



New England Wind



Construction and Operations Plan

Lease Area OCS-A0534

Volume III Appendices

February 2024

Submitted by
Park City Wind LLC

Submitted to
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management
45600 Woodland Rd
Sterling, VA 20166

Prepared by
Epsilon Associates, Inc.





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Submitted to:

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In Association with:

Baird & Associates	JASCO Applied Sciences
Biodiversity Research Institute	Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
Capitol Air Space Group	RPS
Geo SubSea LLC	Saratoga Associates
Geraldine Edens, P.A.	SEARCH, Inc.
Gray & Pape	Wood Thilsted Partners Ltd

February 2024

Appendix III-O – Community and Environmental Benefits

New England Wind will be developed in two phases that will deliver over 2,000 MW of clean energy to New England. Prior to the submission of the COP in July 2020, New England Wind entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with electric distribution companies in Connecticut and, following COP submission, with electric distribution companies in Massachusetts; these PPAs totaled 2,036 MW. The Proponent has agreed with the electric distribution companies in Connecticut and Massachusetts to terminate the Phase 1 and Phase 2 PPAs to enable New England Wind to participate in the future offshore wind solicitations by Northeast states including, but not limited to, recent multi-state solicitations issued by Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut in Fall 2023. These actions are necessary to address global circumstances beyond New England Wind's control that have significantly increased costs.

The Proponent remains committed to the development and permitting of both phases of New England to enable the projects to assist the federal government and the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to meet climate and renewable energy/offshore wind goals. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have all issued solicitations in Fall 2023 for additional offshore wind capacity that collectively total 6.8 GW. These three states have also signed a memorandum of understanding to allow developers to submit multi-state bids, and for the states to collaborate on their procurement decisions. The Proponent intends to submit one or more proposals for this, and if necessary, future solicitation(s). The community and environmental benefits presented in Appendix III-O are based on the previous awards and are considered representative of potential benefits that will occur as a result of new Power Purchase Agreement(s).

New England Wind

Community and Environmental Benefits

Prepared for:

Park City Wind LLC

Prepared by:

Epsilon Associates, Inc.

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APPENDIX III-O COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

New England Wind is the proposal to develop offshore renewable wind energy facilities in Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Lease Area OCS-A 0534 along with associated offshore and onshore cabling, onshore substations, and onshore operations and maintenance facilities. New England Wind, which will be developed by Park City Wind LLC (the “Proponent”), can be expected to deliver substantial community and environmental benefits to the Northeastern United States.

New England Wind will be developed in two Phases that will deliver approximately 2,600 MW of clean energy to New England. New England Wind has already secured multiple Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) that combined will deliver 2,036 MW of power to the ISO-NE electric grid under agreements with Connecticut and Massachusetts entities in accordance with the states’ respective renewable energy requirements. Opportunities for New England Wind to deliver additional power to the ISO-NE electric grid are anticipated. The community and environmental benefits described herein for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are based on the existing awards; development of remaining renewable energy capacity within New England would result in community and environmental benefits that would be additive to those described below.

1.0 Community and Environmental Benefits (Phase 1)

Phase 1 of New England Wind includes Park City Wind, an 804-megawatt offshore wind project named after the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, that will interconnect to the ISO New England electric grid in the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts. Park City Wind will result in a range of community and environmental benefits in southern New England, namely Massachusetts and Connecticut. As further discussed below, the primary sources of these benefits are: (1) a Host Community Agreement (HCA) that the Proponent has executed with the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts, and (2) an up to \$26.5 million (nominal) funding commitment made by the Proponent to support economic and community initiatives (such as supply chain integration, workforce development, and offshore wind-related marine and fisheries research) and support the local communities in Connecticut.

1.1 Host Community Agreement (HCA)

In May 2022, the Town of Barnstable and the Proponent entered into an HCA for Phase 1. As part of the agreement, the Proponent will pay the Town \$16 million as a host community fee, above and beyond the applicable commercial taxes that will be assessed by the Town. Additionally, the Proponent will limit construction at the beach and along roadways to the non-summer months and will restore the parking lot used for temporary staging to its existing condition. The Proponent has also committed to taking extra measures, above and beyond standard engineering practice, to protect groundwater in Barnstable.

The Town of Barnstable will support electric transmission cables from the project from the landfall site and underground along Town roads to the new substation site. The Proponent will coordinate with the planned installation of a municipal sewer line along the onshore route to minimize disruption and defray some of the Town’s sewer line roadwork costs.

