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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.3-1

**Vineyard Wind
Environmental Assessment
Experience**



Permitting Team Qualifications

Vineyard Wind has assembled a team with deep experience in data collection, environmental studies, marine and terrestrial environmental impact assessment, federal permitting, Massachusetts permitting, and regional/local permitting on the Cape and the Islands. This unique depth of experience includes a successful environmental impact assessment and permitting of a large scale wind energy project in Nantucket Sound; submarine power cables from the Cape to both Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard; a number of major utility transmission projects on the Cape; several utility gas pipeline projects in and along roadways on the Cape, major utility infrastructure projects in southeastern Massachusetts (one of which involved completing the full FERC NEPA review process and included extensive marine elements), as well as a number of marine/coastal projects in the Project area.

Vineyard Wind's permitting team is headed up by Rachel Pachter, who led permitting for the first US offshore wind project to receive full permits, and is a recognized industry leader in offshore wind permitting.

This depth of experience in and around the Cape and the Islands is complemented by decades of experience in analyzing and permitting large scale energy infrastructure, public infrastructure, and development projects throughout the Commonwealth. The team's lead environmental consultant, Epsilon Associates, has been involved in more than 20 EFSB cases and hundreds of MEPA reviews. The senior members of the Vineyard Wind permitting team have long established working relationships with key reviewers at BOEM, EFSB, MEPA and the CCC as well as the permitting and consultation agencies (ACOE, EPA, USFW, NMFS, MaDEP, MCZM, NHESP, MHC, and MDMF).

Of equal importance, Vineyard Wind's engineering, planning, scheduling, and cost estimating team is built around engineers and managers with European experience in developing, designing, building, and operating over 10,605 MW of large scale wind energy projects (see Section 12 for details). This depth of talent is complemented with Massachusetts based engineering talent with considerable experience in designing and executing utility scale projects on the Cape and offshore.

This combination of environmental and engineering experience is particularly important for a development project such as that proposed by Vineyard Wind. Beginning with the project location (Lease Area OCS-A 0501) and objective (800 MW¹ of efficient offshore wind

¹ Vineyard Wind is permitting and 800MW project, to be built all at once or in stages. This will accommodate award by the utilities of either 400MW or 800MW.

generation), the critical first step in an effective environmental impact avoidance program is to develop a design concept which avoids or minimizes potential environmental impacts and incorporates stakeholder concerns to the greatest degree possible. This is an iterative, data driven process. For the Vineyard Wind project, the team endeavored to minimize potential environmental impacts via careful sizing and siting of the WTGs within a portion of the Lease Area, extensive data collection and marine survey in support of the export cable routing, identification and screening of a range of landing areas and landside cable routes, use of existing rights of way for the landside cable routes, careful siting of a new substation location and a host of other measures. The engineering team developed descriptions of construction/ installation techniques for use by the impact assessment team, together with realistic construction schedules. This step allows the impact assessment team to perform a realistic analysis and to have an informed discussion of potential incremental mitigation measures.

Specific Environmental Impact Experience

Vineyard Wind

Rachel Pachter, Vice President, Permitting Affairs, has over 10-years' experience in permitting offshore wind projects. She finalized the successful permitting of the only large scale wind energy project to complete the BOEM COP process (Cape Wind, 468 MW, BOEM Lease Area OCS-A 0478). Ms. Pachter also oversaw the BOEM NEPA, ESA, and MMPA review process, completion of the state permitting, and secured the ACOE Section 10/404 permit and OCS air permit. Ms. Pachter has long-established and strong working relationships with BOEM and the relevant federal and state agencies.

Matthew Robertson, Senior Manager of Environmental Affairs, has extensive experience in avian and bat impact analysis; marine mammal incidental harassment authorizations and protected species environmental impact analyses; visual impact assessments; marine fisheries surveys and shellfish restoration assessments; and water quality assessments. He has worked on numerous energy projects, including: the Cape Wind Project, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Project, the Block Island Wind Farm, the Lighthouse Wind Project, the Invenergy Clear River Energy Center Project, Poseidon Transmission, West Point Transmission, the Bayonne Energy Submarine Transmission Project, and the Red Oak Transmission Project.

Owner Support

Avangrid & Scottish Power

Vineyard Wind is also supported by Avangrid Renewables' and Scottish Powers' in-house environmental teams. As one of the leading providers of clean, renewable wind power in the U.S., with more than 6,000 MW of owned and controlled wind and solar power facilities, Avangrid has a deep bench of environmental impact assessment experience. Scottish Power is a world leader in offshore wind development with extensive permitting experience for offshore wind projects.

Avangrid Renewables has successfully worked through the impact assessment process onshore at the federal level through the National Environmental Policy Act (Environmental Assessments [EA] and Environmental Impact Statements [EIS]) and state levels through siting boards and

other state process (e.g., California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Environmental Impact Review [EIR], Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council [EFSC]). These processes involve evaluating all potential impacts to the human and natural environment including birds, bats, listed species, habitat, wildlife, sound, shadow flicker, visual resources, and cultural resources. Example projects include the following:

- **Tule Wind Project: Permitted onshore wind project in California, NEPA EIS and state EIR**
- **Deerfield Wind Project: Permitting onshore project in Vermont, NEPA EIS**
- **Dry Lake I Wind Project: Permitting onshore wind project in Arizona, NEPA EA**
- **Desert Wind Project: Secured Individual Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for wetland impacts associated with an onshore wind project in northeastern North Carolina, as well as various state and local permits and approvals**
- **Multiple projects have gone through comprehensive state environmental assessments (modeled after the Federal NEPA process) associated with their permitting process**

Avangrid staff supporting the project include:

Dr. Laura Nagy – Director of Permitting and Environmental Affairs for Avangrid Renewables LLC. Dr. Nagy is an ecologist with over 20 years of experience working on wildlife interactions with renewable energy and emerging regulatory issues such as eagles and endangered species and their associated Eagle Conservation Plans (ECPs), Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. She previously worked as a consultant for the wind and solar industries at DNV GL and Tetra Tech and completed her post-doctoral research at the US Environmental Protection Agency after completing her PhD in Evolution and Ecology from Dartmouth College. Laura began her career at the Mamomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Plymouth, MA, conducting avian research.

Michael Clayton – Senior Manager, Permitting and Environmental for Avangrid Renewables LLC. Michael has been siting, permitting and assessing impacts of energy projects for the past 20 years. Michael has focused on renewable energy projects for the past seven years, all of this time with Avangrid Renewables. Prior to renewables, Michael conducted environmental reviews and permitting on nearly 1,000 miles of natural gas and transmission lines and nearly 2,000 MW of natural gas and nuclear generation facilities. Michael has a bachelor's degree in Entomology and Applied Ecology, with a Concentration in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Delaware. Michael also received his Masters in Business Administration from Goldey-Beacom College.

Iberdrola/ ScottishPower Renewables has been responsible for conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) on the following projects and this has involved extensive stakeholder engagement, surveys and analysis including modelling for all offshore and onshore aspects including marine mammals, birds, benthic ecology, shipping and navigation, fishing, archaeology, coastal processes, landscape and visual, aviation, traffic and transport and

socioeconomics. For the UK projects, the EIAs included both windfarm and grid connection infrastructure (onshore and offshore). Example project include:

- **West Of Duddon Sands offshore windfarm in the UK Irish Sea**
Status: consented and operational
- **Wikinger offshore windfarm in the German Baltic sea**
Status: consented and under construction
- **East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm in the UK North Sea**
Status: consented and under construction
- **East Anglia THREE offshore windfarm in the UK North Sea**
Status: consented
- **St. Brieuc offshore windfarm in the French Brittany bay**
Status: consented
- **East Anglia TWO/ONE North offshore windfarms in UK North Sea**
Status: scoping complete/ EIA in progress

Key staff from Scottish Power supporting Vineyard Wind permitting include:

Gillian Sutherland - Gillian is a Chartered Environmentalist with over 10years of offshore wind experience across Europe, she is Head of Environmental leading a team of specialists in environmental compliance and technical skills including ornithology, marine mammals, marine archaeology and benthic topics for Scottish Power. Gillian leads regional monitoring forums in the UK and frequently represents the industry at national events. Her team is engaged in steering groups for innovative research projects on marine mammals and ornithology such as DEPONS Disturbance effects on harbour porpoise in the North Sea (<http://depons.au.dk/>) and ORJIP Bird Collision Avoidance Study (<https://www.carbontrust.com/offshore-wind/orjip/birds/>).

Tom Anderson - Tom is a trained Marine Biologist with a BSc in Marine Biology / Zoology and an MSc in Marine Biology. Tom currently works as the Offshore Environmental Manager for ScottishPower Renewables providing advice on environmental consenting issues across ScottishPower's Offshore Wind portfolio, engaging with stakeholders and participating in industry research and development. Tom has previously worked for an environmental consultancy (CMACS Ltd) where he gained experience leading offshore environmental surveys, analyzing and interpreting survey data, writing environmental technical reports and ensuring compliance with mitigation protocols on board offshore construction vessels. Before joining ScottishPower in 2016 Tom also worked as a marine noise mitigation advisor for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), where he provided advice on marine noise mitigation practices to offshore industry while also reviewing and updating industry guidelines.

Captain Richard Britton (BSc MBA) - Richard Britton is a Master Mariner with 15 year's experience in the Merchant Navy, including a number of years involved in subsea telecom cable installation. He joined ScottishPower Renewables in 2008 as Project Manager and since worked on all offshore projects as a vessel/navigation expert. In 2014 Richard took up Head of

Development for UK Offshore Projects to deliver 3.6GW of consented windfarms to the business. He currently leads the development team in consent compliance of East Anglia 1 and 3, securing consent for East Anglia 2 and 1 North as well as all land and local stakeholder related matters.

Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP)

COP is currently involved in the pre-investigations and environmental impacts assessment for three offshore wind farm projects in Taiwan (Xidao, Changfang and Fufang). In addition to reviews of benthic flora and fauna, fish and fisheries, underwater cultural heritage, navigation, aviation, and visual impacts, COP project in Taiwan focus on:

- **Environmental impact assessment on birds, focusing on collision risk, barrier-effects and habitat loss and change.**
- **Environmental impact assessment on marine mammals focusing on underwater noise, disturbances and habitat-changes. The highly endangered Chinese White Dolphin is of significant concern and COP is engaging marine mammal experts from Taiwan, Europe and the US, to provide an impact assessment of high-quality and certainty.**

All three projects have now passed the Final EIA Committee and thus the environmental impact statements are to be approved by the Taiwanese authorities.

Pernille Skyte - Director for Consenting for COP. Pernille is responsible for the environmental studies and assessment, and the offshore and onshore consenting procedure for Kriegers Flak (600MW) and Horns Rev 3 (400MW) in Denmark. In both project areas, the protected marine mammal Harbor porpoise and two species of seals are present on a regular basis and the potential impacts from pile-driving activities was of key importance in the environmental impact assessment. Also, the highly protected bird Common Crane (*Grus grus*) which migrate over the Kriegers Flak area was an important focus with regard to the collision risk posed by the offshore wind turbines. Both projects were consented by the Danish authorities in 2015.

Outside Counsel

Geri Edens, a partner at Baker Hostetler in Washington, DC, has more than 25-years' experience working with multiple federal agencies on NEPA reviews and related permitting under numerous statutes (e.g., ESA, NHPA, CWA, MMPA, CAA). She has litigated numerous NEPA cases, representing project proponents as intervenors defending the adequacy of the environmental reviews in federal court. Ms. Edens represented Cape Wind Associates, where she assisted them through the federal review process and successfully defended multiple challenges to their permits and approvals.

