

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.ni.gov/bpu/

### **DIVISION OF CLEAN ENERGY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF OCEAN	)	ORDER WITH PROCEDURAL
WIND, LLC PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) FOR	)	SCHEDULE AND REQUEST
A DETERMINATION THAT EASEMENTS ACROSS	)	FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
GREEN ACRES-RESTRICTED PROPERTIES AND	)	INFORMATION
CONSENTS NEEDED FOR CERTAIN	)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS IN, AND WITH	)	
RESPECT TO, THE CITY OF OCEAN CITY ARE	)	
REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE	)	DOCKET NO. QO22020041
CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF THE OCEAN	)	
WIND 1 QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT	•	

### Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Acting Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

#### BY PRESIDENT FIORDALISO:

By this Order, I set forth the procedural schedule and request the filing of supplemental information.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On February 2, 2022, Ocean Wind LLC ("Ocean Wind" or "Petitioner") filed a petition ("Petition") with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f), seeking the Board's determination that certain easements across Green Acres-restricted properties owned by the City of Ocean City, New Jersey ("Ocean City"), and that certain municipal consents needed for particular environmental permits in or with respect to Ocean City, are reasonably necessary for the construction or operation of their qualified offshore wind project ("QOWP"), Ocean Wind I.

On February 23, 2022, the Board retained the Petition for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, designated myself as the presiding officer authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and to modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues ("February 23 Order"). Further, the February 23 Order directed any entities seeking to intervene or participate in this matter file the appropriate motions with the Board by March 9, 2022.

I note that P.L. 2021, c. 178 envisions a transparent and public process for the evaluation. The Board is required to hold a public hearing and receive public comments on the petition. N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f)(2).

# SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

In order to create a more robust record for this proceeding on which to base any decision and to provide all parties and the public with the information needed to provide input, Ocean Wind shall supplement its Petition by submitted responses to questions, set forth in Exhibit B.

#### **DISCUSSION & FINDINGS**

I <u>HEREBY ISSUE</u> the following procedural schedule identified as Exhibit A, and <u>HEREBY DIRECT</u> the parties to comply with its terms and to work cooperatively with each other to the fullest extent possible in the interests of reaching a just determination in this proceeding. The parties will have an opportunity to present evidence and arguments to satisfy due process and aid in the Board's deliberation.

The public will have an opportunity to file comments and attend a public hearing. I, President Fiordaliso, will preside over the public hearing. Notice of the public hearing shall be provided to the "news media, the owner of the real property subject to the petition, and the governing body and municipal clerk of the municipality and the clerk of the county in which the lands proposed to be conveyed are located." N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f)(2). Public Comments may be submitted using the Board's Public Document Search tool, located at <a href="https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/">https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/</a> using DOCKET NO. QO22020041

Comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

I <u>HEREBY DIRECT</u> that, in addition to motions to intervene or participate set forth in the February 23 Order, all other motions be submitted by March 9, 2022. Following that date, motions will only be accepted if they are shown to be in the interest of justice.

I have reviewed the supplemental questions set forth in Exhibit B, and <u>HEREBY DIRECT</u> the Petitioner to submit responses to these questions by 5 pm EST March 11, 2022

I HEREBY DIRECT that this Order be posted on the Board's website.

Parties are HEREBY DIRECTED to serve all documents electronically.

This provisional ruling is subject to ratification or other alteration by the Board, as it deems appropriate during the proceedings in this matter.