1.2 Funding Commitment

Park City Wind includes a funding commitment of up to \$26.5 million (nominal) to support a series of initiatives in Connecticut that were developed in conjunction with efforts to secure approved power purchase agreements (PPAs) for Phase 1. These initiatives will build a skilled offshore wind workforce centered in Bridgeport, Connecticut, facilitate local supply chain development, support research that furthers understanding of potential environmental impacts of offshore wind, and fund community betterment, environmental improvement, and fishing community programs. These initiatives, which are further described below, may be managed by the Proponent, project partners, or an independent third party to, at a minimum, track expenditures and provide necessary reports.

1.2.1 Supply Chain Network Initiative

The Proponent is committing to invest up to \$9 million in projects and initiatives to accelerate the development of the offshore wind supply chain and businesses. This initiative aims to develop and establish a Connecticut supply chain database and facilitate further development of the local offshore wind supply chain in Connecticut. In doing so, the Supply Chain Network Initiative supports the State's goals to expand the offshore wind economy, encourage local businesses to join the offshore wind supply chain, and create jobs in distressed communities. Further details are provided below.

Connecticut Supply Chain Database

The Proponent is proposing to work with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) to establish and administer an offshore wind supply chain development and integration program for Tier 2 and Tier 3¹ suppliers based in Connecticut (particularly those based in Bridgeport) to integrate local businesses directly with Park City Wind's Tier 1 suppliers, and to fully integrate local businesses into the supply chain for current and future projects by the Proponent and others. Key program elements include:

- ◆ A supply chain network program administered by dedicated CCAT staff to support local businesses seeking to become part of the offshore wind industry in connection with Park City Wind, suppliers, and their subcontractors;
- ◆ A supply chain directory leveraging CCAT's previous experience in the aerospace industry to catalog Connecticut companies and their capabilities, which can be used by local businesses, project developers, and suppliers to find other local suppliers and contractors;

¹ The offshore wind supply chain is broken into tiers that delineate the part of the supply chain a company supplies. Tier 1 suppliers supply original equipment manufacturers (e.g. wind turbine generator companies). Tier 2 suppliers supply Tier 1 suppliers; Tier 3 suppliers supply Tier 2; and so on throughout the supply chain.

- ◆ A comprehensive study of where and how Tier 2 through Tier 4 businesses could integrate into offshore wind; and
- ◆ Meet-the-Buyer events hosted by the Park City Wind project team with the project's major contractors to introduce and connect with local businesses who can supply goods or services as subcontractors.

Connecticut Supply Chain Support and Integration

Utilizing the database developed by CCAT in outlining supply chain opportunities, the Proponent commits to help Connecticut businesses undertake the necessary business development and capital improvements to serve the offshore wind industry. The Proponent envisions that funds could be used to support the following:

- ◆ Business development grants to reduce the entry costs to the offshore wind industry for Connecticut businesses, including small businesses with socially and economically disadvantaged owners, and to attract businesses to Connecticut seeking to enter the offshore wind industry. Grants might be used to offset capital expenditures such as new equipment purchases, facility upgrades, or new facility construction in or near Connecticut's major ports.
- ◆ Collaboration with Connecticut's existing commercial fishing fleet to identify economic opportunities for fishermen in offshore wind and help interested parties upskill crews and enhance vessels to enable participation in offshore wind pre-construction work in addition to construction and operations.
- ◆ Further investigation of existing port facilities in Bridgeport and the surrounding communities to better understand opportunities for port redevelopment to serve the offshore wind industry.

1.2.2 Connecticut Windward Workforce Initiative

The Proponent has committed up to \$5 million to educate, recruit, mentor, and train residents of Connecticut, particularly Bridgeport, for careers in the offshore wind industry. These programs will ensure that Connecticut is able to provide the workforce needed for Park City Wind as well as all future offshore wind projects in the US. The experience gained from working on Park City Wind will be invaluable in launching careers in offshore wind for Connecticut residents. The ultimate objective of the Windward Workforce program is to ensure Connecticut has one of the best trained, most experienced offshore wind workforces in the country.