Adam Kahn, a partner at Foley Hoag, is coordinating Foley Hoag's work with regard to state environmental impact review of the Vineyard Wind project. He has been practicing environmental law for more than 25 years and was an environmental consultant prior to becoming a lawyer. A substantial portion of his practice relates to the permitting (and related environmental impact assessment) of conventional and renewable energy facilities, including wind, solar, hydroelectric, transmission, waste-to-energy, biomass, combined heat and power,

and fossil fuel facilities. He has represented a variety of private and governmental clients in MEPA review.

Consultants

Epsilon Associates - Lead

As noted above, Vineyard Wind's lead environmental consultant for both state and federal permitting is Epsilon Associates. Based in Maynard, MA, Epsilon is Principal owned fifty-person consulting firm with a strong track record in routing/site selection, environmental analysis, licensing and permitting for transmission and pipeline projects, generation projects and one of a kind energy infrastructure projects. Epsilon has been involved in more than 20 EFSB cases and hundreds of MEPA reviews. In addition to working on the Cape Wind project, Epsilon and its team of consultants have successfully completed permitting for several Cape and Islands projects including:

- Comcast/NSTAR Martha's Vineyard Hybrid Cable Project (Falmouth to Tisbury/Martha's Vineyard)
Status: Permitted in 2013, operational
- NSTAR Lower SEMA 345 kV Reliability Project (Carver, Plymouth, Bourne, Sandwich, Barnstable)
Status: Permitted in 2012, operational
- NSTAR 345 kV Line 322 Rebuild Project (Carver, Plymouth, Bourne)
Status: Permitted in 2011, operational
- NSTAR Line 118/119 Double Circuit Tower Separation Project (Barnstable, Yarmouth, Dennis)
Status: Permitted in 2015, operational
- National Grid/Nantucket Electric 2nd Nantucket Cable Project
Status: Permitted in 2005, operational
- National Grid Mid Cape Main Replacement (Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, Brewster)
Status: Permitted in 2016, under construction
- National Grid Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project (Sandwich, Barnstable, Dennis, Harwich)
Status: Permitted in 2017, under construction

The Martha's Vineyard submarine cable project was the first and remains the only project reviewed and approved through Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan. Epsilon along with Eversource and Comcast were awarded the Environmental Business Council of New England's Nicholas Humber Environmental-Energy Award for Outstanding Collaboration.

Theodore (Ted) Barten, Managing Principal, is supporting Vineyard Wind on the state and federal permitting applications. Mr. Barten has more than 30 years of experience in engineering and environmental consulting. His principal technical focus is siting, environmental analyses, licensing, and permitting and compliance work for electric utility, independent power, and industrial clients. His projects have typically involved route selection or site selection studies; adjudicatory level environmental review; a full array of federal, state, and local permits; extensive regulatory agency interface; and public presentations. He has extensive experience permitting projects through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) as well as successfully gaining approval through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Mr. Barten's expert testimony experience includes fifteen successful Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) proceedings. Throughout his career, Mr. Barten has been able to combine sound technical analysis, credible agency interface, and effective client advocacy to secure timely approvals for a wide array of well-conceived projects

Holly Carlson Johnston is assisting Vineyard Wind with the state permitting applications. Ms. Johnston is an environmental scientist and consultant with a strong background in environmental law, geology, groundwater resources, coastal processes, and urban geography. Her project experience over almost 15 years at Epsilon has included linear infrastructure projects, real estate development, waterfront permitting, coastal science/management issues, dredging and disposal site analysis and permitting, site remediation, field investigations, and scientific research. She has also testified as an expert witness and conducted regulatory research to aid permitting efforts and to provide Epsilon's Principals and Associates with analyses of the latest legislative and regulatory developments. She has worked closely with agencies such as the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MCZM), and Cape Cod Commission. She also has experience with the National Environmental Policy Act. At Epsilon, she has specialized in providing this permitting assistance in the areas of energy, coastal, and urban development projects. Ms. Johnston was recently the Project Manager for Epsilon's work for National Grid's 18 -mile Mid-Cape Main Replacement Project, and earlier she was Assistant Project Manager for Epsilon's full scope routing, licensing, and permitting effort for the Martha's Vineyard Hybrid Cable Project. Ms. Johnston was Epsilon's witness at EFSB hearings for the Cape Main Replacement Project.

Maria Hartnett is assisting Vineyard Wind with the federal permitting application. Ms. Hartnett is an Associate who specializes in environmental permitting and scientific analyses for coastal and marine projects, dredging and disposal activities, and waterfront developments. For over 16 years, Ms. Hartnett has been providing environmental consulting services in support of permit applications at the local, state, and federal level. Ms. Hartnett's areas of expertise include environmental regulatory analysis, coastal studies (shoreline change rates, coastal bank retreat rates, grain size compatibility, beach management), geochemical evaluation of sediments, and development and implementation of monitoring and mitigation programs (water quality monitoring, shoreline monitoring, shorebird monitoring, etc.). Ms. Hartnett is skilled with state environmental permitting requirements, such as the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), Chapter 91, the 401 Water Quality Certification, and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, including the Emergency

Certification process and local wetlands bylaws. Ms. Hartnett also has experience in environmental permitting at the federal level with projects involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10/404 review (particularly dredging projects proposing ocean disposal), Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Federal Consistency Reviews, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Her experience encompasses smaller projects requiring only a single permit to complex and controversial projects involving a multi-year permitting effort.

Ms. Hartnett had a significant role in two of Epsilon's main multi-year coastal projects, Weaver's Cove Energy and the Baxter Road Bluff Stabilization Project in Siasconset, Nantucket. In addition to professional experience on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, Ms. Hartnett also has previous experience with submarine energy projects involving pipelines, transmission lines, and cables.

Geo SubSea (Jeffrey Gardner)

Geo SubSea is assisting Vineyard Wind in the assessment of marine geology and geophysics of the project. Mr. Gardner is well versed in most aspects of marine operations having supervised and conducted hundreds of surveys in the U.S. and around the world for over 27 years, including geological, geophysical, geotechnical, and oceanographic studies. He has recently applied his knowledge and expertise as a direct consultant to the offshore wind developers and support companies as Geo SubSea LLC with the goal of establishing offshore wind as a solid industry in the U.S. Jeff is one of the few marine scientific professionals that has been involved in this industry since its infancy, playing a significant role in the survey programs for Deepwater Wind's Block Island Project, the Cape Wind Energy Project, and now the Vineyard Wind Project, not to mention performing surveys and consulting for most of the other offshore wind projects on the east coast and some overseas. Thus he is very familiar with state and federal agency requirements and has been involved in most aspects of the geophysical and geotechnical (G&G) activities from pre-survey planning to field surveys to post-survey data processing, interpretation, and product development, as well as client representation at meetings. He holds a BS in Marine Geology and an MS in Oceanography along with national and state Professional Geology certifications. His specialty includes the use of geophysical methods to study coastal processes, marine sediments and stratigraphy, underwater archaeology, and benthic habitats.

Mr. Gardner serves as the Field Program Manager for the Vineyard Wind Project and subject matter expert (SME) on marine geology and geophysics, which is an important aspect of many of the offshore program tasks and information required for submittal to federal and state agencies. His duties include supervision of field investigations, quality control of data and interpretations, review and editing of reports, writing and editing of Vineyard Wind documents, and coordination of tasks associated with the field programs. Jeff has written over 225 technical scientific reports documenting surveys and results from projects worldwide over the course of his career.

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

BRI is assisting Vineyard Wind with the assessment of potential avian and bat impacts. Established in 1998, BRI is a 501(c)3 nonprofit wildlife research organization headquartered in Portland, Maine, with over 40 scientists currently on staff. BRI has a long-

standing and successful working relationships with federal and state agencies, consulting firms, energy developers, and other nonprofits.

BRI has conducted over 35 projects related to wind energy development in the U.S. since 2009, and their research team is highly experienced in planning and conducting studies specifically designed to assess and monitor the potential for spatiotemporal effects of offshore energy developments on wildlife. BRI has substantial experience and expertise in (1) managing large-scale wildlife studies, (2) designing and carrying out broad-scale offshore surveys for birds, bats, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other fauna, (3) conducting a variety of other types of terrestrial and offshore studies of bats and birds, including individual tracking and passive acoustic studies, (4) managing and analyzing large databases and geospatial data, (5) researching and writing reports and publications, and (6) working directly with state and federal agencies, including the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense, and state wildlife and regulatory agencies from across the U.S. and Canada.

BRI recently completed a large-scale, \$5.1 million study of offshore wildlife in the mid-Atlantic U.S. for the Department of Energy and the state of Maryland, which was designed to address environmental permitting requirements for offshore wind projects and serve as a starting point for more site-specific studies. The project identified species likely to be exposed to offshore wind energy development activities in the mid-Atlantic. Among many other studies relevant to the Vineyard Wind project, for BOEM and FWS, BRI tracked marine bird species vulnerable to offshore wind development.

Wing Goodale is a Ph.D. candidate, Switzer Fellow, and NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) fellow in the Offshore Wind Energy Program at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Wing is also the Senior Deputy Director at BRI, focusing on offshore wind energy and wildlife. He is the principal investigator (PI) on a DOE-funded project to develop a stereo-optic camera system to track birds and bats around wind turbines. Goodale's Ph.D. research is focused on the cumulative effects of offshore wind energy development on wildlife. He has in-depth knowledge of the scientific literature on this topic and relevant NEPA documents, has interviewed diverse stakeholders, and developed a conceptual framework to define cumulative effects, which he has operationalized in assessment and evaluation models. He has written over 45 reports and publications including 5 related to offshore wind.

Dr. Iain Stenhouse is BRI's Senior Science Director and Marine Bird and Arctic Programs Director. Dr. Stenhouse has more than 20 years of experience in research and conservation focused on the behavior and ecology of northern and Arctic-breeding seabirds. He has carried out traditional aerial surveys, and has spent countless hours on coastal and marine bird survey vessels. He has authored many peer-reviewed papers and technical reports on the ecology of marine wildlife. He is responsible for the development of new research projects that respond to urgent environmental issues, identifying potential funding sources, and grant writing. Throughout the *Mid-Atlantic Baseline Studies* project, he supervised the review of broad-scale, high resolution digital video surveys.

Kate Williams' research has focused on understanding wildlife movements, distributions, and habitat use to inform the planning and potential mitigation of terrestrial and offshore wind energy development. She manages several large-scale collaborative projects for BRI, including the recently completed *Mid-Atlantic Baseline Studies* project (2011-2015), which was focused on bird, marine mammal, and sea turtle distributions and movements on the mid-Atlantic OCS. As the Director of BRI's Wildlife and Renewable Energy Program, she obtains funding, designs and manages projects, analyzes data, writes technical reports and publications, delivers public presentations at scientific and technical conferences, and works closely with a variety of collaborators at BRI and other organizations.

Ecology and Environment (E & E)

E&E is assisting Vineyard Wind with impact assessments and permitting related to marine mammals and sea turtles. Founded in 1970, Ecology and Environment (E & E) is a fully integrated ecological and environmental consulting firm headquartered in Lancaster, New York. E & E has offices in 29 major cities across the United States and employ respected experts in 85 scientific and engineering disciplines, including a full-time staff of nearly 900 environmental professionals. This multidisciplinary professional mix gives E & E an ability to comprehensively analyze existing or potential environmental problems and deliver experience-based insight to design and implementation of sustainable development projects. E&E's team has decades of experience working with clients to perform resource surveys and develop offshore and onshore wind, oil and gas, deepwater ports, and subsea pipelines and electric transmission lines.

