinor Wind US LLC
120 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Dear Mr. Geijerstam:

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Office of Renewable Energy Programs, regarding Equinor Wind US LLC's (Equinor) regulatory departure request submitted on January 10, 2020, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.103. Through this letter, BOEM approves Equinor's departure request.

In its letter, Equinor requested a regulatory departure from 30 CFR § 585.626(a)(4)(ii), which requires that detailed in situ geotechnical data at each proposed foundation location be provided at the time of Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submittal. Instead of submitting the in situ geotechnical data with the COP, Equinor proposes to provide the data no later than with its submittal of the Facility Design Report and the Fabrication and Installation Report (FDR/FIR), when the Project design and associated Project design envelope is more mature.

BOEM review indicates that the information provided in the COP, subsequent data submittals, and the ground model is sufficient to allow a demonstration of the feasibility of the proposed foundations to support the proposed offshore wind farm components. In addition, BOEM deems the proposal to submit the geotechnical investigations at final foundation locations, updated geotechnical analyses with foundation design parameters, and a Final Marine Site Investigation Report with, or prior to, the FDR/FIR to be sufficient to conduct a regulatory review.

BOEM finds that granting this departure would facilitate appropriate lease activities in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(a)(1) by granting Equinor additional flexibility with respect to its final component and project design without adversely affecting the quality and scope of BOEM's review.

BOEM also finds that the requested departures comply with 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(b). Because Equinor would not be able to commence construction activities until BOEM has had an opportunity to review the full suite of information under its regulations, the departure request is consistent with Subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and granting it would protect the environment and the public health and safety to the same degree as if there were no approved departure. Approval of the departure request will not impair the rights of third parties because it is not expected to impact other lessee or stakeholder rights.

If there are any questions, please contact Luke Feinberg at luke.feinberg@boem.gov or (703) 787-1705.

Sincerely,

**JAMES
BENNETT**

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James F. Bennett
Chief
Office of Renewable Energy Programs