The Connecticut Windward Workforce Initiative will be undertaken in partnership with vocational schools, community colleges, local businesses, unions, and others, and is expected to fund the following:

- ◆ Offshore wind safety and technical training courses and tuition assistance to provide the certifications required for any number of high-skilled offshore wind jobs or support services.
- ◆ Higher education offshore wind courses at one more Connecticut State College & Universities as well as other Connecticut (community) colleges, and universities.
- ◆ Programs to support work placement, apprenticeships, and internships for Connecticut students and residents with Park City Wind and its suppliers.
- ◆ K-12 education and career readiness program development at vocational technical secondary schools around offshore wind career paths and opportunities in the trades alongside outreach to traditional high schools and 4th–12th grade students to introduce offshore wind and future career opportunities.
- ◆ Labor and pre-apprenticeship programs developed in partnership with Connecticut building trades councils and other partners.

1.2.3 *Offshore Wind Protected Marine Species Mitigation Fund*

The Proponent has committed to provide up to \$2.5 million to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut to continue evolving our understanding of underwater noise generated by offshore wind farms and the potential impacts on cetacean and pinniped behavior, hearing, and physiology. In addition, this fund will further the investigation of best practices and advance technologies to reduce potential sound impacts and collision threats from offshore wind project development.

1.2.4 *Connecticut’s Initiative on Environmental Research of Offshore Wind*

The Proponent has committed to provide up to \$2.5 million to support fisheries research and education as part of a new initiative launched by the University of Connecticut to improve the understanding of potential environmental impacts from offshore wind. In partnership with the Connecticut Sea Grant, the University of Connecticut’s Department of Marine Sciences will also use funding to support public education efforts focused on ocean literacy, wind energy, and the environmental research that is being undertaken by Connecticut’s Initiative on Environmental Research of Offshore Wind.

1.2.5 *Environmental, Fisheries, and Local Community Enhancement*

The Proponent will allocate up to \$7.5 million in funds to support environmental initiatives, assist Connecticut fishermen, and further bolster local communities where offshore wind development activities are taking place. The Proponent anticipates working with federal and state agencies as well as environmental, fisheries, and local community stakeholders to identify key priorities and programs these funds could support.

1.2.6 Timeline Fund

Timeline fund disbursement for the Phase 1 initiatives is subject to Park City Wind achieving financial close unless other arrangements are made between the Proponent and potential project partners.

2.0 Community and Environmental Benefits (Phase 2)

Phase 2 of New England Wind includes the 1,232 MW Commonwealth Wind project, which was recently awarded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and has the potential to provide additional renewable energy capacity. Commonwealth Wind will create a wide variety of community and environmental benefits in Massachusetts and throughout southern New England.

2.1 Host Community Agreement

The Proponent expects to negotiate and ultimately execute an HCA with the Town of Barnstable to provide funding to the Town to offset potential impacts associated with hosting the onshore facilities for Commonwealth Wind. The Proponent anticipates that this HCA will contain terms similar to those in the HCA for Park City Wind.

2.2 Funding Commitment

Commonwealth Wind includes an investment of up to \$35 million in local partnerships and programs. These programs include a robust DEI Plan aimed at building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive offshore wind sector as well as a range of community benefits, environmental benefits, and innovation initiatives.

2.2.1 Investments in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

The DEI Plan for Commonwealth Wind includes \$15 million to fund DEI, workforce, and supply chain initiatives that will support local content, increase diversity in the industry, and provide Environmental Justice (EJ) Population residents and other underrepresented populations real opportunities to join the offshore workforce and supply chain. To execute the DEI Plan, the Proponent has partnered with a diverse group of nonprofit partners located throughout Massachusetts. As part of the DEI Plan, the Proponent will also leverage its “buying power” through Commonwealth Wind’s procurement process to ensure DEI is advanced by its industry partners and becomes a core value of the offshore wind sector as it is established in the U.S.

2.2.2 Community Benefits, Environmental Benefits, and Innovation Initiatives

Commonwealth Wind includes an investment of \$20 million in education, innovation, and environmental initiatives to benefit local communities. The Proponent has developed meaningful partnerships, including several with local nonprofits, to provide wide-ranging economic and job opportunities as well as new opportunities for EJ Population residents to directly benefit from offshore wind.

2.2.3 Transforming Coal-Fired Power Plants into Clean Energy Centers

Commonwealth Wind includes two transformative initiatives that convert former coal-fired power plant sites into clean energy centers. The Proponent has partnered with Prysmian Group, a leading international subsea cable manufacturer which intends to build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for subsea transmission cables at Brayton Point, the former coal-fired power plant in Somerset, Massachusetts. Commonwealth Wind also enables Crowley Marine, in partnership with the City of Salem, to redevelop 42 acres surrounding Salem Harbor Station to serve as an offshore wind assembly and turbine staging port for the project. These ports will provide an anchor for building long-term jobs to service this new industry.