Dr. Sarah Courbis has over 21 years of experience working in marine environments, specializing in scientific research, management, and regulatory documentation and permits. Much of her recent work has focused on oil and gas and alternative energy exploration and development, as well as several government-sponsored environmental science projects. She has expertise in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Coastal Zone Management Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NEPA, and a variety of other statutes. She has strong experience working for and with a variety of state and federal agencies and industry clients. Dr. Courbis is able to specifically address statutory requirements, permitting, and needs of agencies with respect to supporting findings. She has worked across the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and she is a co-investigator on NOAA permits for marine mammal research in the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Islands Regions. Dr. Courbis specializes in marine mammal and protected species environmental assessment, mitigation, and permitting, with particular focus on impacts of sound on marine mammals. Her master's and Ph.D. focused on marine mammal behavior and population dynamics; subsequently, her master's study on the behavior of spinner dolphins in response to vessels and swimmers and her Ph.D. study on population genetics of pantropical spotted dolphins have been used by NOAA to evaluate swim-with-dolphins regulations and stock assessments. For 10 years, she has participated/attended the Pacific Scientific Review Group meeting and sits on committees such as the Environment Committee of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, the Siting and Environmental Compliance Committee and the Offshore Wind Committee of the American Wind Energy Association, and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy. She has written over 55 publications, technical reports, and conference presentations.

Sara Mochrie, Project Manager, has over 18 years experience providing technical and management services for government and industry projects spanning wind, natural gas, LNG and transmission sectors. Most notably she worked on the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wind Energy Leasing offshore Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Ms. Mochrie managed E & E's initial year of support for an EA addressing the potential environmental impacts of wind energy site leasing and development in an area off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The EA was consistent with BOEM objectives under NEPA and was used to help guide BOEM in determining which areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) are suitable for leasing efforts associated with site characterization and assessment activities for wind energy facilities. Ms. Mochrie coordinated all aspects of the environmental analyses, consulting with BOEM staff, providing responses to comments, and leading the incorporation of review/comment information into environmental documents to be published by BOEM in advance of the wind energy area leasing process.

Clarendon Hill

Clarendon Hill Consulting (ChillCons) is assisting Vineyard Wind with the Navigation Risk Assessment. Chillcons provides consulting in the areas of energy services, especially in the field of Offshore Wind energy, environmental and urban planning, infrastructure analysis, risk assessments, regulatory review, site and view shed analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services, as well project management and public outreach. ChillCons, founded in 2010 has been an early adapter to the offshore wind industry.

ChillCons has supported a variety of offshore wind projects and studies. Isabel Kaubisch has been the DPM on the first MCEC Offshore Port Readiness study in 2009 which led to the selection of New Bedford being built out as offshore wind port. Recently ChillCons analyzed the port infrastructure for Virginia's Department of Mineral and Mines (DMME)'s in support of the Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement (VOWTAP) project. This spring, ChillCons participated in the Massachusetts Port Infrastructure Study (MCEC Port Study) lead by the Urban Harbors Institute, Ramboll and Tufts University which assessed twenty ports in Massachusetts to meet the requirements of the Offshore Wind industry to develop Massachusetts' offshore energy projects in the near future. ChillCons was responsible for outreach and feedback from the offshore wind industry on their port infrastructure requirements. These requirements were used to assess port capabilities to support the offshore wind supply chain industry.

ChillCons team consists of experts who are highly knowledgeable and very familiar with specific questions relating to Offshore Wind developments, such as the regulatory requirements, site location and access, vessels and navigation, as well as risk assessments. They have a deep understanding of the offshore wind stakeholders and operations.

Being mariners themselves, they know which factors contribute to marine navigational safety and - having conducted several risk assessments for other projects - are well versed with a range of qualitative and quantitative risk assessment methodologies. The team has also been involved in reviews of navigational risk assessments and the review of the final Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS).

RPS ASA

RPS ASA is assisting Vineyard Wind with fishery impact assessments. RPS's office in Rhode Island (formally Applied Science Associates (ASA)) is located in South Kingston and maintains a scientific and technical staff of approximately 50 employees. In October 2011, ASA became a member of the RPS Group one of the world's pre-eminent consulting firms, employing more than 5,000 people internationally. By combining the talents and expertise of the RPS Rhode Island office (RPS ASA) with the global reach of RPS, the collective team offers advanced environmental, energy, science and technology services to clients around the world.

Through consulting, environmental modeling, and application development, staff members in the RPS Rhode Island office help a diverse range of clients from government, industry, and academia. The RPS staff's diverse technical backgrounds are specialized in the characterization and analysis of marine, freshwater, air, and land resources; computer modeling of physical, chemical, and biological processes; geographic information systems (GIS); operational research; and data management. The RPS Rhode Island staff is internationally recognized in the fields of oil spill risk, oil and chemical spill modeling, physical oceanography, coastal geology, sediment transport and dispersion, and metocean data and modeling. The Rhode Island staff provides scientific and engineering analyses for several aspects of offshore renewable energy projects.

The RPS Rhode Island office has been involved with several offshore renewable projects to date such as the BOEM Environmental Assessments (EA) of the Massachusetts and New York Wind Energy Areas (WEA); BOEM Review of the Risk, Fate, and Effects of Wind Turbine Chemicals on the Atlantic OCS; BOEM Development of Protocols and Modeling Tools to Support Ocean Renewable Energy; Deepwater Wind Block Island Wind Farm cable installation; Cape Wind oil spill and suspended sediment analysis; site characterization for the WindFloat Pacific project; an assessment of environmental sensitivity and associated risk to habitat and species on the Pacific West Coast and Hawaii with offshore floating wind technologies, and an assessment of phased approaches to offshore wind developments.

Jill Rowe specializes in biological and environmental data gathering, analysis and management; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) modelling and analysis of pollutant fates and effects; ecological risk assessment; impact assessment of dredging and development projects, preparing sections of Environmental Impacts Statements; providing NEPA support, and GIS mapping and analysis. Ms. Rowe has applied her marine biological and GIS expertise to biological data set development, as well as mapping habitats and biological resource distributions that could ultimately be affected by oil/chemical spills and development projects. She performs quantitative assessments and modelling of aquatic ecosystems and populations, pollutant transport and fates, and biological response to pollutants. The populations to which she applies these models include plankton, benthic invertebrates, fisheries, birds and mammals. She has analysed data and has applied water quality, food web and ecosystem models to case studies in freshwater, marine and wetland ecosystems.

Saratoga Associates (Matthew W. Allen)

Saratoga Associates and specifically Mr. Allen are assisting Vineyard Wind with visual impact

analysis, an important aspect of the environmental review process. Saratoga is a multi-disciplinary professional firm with four decades of experience in providing engineering and visual assessment services throughout the Northeast. Mr. Allen is a recognized leader in the specialized discipline of visual impact assessment and aesthetic mitigation. He served on the peer review team for the landmark 2000 NYSDEC Program Policy concerning visual impact assessment and mitigation. He frequently serves as a third party advisor to the NYSDEC, helping state regulators understand and minimize aesthetic impacts associated with large and often controversial development projects. He has also served as project manager in the preparation of draft and final environmental impact statements. Mr. Allen was the lead or involved in over 30 visual impact assessments including the Block Island Offshore Wind Farm (Deepwater Wind, Block Island, RI) and Offshore Wind Farm Visibility Study (Deepwater Wind, LLC, Coastal Area, NJ).

Gray & Pape

Gray & Pape is assisting Vineyard Wind with marine archeological assessment. Since 1987, Gray & Pape has completed numerous marine cultural resources management projects. Gray & Pape personnel have a solid understanding of maritime projects, and routinely apply that understanding in successful coordination with state and federal agencies.

Gray & Pape has participated in numerous nearshore and offshore projects. Gray & Pape's maritime personnel are well qualified and provide services required from preliminary planning activities such as administrative, permitting, desktop development studies of cultural resources offshore, geophysical survey and data analysis, diver ground truthing and reportage. Gray & Pape marine and terrestrial archaeologists and historians exceed the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* (48 FR 44738- 44739). Gray & Pape personnel have extensive experience in conducting research and interpreting the resulting data for cultural resource purposes.

Dr. Michael Tuttle has over twenty-five years experience working in maritime history and archaeology conducting Phase I, II, and III archaeological survey, testing, and mitigation projects. He has completed documentary research in numerous state archives associated with maritime issues and histories. Consultation with multiple State Historic Preservation Offices as well as numerous Federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers and BOEM has resulted in a solid understanding of both state and federal regulations and requirements. He is listed on the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).

Having participated in well over one-hundred-sixty archaeological projects Dr. Tuttle's experience ranges from remote sensing survey to full shipwreck site recordation. In particular, Dr. Tuttle has completed numerous remote sensing and diving projects in locations throughout the United States. Environments encountered during these investigations varied from rivers such as the Piscataqua, Savannah, Red, Tennessee, and White, to lakes such as Champlain, Erie, Michigan, and Tahoe as well as the open waters of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific and Caribbean.

Temporally he has investigated potential shipwreck sites ranging from late fifteenth century through to modern twentieth century vessels. In addition to deep experience in American waters Dr. Tuttle has participated in research in the Netherlands, Scotland, the Channel Islands

Madagascar, Ghana, the Dominican Republic and the Marshall Islands with the intent of helping local organizations and government agencies to locate and protect their underwater cultural resources.

Capitol Airspace Group

Capitol Airspace, and specifically Mr. Ron Morgan, is assisting Vineyard Wind with aviation assessment. Mr. Morgan has 39 years' experience in global air traffic management, ATC operations and system modernization. He began his aviation career as a flight instructor and charter pilot in Burbank, California. After a tour of duty in the Air Force, he started a 31-year career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Morgan held various controller, staff, and managerial positions in the Western-Pacific Region of FAA before moving to FAA Headquarters in 1988.

While in Washington DC, Mr. Morgan was Manager, Advanced Systems and Facilities Division; Director of System Engineering, Associate Administrator for System Engineering and Development, and Director of Air Traffic. In his last six years as Director of Air Traffic, he and his staff managed 25,000 air traffic control personnel and the airspace delegated to the United States. This included the accountability for a \$3.2 billion yearly budget.

In January 2003, Morgan Aviation Consulting was established where Mr. Morgan continues his involvement with the aviation community by assisting a number of companies with business development, strategic planning and ATC technical assistance. Mr. Morgan provides strategic planning and operational impact assessment in support of Capitol Airspace client projects.

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.4-1

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.4-2

**VW Fisheries
Communication Plan**



VINEYARD WIND

Fisheries Communications Plan

OVERVIEW

Vineyard Wind is developing an 800MW offshore wind project which is proposed to interconnect with the mainland electric grid on Cape Cod, Massachusetts and sell the output to the utility companies in Massachusetts and New England. Attached are two charts that show the Vineyard Wind lease area with the highlighted area of initial development as well as possible offshore submarine cable routes.

Vineyard Wind is committed to meaningful engagement with fishing communities to help ensure minimal disruptions to commercial and recreational fishing groups. Vineyard Wind, has been engaged with fishing communities including those on and in Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Cape Cod, New Bedford and Rhode Island since the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Site Assessment period for offshore wind farm development began in 2009. Vineyard Wind is the first US offshore wind developer to engage a fisheries representative, doing so even prior to BOEM issuing guidelines recommending use of fisheries representatives. We have communicated with the fishing industry and stakeholders through multiple outlets including but not limited to one on one meetings, industry gatherings, newspaper/online advertisements, industry associations, state associations, industry journals and public notices. Vineyard Wind is also the first US offshore wind developer to have provided thumb drive electronic charts, showing our lease area and areas of work offshore, to area fishermen and to add in Loran lines to project charts to facilitate orientation for users of the area.