DATED: 3/1/20 22

BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF OCEAN WIND, LLC PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) FOR A DETERMINATION THAT EASEMENTS ACROSS GREEN ACRES-RESTRICTED PROPERTIES AND CONSENTS NEEDED FOR CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS IN, AND WITH RESPECT TO, THE CITY OF OCEAN CITY ARE REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF THE OCEAN WIND 1 QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

#### BPU DOCKET NO. QO22020041

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF OCEAN WIND, LLC PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) FOR A DETERMINATION THAT EASEMENTS ACROSS GREEN ACRES-RESTRICTED PROPERTIES AND CONSENTS NEEDED FOR CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS IN, AND WITH RESPECT TO, THE CITY OF OCEAN CITY ARE REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF THE OCEAN WIND 1 QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

# Exhibit A: Procedural Schedule

Item	Date
Motions Filed	March 9, 2022
Ocean Wind's Responses to Supplemental Questions	March 14, 2022
Opposition and Testimony from Parties	April 13, 2022
Ocean Wind Reply	April 27, 2022
Public Hearing	May 5, 2022
Public Written Comments Deadline	May 20, 2022
Settlement Conference	Week of May 23, 2022
Ocean Wind, Property Owner and Associated Governing Bodies Respond to Public Comment	June 3, 2022
Oral Argument	June 24, 2022

Further details regarding the Public Hearing and Oral Argument will be forthcoming.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF OCEAN WIND, LLC PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) FOR A DETERMINATION THAT EASEMENTS ACROSS GREEN ACRES-RESTRICTED PROPERTIES AND CONSENTS NEEDED FOR CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS IN, AND WITH RESPECT TO, THE CITY OF OCEAN CITY ARE REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF THE OCEAN WIND 1 QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

# Exhibit B: Supplemental Questions

#### General:

- 1. Please list the criteria that were used to evaluate the different cable routes, and describe how the criteria were weighed in the selection process.
- 2. Please describe the qualifications of the individuals involved in the cable route selection process.

Please provide documents to support the answers to the questions below:

Jason Kalwa testimony, Page 11, lines 10-21:

3. Please provide an assessment as to whether construction methods as well as impact from construction would differ substantially between different cable routes. Note any differences in impact on traffic as well as public access, especially as it relates to tourism. How did these impacts weigh in the cable route selection process?

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 4, lines 21 through page 5, lines 9:

4. Please provide more detail on the factors that would affect the identified impacts, upgrade costs, and timeline associated with the choice of Higbee and Ontario as POI.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 7, lines 1-8:

5. Please provide supporting information, including data sources, on how "inlets, wildlife refuges, and wildlife management areas" were defined. For any GIS data used in the resource maps, please clarify whether temporal accuracy considerations were made regarding updates to these data sources and how these may have influenced the resulting information.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 7, lines 9-12:

6. Please list the design and construction criteria that were used to remove potential alternative landfall sites from further consideration.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 7, lines 12-17:

7. Please elaborate on the methodology for the additional screening (i.e. based on real estate availability, windshield surveys, and meeting with local municipalities) that was conducted to narrow the number of landfall options.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 8, lines 6-9:

8. Please explain why the existing, previously disturbed Right of Way on and around the Roosevelt Bridge could not be used, and a Green Acres diversion is needed.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 8, line 20 through page 11, line 9:

 Please compare the easements and permits that would be required for the alternative routes, to the easements and permits required for the "Preferred Route." Note any differences in Green Acres diversions needed.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 10, lines 10-13:

10. Are there any potential use conflicts associated with the offshore cable route of the "Preferred Route" (e.g. prime fish grounds, borrow areas, environmental preserves, historic sites)? If yes, please describe and explain how they compare to similar issues cited in association with other cable routes considered by Ocean Wind.

Pilar Patterson testimony, page 11, lines 17 through page 12, line2:

11. Please provide an assessment as to whether easements upon, across, and under Green-Acres restricted properties for cable beach crossings would differ substantially between different cable landfall locations.

Pilar Patterson testimony, Appendix C:

12. What is the linear distance of road disturbed from the beach crossing to POI for the considered routes?

Pilar Patterson testimony, Appendix C:

13. Please describe the "abandoned railroad option" (purple line on map in Appendix C) and what concerns or limitations are associated with this route.

Madeline Urbish testimony, pages 3-5:

14. Can a person present at meetings prior to Ms Urbish employment by Ocean Wind, provide a recount of these meetings?

Madeline Urbish testimony, Appendices:

15. Please provide copies of the correspondence between Ocean Wind and Ocean City Prior to May 13, 2021.