



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 8, 2008

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NJ Board of Public Utilities Approves Makeup of Evaluation Committee for the Offshore Wind Solicitation Grant

Grant will provide funding source for offshore wind test project

(NEWARK, NJ) – The Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today approved Board staff's recommendation for the makeup of the Evaluation Committee for the Offshore Wind Solicitation Grant. In addition, the Board approved the evaluation methodology to be used by the Committee.

As approved, the six member Committee will be composed as follows:

- NJBPU (two members);
- NJDEP (one member);
- USDOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) (one member);
- NJ Commerce Department (one member); and
- Governor's Office (one member).

It was agreed that the individual names of the Evaluation Committee members will not be released until the grant selection process have been completed.

“Now that the makeup of the Evaluation Committee for the Offshore Wind Grant Solicitation has been determined, the Board looks forward to the group undertaking a full and rigorous review of the proposals that have been submitted,” said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox.

The Evaluation Committee is charged with reviewing the proposals and developing a recommendation that will be ultimately presented to the Board. The time required to evaluate proposals is a function of the complexity of the proposals that have been submitted. It is anticipated that a recommendation will be made on or before the Board's August 20, 2008, Agenda meeting.

The successful grant will build a maximum aggregate capacity of up to 350 MW of offshore renewable wind electricity. Criteria to be considered in the awarding of the grant include:

- Location in the study area from the DEP ecological baseline study, extending 20 miles offshore from Seaside Park to Stone Harbor (72 miles of the NJ coastline);
- Assistance in relieving or reducing congestion in the ACE distribution system and the PJM transmission system;
- Demonstration of the ability to finance construction through market sources, which may include tax exempt bond financing through EDA.

The financial incentive provided through this grant solicitation would be in terms of a production incentive paid out over five years. A portion, as much as ten percent, of this production incentive could be provided in an upfront payment. The grant solicitation was developed to be awarded as a performance grant. Remaining payments, after any award for pre-construction costs, will be made to the applicant only after the pilot is permitted, constructed and operational. These payments will be tied to the actual electricity produced on an annual basis.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP)

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBP include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBP, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.