As an example of outcomes from Vineyard Wind's engagement, the Vineyard Wind turbine layout was modified in response to input from various fishing groups and through discussion with the project's fisheries representative.

Vineyard Wind's track record of fisheries outreach demonstrates our commitment to working with the fishing community so that both industries can thrive through shared, sustainable use of the ocean's resources. This approach informed the development of this plan, and will be carried through the plan's implementation during the wind energy project's construction and operation.¹

¹ This plan was developed with review and input from local groups representing fishing interests as well as federal and state agencies.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Fishery Communication Plan is to define outreach and engagement to potentially affected fishing groups during development, construction, operation and final decommissioning of the project, with five main objectives:

1. Enhance the safety of all who work on the ocean in the area of the project;
2. Seek out stakeholder concerns and strive for open, transparent resolution;
3. Quantify and avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on fisheries.
4. Understand as fully as possible, current and potential fisheries in the affected areas.
5. Identify gaps in information relating to fish and fisheries to inform research and monitoring strategies.

STRATEGY

The foundation for achieving these objectives will be to build on Vineyard Wind's existing relationships with the fishing communities, cultivated since 2009, to continuously work towards trusted and mutually respectful lines of communications with the diverse fishing communities of the region.

PLAN SUMMARY

In keeping with Vineyard Wind's prior practice and BOEM guidelines, the plan relies on two key roles:

Fisheries' Representatives (FR), whose role is to represent a fishery industry, gear type, port or region, or sector(s) to the project, communicating concerns, issues and other input for the life of the project, from development and pre-construction through decommissioning. Typically, the FR is an active fisherman within the region, fishery, or sector they represent. While FRs are compensated for their time and expenses by the project, their duty is to the fishing region, industry, gear-type, or sector they represent. There is likely to be more than one FR inputting to the project, given the diverse nature of the fisheries in the project area. FRs will be solicited through a fair and equitable process by the Fishery Liaison who will ensure these individuals adequately represent their respective industry, gear type, port or region and interests.

Fisheries Liaison (FL), whose role is to facilitate the work of the FRs by serving as a single, knowledgeable point of contact to which the FRs can efficiently and effectively communicate. The FL also serves to communicate on behalf of the project out to the fisheries sectors directly, and with the FRs. The FL communicates across fishery communities and regions in order to educate and disseminate vital information regarding the project to fishermen, and receive input back to the project. The FL works to validate fisheries information through cross-referencing among data sources.

Communications Planning: Approximately three years prior to any offshore construction, estimated 2018, Vineyard Wind will implement a heightened phase of fisheries communications outreach, with the objective of recruiting and identifying an FL that would be trusted and well regarded by the various fisheries communities, recruit and identify FRs for the various fisheries communities operating in the project area, and identify, design, and implement effective communication channels between the project and the fisheries communities generally.

Fisheries Liaison (FL)

Currently, Rachel Pachter of Vineyard Wind, and Erik Peckar of Vineyard Power Cooperative (Vineyard Wind's community partner) are acting as FLs.

Vineyard Wind will hire a dedicated FL at three years prior to any offshore construction and through the life of the project including decommissioning. It is anticipated there will be modest overlap in time between any acting FLs and subsequent new FLs. This is to ensure a proper changeover and continuity is maintained during any transition. The FL will be hired this far ahead of construction so that they will have time to develop relationships with fishing regions, industries and interests, identify and engage new FRs, confirm appropriate identification of potentially affected fisheries, develop communication methods and tools. Importantly during this time, the FL will also work with the FRs and scientists to develop measures to reduce potential impacts to fisheries prior to construction (before any impacts may occur), and develop resources and potential methods to monitor effectiveness of communications. During the pre-construction period the FL will also provide access to project related information for any scientific researchers who may be developing and implementing pre/during/post- construction impact studies. Any impact study data that is collected pre/during and post construction of the project will be made available to the public on the Vineyard Wind website at www.vineyardwind.com.

Role & responsibilities of the FL include but are not limited to:

- The FL represents the project on behalf of Vineyard Wind and is the principal contact to the fishing community
- The FL is not someone actively engaged in commercial fishing
- During project pre-construction development, the FL will communicate directly with FRs via email, in person meetings and conference calls and will provide monthly written reports to management on this outreach. Management will provide feedback, when necessary to ensure timely dissemination of information regarding all project activities.
- During project construction, the FL will have direct access to the project management team in order to ensure updated project information is available to the fishing community. It should be noted that changes may take place in real time during construction. Vineyard Wind will endeavor to disseminate that information as quickly and widely as possible either through our website or a 24-hour phone line.

- Refine and enhance this communications plan, given learning experiences and new information received.
- Ensure the project's fisheries communication and communication strategy is effective across all relevant fishing communities, sectors, regions/ports, seasons, and gear types.
- Establish a clear line of communication with federal and state agencies from affected fishing regions to ensure all states where the fishing industry could be impacted are well informed during all phases of development and through decommissioning.
- Maintain awareness of ongoing fishery management action development by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission.
- Help develop and refine communication materials in addition to communication plans to ensure effective messaging.
- Develop or recommend mitigation measures.
- Provide a record of relevant project information and communications.
- Participate in BOEM, MA Fishery Working Group Meetings
- Investigate and follow-up on complaints and concerns received from FRs
- The FL shall have a direct line of communication to the project company's senior management, through which to make recommendations for improvement and address complaints, concerns, and other input received.

Fisheries Representative (FR)

Jim Kendall was Vineyard Wind's first FR, serving during 2010-2011 for the purpose of receiving input in early site evaluation. Mr. Kendall was engaged again during the 2016-2017 period, when Vineyard Wind began first conducting offshore geological surveys. Jim's work has proven highly effective, validating the strategic approach of this plan. Jim Kendall's biographical summary is provided in Attachment A, and it is anticipated that he will continue with the project in this role.

Role & responsibilities of FRs include but are not limited to:

- Communicate directly with FL for the purpose of effectively disseminating project information to the FR's constituency.
- Disseminate project information to the fishermen who are based in or visit ports in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York and may fish in the Vineyard Wind lease area and cable route area(s).
- Be available and accessible to their represented fishery.
- Communicate to FL any potential conflicts regarding surveys and project development.
- Assist FL to understand fishing activity in the Vineyard Wind lease area and the submarine cable proposed to connect to Cape Cod (e.g. gear types, specific fisheries).
- Work with FL to develop and refine fisheries communication plan(s).
- Communication planning, identification of communication methods and frequency, outreach meeting facilitation and support and other tasks, as needed, for engaging local fishermen during all project phases to ensure effective messaging.

- FR will meet directly with the FL and project management every quarter and evaluate communication and outreach efforts and review quarterly outreach and mitigation measures employed by Vineyard Wind
- Individual's work as the FR will be funded by Vineyard Wind, but the FR is considered to be independent, third party agent, serving the fisheries interests, not the project's interests.
- Maintain awareness of ongoing fishery management action development by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission.
- Develop or recommend mitigation measures.
- Documenting activities and making them publically available.
- Participate in BOEM, MA Fishery Working Group Meetings.

SAFETY

An important objective of this plan is to use the project's fisheries communications to enhance safety of all those who work on the ocean in the project area. Vineyard Wind's Safety Management System (SMS) will outline clear communication protocols and procedures for emergency events such as: collision of a vessel with a turbine structure, gear entanglement, or damage to cabling by fishing activity, catastrophic failure of a turbine or other event.

Fishermen-Wind Partners in Safety

In furtherance of the objective of enhancing safety for all who work offshore, Vineyard Wind will be sponsoring two offshore safety training courses in the Spring of 2018, one in New Bedford and the other on Martha's Vineyard. These courses will provide fishermen an opportunity to learn and practice skills that might one day save their lives, and members of the wind industry will be invited to attend the trainings as well. It is our hope that these joint safety trainings will become an opportunity for the men and women of the fishing and offshore wind industries to come to know one another, and build lasting relations, while learning and practice safety together. The improved personal relations can help improve safety by furthering communications between the two industries. The two trainings are considered a pilot initiative, and are expected to be continued and expanded if proven successful.

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

To reach all fisheries, the FL will conduct direct outreach to each FR and participants in fishery industries, ports or regions directly, using the following methods and strategies:

Target Audience	Influencers	Sustaining Tactics
Fishing sector, fishing region, seasonal fisheries, specific fishery gear types, fishermen at sea, charter fishermen, fishery ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fishing Representatives and Fishing Liaison• Other fishermen• Media – newspapers, internet, e-mail subscriptions, fliers, thumb-drives• Fishing organizations, alliances, partnerships, commissions, coalitions, councils, councils/commission staff, state agencies, federal agencies, and advocacy groups• Local elected officials• Friends and family• Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to information via internet, e-mail lists (state and Vineyard Wind), social media• Industry specific publications or e-mails• 24-hour phone service for up to date project info and emergencies.• Project specific radio alerts to fishermen at sea• FL contact info on website• Attending and speaking at fishermen working group meetings• Fishermen open house information meetings.• FL/FR communication channels• Clear daily two-way communication channels between fishery/fishermen and project during construction (contractors and sub-contractors)

The FL and FR's will work together to devise a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of the outreach. The methodology and results will be reviewed at least annually.

VALUED FEEDBACK

Vineyard Wind recognizes the value local fishermen have in terms of geographical and nautical knowledge as mariners in the region and continued participation will allow for the regular flow of communication in order to best inform and let fishermen know what to expect as the wind energy project progresses.

Vineyard Wind invites fishermen to share with the project team of the best ways to communicate with all fishermen under various circumstances, such as notifications about temporary closures or other messages that may need to be communicated during construction and operation.

Vineyard Wind is also seeking fishing data (VMS historic information, seasonal catch/gear information, fisherman contact details) and other information that can help with decisions about some aspects of design, construction and operation of the wind energy project infrastructure and construction timing, to reduce conflict with fishing communities during the development and life of the project.

Vineyard Wind is working with the New Bedford based UMass School for Marine Sciences and Technology (SMASST) to design pre/during/post construction surveys of the project. Input, prior to the start of the survey, regarding specific species or other information is welcomed and encouraged from fisheries, state and federal agencies and scientists and active outreach will be part of designing the study. Any data collected from these studies will be made public through our website.

PROJECT SITING, DESIGN, NAVIGATION & ACCESS

In order to avoid conflicts with fishermen, Vineyard Wind has met with over 100 fishery stakeholders including fishermen from various gear types, fishing advocacy organizations, regulatory agencies, and local fisheries groups who are most likely to be affected by offshore wind development in our lease area and potential submarine cable route for input regarding access by fishermen. We have worked with the fishing industry and implemented feedback regarding vessel traffic into our wind turbine layout design. Once the project is under construction Vineyard Wind will provide detailed guidelines on safe navigation within and through the project site during construction and operations. Vineyard Wind will continue to work with the fishing community to determine the configuration of the submarine cabling and foundation locations/design relative to known adjacent fishing locations. Communication protocols and procedures for emergencies will be developed as part of this communication plan and shared with the fishing industry.

Prior to construction and in consultation with the FR and local state and federal agencies, Vineyard Wind will develop a detailed publicly available schedule in order to reduce conflicts with fishing activities. Vineyard Wind will work with the FR to determine a mutually workable schedule, which will be maintained and updated as changes occur during the construction period.

