



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF)
AN OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGIC PLAN IN)
FURTHERANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF)
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 8 AND)
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 92)

ORDER RELEASING THE OFFSHORE
WIND STRATEGIC PLAN

DOCKET NO. QO20080560

Party of Record:

Stefanie Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") releases the Offshore Wind Strategic Plan ("OSWSP"), in accordance with the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act ("OWEDA"), N.J.S.A. 48:3-87(d)(4) and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1 to -87.2, Executive Order No. 8 ("EO8"), and Executive Order No. 92 ("EO92").

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 31, 2018, Governor Phil Murphy signed EO8, calling upon the Board to fully implement OWEDA and to take all necessary actions to "promote and realize the development of wind energy off the coast of New Jersey..."

In order to achieve this goal, EO8 directed the Board to develop an OSWSP. EO8 provided that the OSWSP include the critical components of offshore wind development such as, "achieving scale to reduce costs, job growth, supply-chain businesses, workforce development, data collection, and appropriate siting of facilities." In developing the OSWSP, the Board must coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") to ensure the State's natural resources are protected throughout development and operation of offshore wind projects.

In response to the directives of EO8, on February 28, 2018, the Board directed Staff to take specific actions to develop an OSWSP in collaboration with the DEP and other New Jersey state agencies with responsibilities arising under OWEDA. To facilitate the development of the OSWSP, the Board directed Staff to solicit the necessary contracts for professional services to develop the OSWSP.

Accordingly, on April 25, 2018, the Board authorized the release of a Request for Qualifications for the professional services needed to develop the OSWSP. On September 5, 2018, a purchase order was issued to Ramboll US Corporation (“Ramboll”). Work on the OSWSP commenced in September 2018 and proceeded through submittal of a draft OSWSP in October 2019.

On November 19, 2019, during Staff review of the draft OSWSP, Governor Murphy signed EO92, increasing the State’s offshore wind goal to 7,500 MW by 2035. As a result of the increase in offshore wind goals, Staff directed Ramboll to stop work on the OSWSP and provide Staff with a scope of work and associated budget for updating the draft OSWSP to reflect the new 7,500 MW goal.

On February 22, 2020, the Board approved a contract modification for Ramboll to update the OSWSP to reflect the new 7,500 MW goal.

Through June and July 2020, Ramboll submitted several drafts of the OSWSP to Staff. In addition to Staff’s review, these draft versions were shared with DEP and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA”) for feedback.

After considering the comments and edits from Staff, DEP, and NJEDA, on July 13, 2020, the draft OSWSP was issued for public comment.

On August 3, 2020, a virtual public stakeholder meeting was held to present the OSWSP to the public and to receive comments from stakeholders. Staff requested that written comments be received from stakeholders by August 17, 2020.

On September 4, 2020, the final OSWSP was submitted by Ramboll. The final OSWSP incorporated appropriate modifications resulting from public comments.

II. OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGIC PLAN

EO8 directed the Board to develop and implement an OSWSP to serve as a roadmap for successful growth of offshore wind energy in the State. The OSWSP is a guide to establishing a budding offshore wind industry to benefit New Jersey residents and mitigate climate change by developing a clean, renewable energy source.

The successful realization of 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy (representing 50% of New Jersey’s projected 2035 electric load) includes implementation in a cost-effective manner, while developing the necessary infrastructure in a way that protects our natural resources. Success also includes leveraging the investment in offshore wind infrastructure to create long-term jobs and economic benefits for the State.

The OSWSP includes stakeholder input, scientific evaluations, economic analyses, and recommendations for a path forward in five key subject areas:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Protection
- Commercial and Recreational Fisheries
- Supply Chain and Workforce Development
- Ports and Harbors
- Energy Markets and Transmission

III. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Three distinct rounds of stakeholder engagement contributed to the development of the OSWSP.

During March and April 2019, six roundtable stakeholder meetings were held to solicit stakeholder input on the following key topics:

- Environmental Resource Protection
- Commercial and Recreational Fisheries
- Ports and Harbors
- Supply Chain and Workforce Development
- Offshore Wind Transmission
- Wholesale Energy Markets

The objective of the roundtable discussions was to provide a more focused forum for stakeholders to discuss concerns and recommendations relevant to the key areas noted above.

On July 13, 2020, the draft OSWSP was released for public comment, and on August 3, 2020, a public stakeholder meeting was held to receive comments on the draft OSWSP. Commenters at the stakeholder meeting included representatives from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce; the National Wildlife Federation; Environment New Jersey; the Center for Renewables Integration; and Jersey Renews. All commenters were generally supportive of offshore wind and of the OSWSP.

A window for receiving written comments was open on July 13, 2020 and closed on August 17, 2020. Comments received during the public meeting and the written comments received during the written comment period window were reviewed by Staff and Ramboll, and appropriate revisions were made to the OSWSP.

IV. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In response to Governor Murphy's clear directives to develop an OSWSP in order to realize 7,500 MW of offshore wind by 2035, the Board now considers the release of this OSWSP.

Having thoroughly reviewed the OSWSP, with the input from stakeholders and assistance from DEP and NJEDA, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the OSWSP meets all of the requirements set forth in EO8 and EO92.

The Board further **HEREBY FINDS** that the OSWSP provides a roadmap for the successful growth of offshore wind in New Jersey by focusing on the critical components of offshore wind development

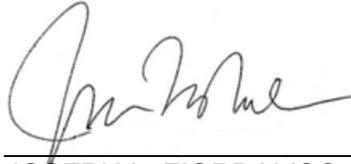
V. CONCLUSION

The Board, having carefully reviewed the comments received, **HEREBY APPROVES** the OSWSP and **HEREBY RELEASES** the OSWSP for implementation.

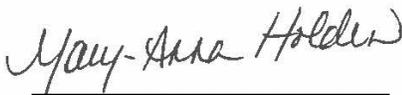
The effective date of this Order is September 19, 2020.

DATED: September 9, 2020

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



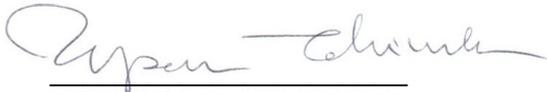
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COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER

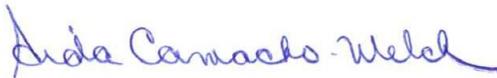


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGIC PLAN IN
FURTHERANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 8 AND
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 92

DOCKET NO. QO20080560

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