The schedule will include, as necessary, methods such as alternating construction sites or schedules to minimize impacts to fishermen and other Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) user groups. It is recognized that different gear types, species, and fishing communities (recreational and commercial) may have different and sometimes conflicting seasonal needs. In such cases,

the lessee will work with all impacted fishing communities to identify a construction schedule that minimizes impacts to all or most users, to the extent possible, and that avoids or minimizes conflict among user groups.

Vineyard Wind is not authorized to exclude any fisheries operations from the project area, nor is it Vineyard Wind's intent to do so even if granted such authorization. For the purpose of safe construction, and in coordination with the US Coast Guard, vessel operations of all types may be excluded in very limited areas for short periods; this is typical of any offshore construction work.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

Vineyard Wind will consider measures that generate beneficial impacts to the fishing industry to offset any adverse impacts to affected fishing communities. Vineyard Wind will also develop procedures for handling compensation to fishermen for potential gear loss and the loss or reduction of income to fishermen impacted by the lessee. The level of financial support would require detailed discussions between the impacted fishing community and the lessee.

Vineyard Wind will also create a process for filing fishery compensation claims. The fishery compensation claims process information will likely be posted on the Vineyard Wind website. If fishermen are displaced at any phase during the construction term, fishermen will be required to submit evidence of income and fishing location(s) to Vineyard Wind to be compensated.

POTENTIALLY AFFECTED FISHERIES

Through our outreach and in conversations with over 100 fishery stakeholders we have concluded that the following fisheries could be most affected during construction of the offshore wind farm and the submarine cable through Nantucket Sound.

- Ground fish/Bottom trawl mobile gear (squid/fluke/Atlantic mackerel)
- Static gear fisheries (gill nets, traps/pots)
- Recreational fishermen (large pelagics)
- Shellfisheries in Lewis Bay

These groups will be prioritized during the implementation of this plan. Regular reviews will be used to modify or confirm this prioritization, as needed.

ATTACHMENT A. FISHERY REPRESENTATIVE

Vineyard Wind Fishery Representative - Jim Kendall

Mr. Kendall is the Executive Director of New Bedford Seafood Consulting. He is a former scallop fisherman and Executive Director of New Bedford Seafood Coalition with over 50 years of experience in the fishing industry and with fisheries issues. Mr. Kendall was a member of a research team for the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation that focused on discard mortality rates of Southern New England flatfish. Mr. Kendall has served as a New England Fishery Management Council member for numerous terms. He has also served on the Massachusetts Fisheries Recovery Commission, the New England Commercial Fishing Law Enforcement Working Group, and is a founding member of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. Mr. Kendall was featured in the book *A Doryman's Reflection: A Fisherman's Life*. Additionally, Mr. Kendall has been interviewed on WBSM radio and by the New Bedford Standard Times, the Gloucester Times, and the Boston Globe on fisheries issues.

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Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.4-3

**SMAST UMass Dartmouth
LOI**



UMass | Dartmouth

SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

11 December 2017

Erich Stephens, CDO



VINEYARD WIND

700 Pleasant St, 5th floor
New Bedford MA 02740

Letter of Intent

Dear Mr. Stephens:

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMass Dartmouth) on behalf of the Dean of the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), Dr. Steven Lohrenz, is pleased to offer our participation in a collaboration to plan and conduct pre- and post-construction assessments of fisheries, associated ecological conditions, and/or socio-economic aspects of fisheries, in and around the Vineyard Wind offshore wind lease area, as designated by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, on the US Outer Continental Shelf. The purpose of this assessment will be to help answer questions and provide information that can further the public understanding of potential impacts of offshore wind development and possible means of mitigation of any such impacts. This information would then be available to help inform future permitting and public policy decisions. This letter serves to memorialize our shared intent to collaborate with Vineyard Wind for this purpose, and describe at a high level how we will work together in carrying out the assessment pursuant to definitive documentation to be entered into between UMass Dartmouth and Vineyard Wind.

We envision that this effort would be part of a larger framework of monitoring and assessment that is expected to be augmented by other sources of funding, and that this agreement in no way excludes us from entering into agreements with other parties.

Should Vineyard Wind be selected by the utilities to enter into a power sales agreement with Vineyard Wind, or at Vineyard Wind's sole discretion if not so selected, SMAST will undertake a scoping exercise to identify what questions and information would be most useful in achieving the purpose of this assessment work. In developing this scope, SMAST researchers will solicit input from academia, policy makers and regulators, and the various fisheries active in the region. It is anticipated that this scoping would begin in early summer of 2018, and will take about four to six months to complete. Vineyard Wind has agreed to contribute funding for this scoping effort in the amount of \$25,000; upon being selected by the utilities, we will enter into good faith negotiations with Vineyard Wind regarding specifics of this funding, which would be agreed to in a later document. The main outcome of the scoping phase will be a plan to conduct one or more pre- and post-construction assessments, and a schedule and budget to conduct the assessments.

At or before the conclusion of the scoping phase, we will in good faith negotiate a contract with Vineyard Wind for the purposes of carrying out the work described in this Letter of Intent and guided by the scoping exercise, and this contract will address terms and conditions including but not limited to work schedule (including schedule for making results available), payments, termination, and logistics and communication. It is further understood that such funding will be dependent on Vineyard Wind receiving the necessary approvals to go ahead with the construction of the project, that the funding and assessment work will need to be funded and undertaken in coordination with Vineyard Wind's actual construction schedule, and that Vineyard Wind will therefore need an ability to reschedule or postpone without limits funding the assessment study.

Vineyard Wind is agreeable to contributing up to \$450,000 for the purposes of carrying out this assessment and/or matching other funding sources on terms to be included in definitive documentation to be negotiated between UMass Dartmouth and Vineyard Wind. Vineyard Wind and SMAST will work together to attempt to secure additional funding for the assessment work, for example by making grant applications to public agencies. However, regardless of how much additional funding may be secured, SMAST will make a good faith effort to undertake what assessment work is feasible given Vineyard Wind's contribution, if so requested by Vineyard Wind.

The total duration and extent of the assessment will be determined as part of the scoping, but it is anticipated that it will cover at least a season prior to construction, the period of construction, and at least a season post-construction. In order to have at least a year's worth of study completed before any offshore construction begins, it is understood that the assessment may have to begin as early as end of 2018/early 2019.

Dr. Lohrenz will tentatively serve as the Principal Investigator and Dr. Steve Cadrin as the Co-Principal Investigator at UMass Dartmouth. The development of a formal Scope of Work and contract will be conditional on Vineyard Wind successfully being awarded a utilities purchase agreement. The execution of and commencement of the definitive documentation between UMass Dartmouth and Vineyard Wind is anticipated to be in late spring or early summer of 2018. The contractual period would be for up to five years with Vineyard Wind's expected contribution for the assessment effort over that period of \$450,000 and annual budgets to be agreed upon, but in any event Vineyard Wind's total contributions for the scoping and assessment projects will not exceed \$475,000, unless otherwise agreed in subsequent agreements.

Please address any questions regarding this proposal and payment information to Elena Glatman, Director of Sponsored Projects Administration. She may be reached by telephone at (508) 910-6958, or via email at eglatman@umassd.edu.

Sincerely,



Michelle Plaud
Manager Pre-award Administration
Sponsored Projects Administration
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747



Steven E. Lohrenz
Dean
School for Marine Science and Technology
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
836 S. Rodney French Blvd.
New Bedford, MA 02744



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-1

**Town of Aquinnah
Letter of Support**



TOWN OF AQUINNAH

955 State Road, Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
Tel. (508) 645-2300 - Fax (508) 645-7884
www.aquinnah-ma.gov

November 27, 2017

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
united Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Jeffrey S. Waitman, Manager
Eversource Energy
247 Station Drive, NE 220
Westwood, MA 02090

Corinne DiDomenico, Manager
National Grid
100 East Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

Paul Gromer
Independent Evaluator
Peregrine Energy Group[
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109


To Whom It May Concern,

Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Aquinnah to educate our community about renewable energy and the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level in an effort to ensure that our concerns were communicated to government agencies.

Vineyard Wind has indicated their desire to build and base their operations and maintenance facility here on the Vineyard. Their operation, purportedly to include a helicopter operations base at the M.V. Airport, would be based in Tisbury and create a demand for skilled, diversified workforce and a long-term source of new tax revenue. Further, Vineyard Wind has proposed to work within our public school system to raise awareness of, and develop career paths for this burgeoning industry. All of the above present exciting opportunities for the entire island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind has promised to deliver on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to the Vineyard community.

Best regards,


Jeffrey L. Madison, Esq.
Aquinnah Town Administrator

cc: Governor Charlie Baker
Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Vineyard Wind, LLC

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Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-2

**Town of Tisbury
Letter of Support**



TOWN OF TISBURY
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
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VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS 02568
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www.tisbury.ma.gov

Judith Judson, Commissioner
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Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
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Eversource Energy
Jeffery S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
247 Station Drive, NE220, Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid
Corinne DiDomenico, Manager, Environmental Transactions
100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

November 27, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

The town of Tisbury has worked cooperatively with Vineyard Power for over eight years and Vineyard Power has educated our town about the BOEM federal leasing process and the state procurement process. Vineyard Power has worked diligently to identify community benefits and they have signed a groundbreaking offshore Community Benefits Agreement with Vineyard Wind in January, 2015. Since then Vineyard Wind has demonstrated a real understanding for outreach and the necessity of bringing local benefits to our island community.

The Tisbury Selectmen are supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build, and base, their operations & maintenance facility in the town of Tisbury. This new operation will bring significant infrastructure investment on our waterfront and create career opportunities for our island residents. In addition, Vineyard Wind is committed to partnering with our local school system to develop training and education opportunities needed for this future skilled workforce.

This positive connection that has been built up between Tisbury and Vineyard Wind bodes well for our town and is a relationship we are confident will be a long term one. It serves as a model for how renewable energy developers can work in a positive way with the local community, addressing issues like climate change and ocean acidification, all while creating local jobs and a more sustainable economy.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Gomez
Chairman
Tisbury Board of Selectmen

C.C.

Governor Charlie Baker
Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Vineyard Wind LLC

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Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-3

**Town of Chilmark
Letter of Support**



www.chilmarkma.gov

TOWN OF CHILMARK CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
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National Grid
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100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

December 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the years, Vineyard Power has made efforts to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind. The first real benefit was helping to ensure that these projects would be built far off our coastline. The Town of Chilmark has partnered with Vineyard Power with a solar array project at our capped landfill and we have found this to be a positive partnership.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build, and base, their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base in our town at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create a skilled, well paid year-round workforce that will be a real benefit for our island and our economy.

We support their efforts to work with our regional public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for young island students in this new burgeoning industry. We also support their continued outreach with our local fishing community and their commitment to listen and work with our fishermen through the life of the project (pre-/during and post construction) in order to minimize potential adverse impacts to our blue economy and our local coastal and marine environments. Our fishermen have expressed real concern over the issue of sediment redistribution during the construction process and we expect Vineyard Wind to address this issue specifically.


We are looking forward to the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensuring an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Best Regards,

Chilmark Board of Selectmen


Chairman William N. Rossi


James M. Malkin


Warren M. Doty

CC:

Governor Charlie Baker

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Vineyard Wind LLC

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-4

**Town of Edgartown
Letter of Support**



**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN**
70 MAIN STREET, P. O. BOX 5158
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02539-5158

TELEPHONE
(508) 627-6180

FAX
(508) 627-6123

December 12, 2017

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Commissioner,

Over the years, Vineyard Power has made efforts to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind. The first real benefit was helping to ensure that these projects would be built far off our coastline.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to establish their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base in our town at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create a skilled, well paid year-round workforce that will be a real benefit for our island and our economy.

We support their efforts to work with our regional public-school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for young island students in this new burgeoning industry. We also support their continued outreach to our local fishing community, including our Marine Advisory Committee and Shellfish Committee, and their commitment to listen and work with our fishermen through the life of the project (before, during and after construction) in order to minimize potential adverse impacts to our blue economy and our local coastal and marine environments.

We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensuring an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Arthur Smadbeck
Chairman Edgartown Board of Selectmen

CC: Governor Charles Baker
Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

OCS-A
0501



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USA

VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-5

**Town of Oak Bluffs
Letter of Support**



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Kathleen A. Burton, *Chairman*
Gail M. Barmakian
Gregory A. Coogan
Brian C. Packish
Michael J. Santoro

Robert L. Whritenour, Jr.
Town Administrator

November 29, 2017

Jeffrey S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
Eversource Energy
247 Station Drive, NE220
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Mr. Waltman:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Oak Bluffs to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burton, Chairman
Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Kathleen A. Burton, *Chairman*
Gail M. Barmakian
Gregory A. Coogan
Brian C. Packish
Michael J. Santoro

Robert L. Whritenour, Jr.
Town Administrator

November 29, 2017

Corinne DiDomenico, Manager, Environmental Transactions
National Grid
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
100 East Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Ms. DiDomenico:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Oak Bluffs to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

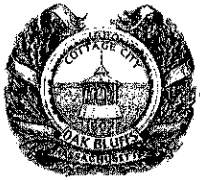
We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burton, Chairman
Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Kathleen A. Burton, *Chairman*
Gail M. Barmakian
Gregory A. Coogan
Brian C. Packish
Michael J. Santoro

Robert L. Whritenour, Jr.
Town Administrator

November 29, 2017

Paul Gromer
Independent Evaluator
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Gromer:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Oak Bluffs to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burton, Chairman
Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Kathleen A. Burton, *Chairman*
Gail M. Barmakian
Gregory A. Coogan
Brian C. Packish
Michael J. Santoro

Robert L. Whritenour, Jr.
Town Administrator

November 29, 2017

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
Unitil Service Corp
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Dear Ms. Glover:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Oak Bluffs to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

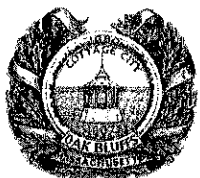
We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burton, Chairman
Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Kathleen A. Burton, *Chairman*
Gail M. Barmakian
Gregory A. Coogan
Brian C. Packish
Michael J. Santoro

Robert L. Whritenour, Jr.
Town Administrator

November 29, 2017

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Judson:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of Oak Bluffs to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burton, Chairman
Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen

OCS-A
0501



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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-6

**Town of West Tisbury
Letter of Support**



Town of West Tisbury
Board of Selectmen
West Tisbury, MA 02575

December 6, 2017

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
Until Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Eversource Energy
Jeffrey S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
247 Station Drive, NE 220
Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid
Corinne DiDomenico, Manager, Environmental Transactions
100 East Old County Rd
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power has worked with the Town of West Tisbury to educate us and our community about the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and to ensure that our concerns were communicated not only to government agencies but also to their development partner, Vineyard Wind.

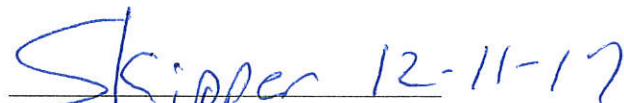
We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build and base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including location a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard airport. This operation and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create demand for a skilled, diversified work force that will be a real benefit to our island and a long-term source of new tax revenue.

We support their efforts to work with our public school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this burgeoning industry and their plans to improve the island's resiliency with micro-grid storage projects for critical services in our town and elsewhere on the island.

We are excited about the future opportunities for our town and island over the next 25 years or more.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to ensure an open and honest dialogue and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Sincerely,


J. Skipper Munter
Chair

CC:

Governor Charlie Baker

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Vineyard Wind LLC



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-7

**Town of Nantucket
Letter of Support**

Town and County of Nantucket
Board of Selectmen • County Commissioners

Dawn E. Hill Holdgate, Chairman
Jason Bridges
Matt Fee
Rita Higgins
James R. Kelly



16 Broad Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

Telephone (508) 228-7255
Facsimile (508) 228-7272
www.nantucket-ma.gov

C. Elizabeth Gibson
Town & County Manager

December 14, 2017

Mr. Erich Stephens, CEO
Vineyard Wind
700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510
New Bedford, MA 02740

To Whom it May Concern:

As an island community, most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and rising sea levels, the Town of Nantucket supports viable, renewable energy projects—assessed to be competitive and reasonable, which support long-term price stability with the least economic impacts for local ratepayers.

While the Board of Selectmen find it premature to support any specific offshore wind proposal at this time, we believe that projects that demonstrate clear community benefits, developed in close consultation with local stakeholders, will, as a result, have a higher probability of achieving long-term success. We commend Vineyard Wind's commitment to delivering local value and for their local outreach to the Nantucket community regarding their offshore wind proposal.

We look forward to sustaining our relationship with Vineyard Wind to further identify and assess potential local benefits and impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Dawn E. Hill Holdgate", written over a horizontal line.

Dawn E. Hill Holdgate
Chairman

Cc: Nantucket Energy Office



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-8

New Bedford Citation

The
City of New Bedford



Official Resolutions

Be it hereby known to all that:
The City of New Bedford, Massachusetts
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

Vineyard Wind

In celebration of your Grand Opening, and in appreciation
of your entrepreneurship and commitment to New Bedford, we
offer our best wishes for your success.

The Entire Citizenry extends its very best
wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses
the hope for continued good fortune.

Given this 29th Day of June, 2017

by

Mayor

New Bedford City Council



Official Resolutions

Be it hereby known to all that:
The City Council of New Bedford, Massachusetts
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

VINEYARD WIND

in recognition of

It's Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

The Entire Citizenry extends its very best wishes
on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope
for continued good fortune.

Given this 29th day of June, 2017

by:

Joel Lopez
Council President

Dana R.
Councillor

Ian Abreu

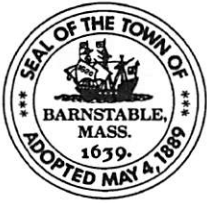


VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-9

**Barnstable Town Manager
Letter of Interest**



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925



Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

November 17, 2017

Erich Stephens, Chief Development Officer
Vineyard Wind LLC
700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. Stephens,

I wish to acknowledge our ongoing communication concerning the Vineyard Wind Connector, and to express our interest in continuing discussions with Vineyard Wind representatives.

I appreciate Vineyard Wind's efforts to keep the Town informed through regular updates, as well Vineyard Wind's offer to enter into a Host Community Agreement if that is of interest to the Town. I have directed the Town staff to undertake discussions with Vineyard Wind to receive and to provide input on the project. I hasten to point out that, as you well know, this community has steadfastly opposed the Cape Wind project and we will continue to do so. To garner Barnstable's support for your project, it is vital that Vineyard Wind demonstrate that your project will not directly or indirectly enable the Cape Wind project to be resuscitated.

I also must emphasize that your project will need to demonstrate to the Town's satisfaction that it will not pose a danger to the Town's groundwater and fragile public water supply.

I look forward to continued discussions on these and related subjects in the hope that we will find common ground that will be beneficial to your project and to the Town.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Ells

Barnstable Town Manager

cc. Ruth Weil, Town Attorney

OCS-A
0501



MASS
USA

VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-10

**Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Letter of Support**



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Department

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Vineyard Wind

November 27, 2017

Dear Commissioner Judson,

On behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our support for the Vineyard Wind offshore wind project. The Tribal Historic Preservation Department (THPD) has been in consultation with Vineyard Wind since April of this year. We have enjoyed the candid responses to our questions and professional manner of which our communications have been conducted. They are very accessible and forthcoming with documents, maps, and survey results that we request. It is our practice to scrutinize the companies vying to build turbines in our waters. Vineyard Wind has shown us a level of cooperation we have grown to trust.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has not always supported offshore wind projects. Those objections were related to the proposed site location not an opposition to alternative energy. As we witness the onset of climate changes we applaud Vineyard Wind for its innovation and intent to address its project in regard to coastal weather conditions. Indigenous leadership must always make decisions that protect our future; we are pleased to cooperate with others who take that responsibility seriously.

The Tribal community is in need of exciting new career opportunities in the vast array of jobs offshore wind projects like this will open. As a coastal Tribe it will be culturally meaningful to participate in this endeavor to help supply citizens with clean energy.

We do hope the Commission will see fit to select Vineyard Wind's bid as a company that is likely to be a good neighbor and fitting community partner in Massachusetts waters.

In Thanksgiving,

Ramona Peters
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Governor Charlie Baker
Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Vineyard Wind LLC

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Historic Preservation Department

483 Great Neck Rd South, Mashpee, MA 02649 | P:(508) 477-0208 ext. 101 E: Ramona.Peters@mwtribe-nsn.gov

OCS-A
0501



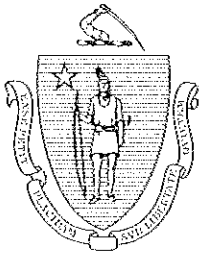
MASS
USA

VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-11

Representative Haddad



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

December 13, 2017

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Beaton,

We write in support of Vineyard Wind which is seeking to participate as an 83C off shore wind project developer here in the Commonwealth. Their procurement of up to 1,600 MW of offshore wind over the next decade will yield significant clean, reliable and cost-effective generation resources needed to replace the growing number of power plants, such as those in our legislative district, which have been shuttered or retired.

It is our feeling that the opportunities presented by offshore wind development off Massachusetts' South Coast will spark new economic activity in our region. Our world-class academic institutions, highly motivated workforce and an advanced industrial base lie all within close proximity to the project area. The South Coast is perfectly situated to host this new, clean energy industry and we are encouraged that Vineyard Wind has made a financial commitment to the economic resurgence of the region and Commonwealth as a whole. We look forward to working with Vineyard Wind and all other offshore wind developers in facilitating future investment for long-term economic growth.

We look forward to the outcome of the upcoming utility procurement process for offshore wind and to the growing role it will play here on the South Coast.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Haddad".

REP. PATRICIA A. HADDAD,
Speaker Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Rodrigues".

SEN. MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES,
Majority Whip

c.c. Gov. C. Baker
Com. J. Judson
K. Lepore

OCS-A
0501



MASS
USA

VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-12

**Senator Cyr and
Rep. Fernandes
Letter of Support**



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

November 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cape & Islands district is unique in that it encompasses three counties, twenty towns, several islands and, although its home to some well to do visitors for two months of the year, our residents deal with challenges such as lack of affordable housing and well-paying jobs. Our residents are also keenly aware of the threat of environmental degradation and sea level rise brought on by climate change that threatens our delicate coastal communities

We were introduced to Vineyard Power Cooperative during our respective campaigns for State Representative and State Senator of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. We learned that over the last eight years, Vineyard Power has advocated within our community about the benefits of offshore wind would deliver to our region in terms of protecting our environment and creating a new green economy for the Cape and the Islands. Vineyard Power Cooperative signed the first offshore Community Benefits Agreement with Vineyard Wind in January, 2015. We've been impressed by the demonstrated leadership of Vineyard Wind by their commitment to working with local communities to ensure that there is a local voice in the process and to try to deliver local benefit.

We are particularly impressed with Vineyard Wind's commitment to locate their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard and their commitment to work with the Town of Nantucket to benefit local rate payers and improve the island's power supply. This positive relationship that has been built up over the last seven years bodes well to what we are looking forward to last another 25 years and beyond.

As millennials, there is no greater issue facing our generation or our children's generation than climate change and Massachusetts has long led the nation on advancing clean energy which is not only good for our environment but also for our economy. Vineyard Wind's commitment to local benefit will bring investment, resources and jobs to my district and beyond.

We believe that Vineyard Wind serves as a model for how renewable energy developers can work for positive change addressing climate change and ocean acidification, build a successful business and a healthy vibrant community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julian Cyr".

Julian Cyr
State Senator
Cape & Islands

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dylan Fernandes".

Dylan Fernandes
State Representative
Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-13

**Martha's Vineyard
Commission**

Letter of Support



Martha's Vineyard Commission

OLD STONE BUILDING • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE
P.O. BOX 1447, OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS, 02557
PHONE 508-693-3453 • FAX 508-693-7894
INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG • WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Eversource Energy
Jeffery S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
247 Station Drive, NE220
Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid
Corinne DiDomenico, Manager,
Environmental Transactions
100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

December 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2010, Vineyard Power/Wind has worked to communicate with our community regarding the benefits of developing an offshore wind facility. As they proceed through the permitting process, both at a Federal and State level, the company has worked with the Island to develop a plan for real, tangible benefits. On November 30, 2017, the Martha's Vineyard Commission voted to support their efforts.

Vineyard Power Cooperative signed the first offshore Community Benefits Agreement with Vineyard Wind in January 2015. Since then, Vineyard Wind has demonstrated an understanding for outreach and local benefit. We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's efforts to build, and base, their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard, including locating a helicopter operations base at the Martha's Vineyard Airport. This operation, and the marine operation to be based in Tisbury, will create a skilled, diversified workforce that will be a real benefit to our island.

We also support their efforts to work with our public-school system on raising awareness and developing career paths for this new, burgeoning industry. We are excited about the future opportunities for our Towns and Island over the next 25 years and more due to the development of a technology that also benefits us.

Vineyard Wind is delivering on their commitment to provide transparent communication and to deliver real benefits to our community.

Thank you for your consideration,



Adam Turner
Executive Director, Martha's Vineyard Commission

CC:

Governor Charlie Baker

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Vineyard Wind LLC

Jim Vercruysse, Chairman, Martha's Vineyard Commission



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-14

Fishing Partnership

Support Services

FISHING PARTNERSHIP



S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

December 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

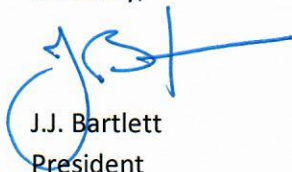
It is my privilege to serve as President of Fishing Partnership Support Services (the "Partnership"), an innovative non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health, safety and economic security of commercial fishermen and their family members in six northeast states: www.fishingpartnership.org.

On behalf of the Partnership, I support Vineyard Wind because I am impressed by their vision for working with the fishing industry to ensure that fishermen can continue to thrive as they are forced to adjust to the development of offshore wind farms. Knowing the dangers of working offshore, Vineyard Wind sponsored two safety and survival trainings for fishermen, and their workers plan to attend both trainings. These trainings, and hopefully more to follow, will allow the workers in the fishing and offshore wind industries to build relationships while learning lifesaving skills.

In addition, I appreciate Vineyard Wind's commitment to exploring future opportunities for fishermen to work on offshore wind projects. I am hopeful that we will be able to develop additional trainings to help fishermen diversify their skills and employment prospects as our relationships grow and the wind projects move to construction and operation.

Thank you for your commitment to the safety and economic security of fishermen.

Sincerely,



J.J. Bartlett
President

OCS-A
0501



MASS
USA

VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-15

Fisherman Bill Blount

To whom it may concern:

I have met with Vineyard Wind, and their community partner Vineyard Power, several times over the last few years as part of their community and fisheries outreach efforts. They've shown a willingness to learn about our fisheries, and more importantly, to listen to our concerns. They have been open to find solutions in order to mitigate any adverse effects of the development of their offshore wind farm in the waters 14 miles south of our island.

This cooperative approach has not only been helpful during the planning & permitting phase of the project but will be equally as, if not more, important as the project develops from planning and permitting to construction and operation. The latter being a relationship that will exist for another 25 years.

I support Vineyard Wind's effort to develop clean, affordable electricity that will create local jobs and protect our fisheries.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Blount". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Blount
Nantucket's only Dragger Fisherman for over 40 years.
Nantucket Fisherman



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-16

Fisherman Bobby DeCosta

To whom it may concern:

I have met with Vineyard Wind, and their community partner Vineyard Power, several times over the last few years as part of their community and fisheries outreach efforts. They've shown a willingness to learn about our fisheries, and more importantly, to listen to our concerns. They have been open to find solutions in order to mitigate any adverse effects of the development of their offshore wind farm in the waters 14 miles south of our island.

This cooperative approach has not only been helpful during the planning & permitting phase of the project but will be equally as, if not more, important as the project develops from planning and permitting to construction and operation. The latter being a relationship that will exist for another 25 years.

Climate change and ocean acidification are real threats to our livelihood as habitats change affecting our traditional fisheries and as ocean acidification impacts our burgeoning shellfish industry. I support Vineyard Wind's effort to develop clean, affordable electricity that will create local jobs and protect our fisheries.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob DeCosta', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob DeCosta
Commercial Nantucket Fisherman for over 30 Years



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-17

Fisherman Gam Gammill

To whom it may concern:

I have met with Vineyard Wind, and their community partner Vineyard Power, several times over the last few years as part of their community and fisheries outreach efforts. They've shown a willingness to learn about our fisheries, and more importantly, to listen to our concerns. They have been open to find solutions in order to mitigate any adverse effects of the development of their offshore wind farm in the waters 14 miles south of our island.

This cooperative approach has not only been helpful during the planning & permitting phase of the project but will be equally as, if not more, important as the project develops from planning and permitting to construction and operation. The latter being a relationship that will exist for another 25 years.

Climate change and ocean acidification are real threats to our livelihood as habitats change affecting our traditional fisheries and as ocean acidification impacts our burgeoning shellfish industry. I support Vineyard Wind's effort to develop clean, affordable electricity that will create local jobs and protect our fisheries.

Best Regards,


Cam Gammill

Nantucket commercial Fisherman and Owner of Bill Fisher Tackle Shop

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-18

Fisherman Ned Rice

**Vineyard Haven
December 10, 2017**

To all concerned parties:

The community I represent is well aware of the failed endeavors to harness alternate energy sources in the Nantucket Sound and the immediate efforts needed to reduce our carbon footprint.

We have witnessed positive collaborative efforts partnering Vineyard Power/Vineyard Wind with our fisheries industries; learning /listening to concerns and opening discussion to find solutions to concerns regarding this offshore energy project.

The relationships of all parties; consumers, alternative energy providers, and the fisheries that I have been personally connected to as a commercial fisherman, science teacher and lifelong resident (watching draggers, sea scallopers, sea clammers) pass my home of 62 years, will benefit from the cooperative approach that has been helpful during the preliminary phase of the project. These benefits will continue as the project develops from planning to construction.

It is with overwhelming excitement and purpose that I give my support to their project.

Respectfully yours,

**Captain Ned Rice
Beamish Charters, Martha's Vineyard**

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-19

Fisherman Pete Kaizer

To whom it may concern:

I have met with Vineyard Wind, and their community partner Vineyard Power, several times over the last few years as part of their community and fisheries outreach efforts. They've shown a willingness to learn about our fisheries, and more importantly, to listen to our concerns. They have been open to find solutions in order to mitigate any adverse effects of the development of their offshore wind farm in the waters 14 miles south of our island.

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Climate change and ocean acidification are real threats to our livelihood as habitats change affecting our traditional fisheries and as ocean acidification impacts our burgeoning shellfish industry. I support Vineyard Wind's effort to develop clean, affordable electricity that will create local jobs and protect our fisheries.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Capt. Peter Kaizer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Pete Kaizer

Commercial Nantucket Fisherman for over 30 Years

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-20

Bristol Community College



December 15, 2017

Erich Stephens
Vineyard Wind LLC
700 Pleasant St, New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. Stephens,

On behalf of Bristol Community College (BCC), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposal by Vineyard Wind to develop an offshore wind farm in the federally designated Massachusetts Wind Energy Area (MAWEA) off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The MAWEA is the largest offshore wind area along the East Coast. Located roughly 15 nautical miles south of Martha's Vineyard, the MAWEA has sufficient energy capacity to provide clean renewable electricity to nearly half the households in Massachusetts.

The Vineyard Wind project aligns with state's clean energy economy and represents an opportunity for the Commonwealth to diversify its energy-generating capacity beyond conventional base load hydropower, and land-based sources of electricity. Successful development of your project will provide ratepayers on Martha's Vineyard and throughout Massachusetts access to affordable and sustainable energy from the robust winds in the Atlantic Ocean.

Bristol Community College is a comprehensive community college offering more than 150 career and transfer programs of study that lead to an associate degree in science, arts, applied sciences, and certificates of accomplishment or achievement. Students are able to transfer to many baccalaureate colleges throughout the state and country from any of our four convenient campuses. As you know, the BCC Board of Trustees recently approved a certificate and Associate Degree program specifically in offshore wind energy.

In Fiscal Year 2017, BCC was the third largest community college in Massachusetts with more than 11,000 student enrollments. Each year since 2008, BCC has led the Commonwealth in the number of certificates and degrees awarded; in 2017, BCC awarded 1,712 certificates and degrees. In addition, researchers at BCC are collaborating with the University of Massachusetts to complete an assessment of the workforce needs and existing workforce pipeline associated with development of an offshore wind industry.

Pursuant to our discussions, the College is eager to collaborate with Vineyard Wind to produce graduates with the skills, knowledge and abilities to be productive employees with careers in renewable energy. In addition, BCC is excited about the prospects of working closely with the Martha's Vineyard K-12 public schools to interest students at an early age about the



career opportunities in offshore wind. We stand ready to collaborate with middle school and high school teachers to assist and mentor them to deliver meaningful instructional content about offshore wind technology to their students.

We applaud your efforts to create jobs in the local and regional economy. Vineyard Wind's decision to assemble and deploy your wind farm from the Port of New Bedford will create hundreds of construction jobs for area residents. Equally important is your decision to utilize ports on Martha's Vineyard as the base for your operation and maintenance facilities, crews and vessels. That will provide residents of the island with access to well-paying fulltime jobs for the next thirty years.

We wish you success in your quest to provide residents and business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with clean, renewable energy from your proposed offshore wind farm. Should you need any additional information, please contact me directly via email at paul.vigeant@bristolcc.edu or via telephone at 508-542-9400.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul L. Vigeant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Paul L. Vigeant, Vice President
Workforce Development

CC:

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Eversource Energy
Jeffery S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
247 Station Drive, NE220
Westwood, MA 02090



National Grid
Corinne DiDomenico, Manager, Environmental Transactions
100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-21

**Cape Cod Community
College**

December 11, 2017



To Whom It May Concern:


Almost 15 years ago, Cape Cod Community College (4Cs) launched a renewable energy curriculum development and implementation project, drawing on significant investments from Cape Wind and additional sources. The curriculum was created in a collaboration involving educators with 4Cs, local technical high schools, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and others. When launched, the 4Cs program set the standard across the state, bringing together classes in efficiency, renewables, solar energy, wind power, energy auditing, and green building. Successful students are working in the field today, including for leading companies providing clean energy services across the Cape & Islands region.

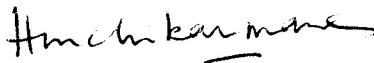
Building on this tangible example of community benefit from offshore wind investment, Vineyard Wind has agreed to support student outreach and provide seed funding for a curriculum development and implementation project focused on integrating offshore wind within the 4Cs clean energy program and expanding the number of students enrolled.

The collaborative project will include two elements. Career day and other outreach will educate 4Cs, tech school, and high school students in southeastern Massachusetts about future opportunities in the clean energy and offshore wind sectors. Curriculum planning will address the existing 4Cs course sequence, the outlining of a new offshore wind course, and the integration of the enhanced 4Cs program with present and anticipated offerings from Bristol Community College, Mass Maritime, and University of Massachusetts.

In addition to committing to support these activities during 2018, Vineyard Wind has agreed to work with 4Cs in helping ensure adequate resourcing to develop and implement the expanded clean energy curriculum, including offerings tailored to meet the needs of students living on the islands. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with Vineyard Wind in revitalizing the 4Cs energy program and providing local residents, businesses, and communities with opportunities to benefit from efforts to harness abundant and inexhaustible renewable energy resources off the Massachusetts coastline.

Sincerely,


Chris Powicki
Adjunct Professor, Renewable Energy
cpowicki@capecod.edu; 774.487.4614


Hemant Chikarmane, PhD
Interim Dean, Division of Science, Math,
Engineering & Applied Technology
hchikarmane@capecod.edu; 774.330.4363

cc: Erich Stephens, Vineyard Wind

December 15, 2017



To Whom It May Concern:

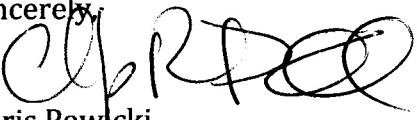
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Sincerely,


Chris Powicki
Adjunct Professor, Renewable Energy
cpowicki@capecod.edu; 774.487.4614



Rick Bsharah
Chair, Engineering Science &
Applied Technology Department
fbsharah@capecod.edu; 774.330.4580

cc: Erich Stephens, Vineyard Wind



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-22

**Martha's Vineyard Regional
High School**



Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

100 Edgartown Road P.O. Box 1385 Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Phone: (508) 693 - 1033 Fax: (508) 693-1891 Website: www.mvrhs.org



Sara Dingley, Principal
Elliott Bennett, Assistant Principal
Barbara-jean Chauvin, Assistant Principal/CTE Director

Mark Friedman, Finance Manager
Mary MacDonald, Guidance Director
Hope MacLeod, Co-Director of Student Support Services

December 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Vineyard Power, the community partner of Vineyard Wind, gave a comprehensive review of the offshore wind process, both at a federal and state level, and the many opportunities for our community as this industry is developed over the next generation.

The fact that they are planning to base their Operations & Maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard will create a skilled diversified workforce that will be a real benefit our community.

We are particularly supportive of Vineyard Wind's desire to work with the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School on raising awareness and developing career paths for this new burgeoning industry. We strongly support their efforts to connect us with the Commonwealth's workforce development initiatives, led by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, with the Bristol Community College and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

We are excited about the future opportunities for our students.

Vineyard Wind recognizes that education and community engagement is a key driver to a successful offshore wind project.

Best Regards,

Barbara-jean Chauvin
Assistant Principal, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
CTE Director

Matt D'Andrea
Superintendent of Schools



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-23

**Cape and Vineyard Electric
Coop Letter of Support**



Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.

23H2 White's Path, Suite 2, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

774-722-1812 www.cvecinc.org

11.10.17

Erich Stephens
CEO
Vineyard Wind
700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Erich,

The Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CVEC) is very grateful for the visit you and Richard made to CVEC to discuss the many ways that our members and communities will benefit from the installation of offshore wind under the Vineyard Wind proposal, not the least of which is an important step forward in the effort to slow the effects of climate change on the Cape and Vineyard. The CVEC mission is well met with your proposed addition of offshore wind power for Massachusetts.

While the CVEC Board felt it premature to forge a letter of intent at this juncture, CVEC wishes your team every success as you bring your project forward. We support Vineyard Wind's effort to develop clean, renewable energy in the federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and its commitment to deliver local value by entering into meaningful local partnerships.

Yours Truly,

Leo Cakounes

President

The Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-24

Cape and Island

Self Reliance



Richard Andre
President
Vineyard Power
517 State Road at 5 Village Court
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

December 15, 2017

Dear Richard,

I am happy to provide my utmost support of Vineyard Power's efforts to advance the state of offshore wind in the US, and in particular in Massachusetts.

I commend you on the decision of Vineyard Wind LLC to locate their operations and maintenance facility on Martha's Vineyard. Please know that establishing tangible benefits in the local economy has been a shared desire of Vineyard Power and Self-Reliance for many years.

Self-Reliance is proud of the work Vineyard Power has done engaging stakeholders to understand the value and pathways to helping keep jobs and more energy dollars from the Vineyard Wind project in our local economy.

Self-Reliance has been working for eight years on establishing a training program at Massachusetts Maritime Academy where training and certification in environmental, health and safety training can be obtained. Currently, there is no training in all of the Americas where a worker in the offshore wind industry may obtain certification in all five modules of the Global Wind Organization's Basic Safety Training. Massachusetts Maritime Academy offers a world-class platform with experienced instructors that will provide the necessary practical and theoretical course work to fully prepare workers in the offshore wind industry to work in a zero harm manner.

We believe that with the local collaboration of educational institutions, such as Martha's Vineyard Regional School, Bristol Community College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, as the offshore wind industry grows in the US, we will be able to successfully train workers to be part of this exciting transition of our regional energy system.

We look forward to continuing to support Vineyard Wind and collaborate with you on endeavors to bring clean, renewable energy jobs to the Northeast as the offshore wind industry expands.

Sincerely,

Megan Amsler
Executive Director



Cc:

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover, Energy Analyst
Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Eversource Energy
Jeffery S. Waltman, Manager, Planning & Power Supply
247 Station Drive, NE220
Westwood, MA 02090

National Grid
Corinne DiDomenico, Manager, Environmental Transactions
100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2 nd Floor
Hicksville, NY 11801

Independent Evaluator
Paul Gromer
Peregrine Energy Group
2 Oliver Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Mathew Beaton
Secretary for Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-25

Coonamessett Farm

Foundation



**Conducting scientific research projects that support
sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture**

277 Hatchville Road • East Falmouth, MA 02536
Tel: (508) 356-3601 • Fax: (508) 356-3603
Website: www.coonamessettfarmfoundation.org

November 6, 2017

Mr. Erik Pekar
Vineyard Power
Vineyard Haven, MA

Dear Recipient,

Dear Vineyard Power and whom it may concern:

Vineyard Wind has reached out to Coonamessett Farm Foundation to get our input and hear our concerns. Vineyard Wind seems to be making a sincere effort to learn about our concerns and taking them into account in their project planning. We do appreciate Vineyard Wind's efforts to avoid the problems that we have seen and experienced with other offshore wind projects.

I am optimistic that we will continue to have a mutually respectful and productive relationship with Vineyard Wind, regardless of what our position on the project might ultimately be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Smolowitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald Smolowitz
Treasurer, Coonamessett Farm Foundation

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-26

**Cape Cod Chamber of
Commerce**



December 14, 2017

Erich Stephens, CDO
Vineyard Wind
700 Pleasant St, 5th floor
New Bedford MA 02740

Dear Erich,

On behalf of our 1,272-member businesses and organizations, I wish to lend our strong support to the Request for Proposals submission of Vineyard Wind, as a potential offshore wind energy procurement source for Massachusetts.

This RFP represents an opportunity to end our region's long-held designation as the terminus of the energy supply pipeline in the United States. Massachusetts is well positioned both as a major player in the nation's emerging offshore wind industry, and to become the supply chain hub for the U.S. East Coast. With this emerges an opportunity to recapture some of the billions of dollars currently spent on energy imports, grow regional energy production and build new industries that will create meaningful jobs and economic opportunities for the Commonwealth.

In many ways, the Cape community carries battles scars from the recently concluded, 15-year battle over Cape Wind in Nantucket Sound. Mending old wounds and then moving forward in a thoughtful manner that engages the local communities is critical to the success of offshore wind in this region.

We are encouraged by the commitments that Vineyard Wind has made in becoming a community partner and building support for the next generation of wind projects represented in this RFP. Currently, we are working together to organize an offshore wind industry forum in the first quarter of next year that will help with this effort.

We look forward to the economic opportunities that this fledgling industry will bring to our shores, and with Vineyard Wind as a partner – know there will be great success.

Sincerely,

Wendy K. Northcross, CCE
Chief Executive Officer

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VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind

Attachment 7.5-27

**Vineyard Wind Media
Coverage**



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind Media Coverage

1. Cape Cod Times
My view; Offshore wind takes a new course for Massachusetts
October 30, 2017
By Erich Stephens
2. Cape Cod Times
November 9, 2017
Vineyard Wind makes the rounds
By Mary Ann Bragg
3. South Coast Today
Offshore wind companies look to make friends on Cape Cod
November 12, 2017
By Mary Ann Bragg
4. NECEC
October 30, 2017
Vineyard Wind Bolsters Team with Offshore Wind Industry Leaders
5. South Coast Today
Vineyard Wind opens New Bedford office
June 29, 2017
By Jennette Barnes
6. South Coast Today
New Bedford meeting brings wind, fishing industries together
October 4, 2017
By Michael Bonner
7. Windpower Engineering & Development
Advantgrid acquires big stake in Massachusetts offshore wind project with Vineyard Wind
May 11, 2017
By Paul Dvorak
8. Daily Energy Insider
Avangrid Renewables, Vineyard Wind announce plans to develop wind energy project off coast of Massachusetts
May 15, 2017

9. **CommonWealth**
Offshore wind moving too slowly
May 30, 2017
10. **MV Times**
Vineyard Wind announces new partner for offshore wind project
May 9, 2017
By George Brennan
11. **South Coast Today**
Dartmouth man joins Vineyard Wind management
July 12, 2017
12. **CommonWealth**
Utilities unveil RFP for offshore wind power
May 1, 2017
13. **MV Gazette**
Wind Farm Surveys Begin Off Martha's Vineyard
August 2, 2017
By Alex Elvin
14. **The Inquirer and Mirror**
Wind-farm survey vessels off Nantucket for next two weeks
August 8, 2017
15. **MV Times**
Vineyard Wind crews will begin survey for cable sites
August 1, 2017
By George Brennan
16. **Worcester Business Journal**
Offshore wind competition heats up
May 10, 2017
*Also ran in State House News Service
17. **North American Wind Power**
Martha's Vineyard Offshore Wind Project Acquired by Danish Company
August 26, 2016
By Lauren Tyler
18. **South Coast Today**
OffshoreMW enlists Jim Kendall as fishing industry rep
August 12, 2016
By Mike Lawrence

19. Vineyard Gazette
Vineyard Power and Partner Win Offshore Wind Lease
January 29, 2015
By Julia Wells
20. The Fisherman
MA Wind Energy Area Surveys Begin
September 23, 2016
By Toby Lapinski
21. Subsea World News
Fugro in Another Geotech Survey of US Wind Development
October 26, 2016
22. RENEWS
OffshoreMW taps Alpine wisdom
September 22, 2016
23. Vineyard Gazette
Update on Offshore Wind Plans at Vineyard Power Annual Meeting
August 14, 2015
By Alex Elvin
24. Cape Cod Times
Vineyard Wind to hold open houses in Barnstable, Yarmouth
November 6, 2017
By Geoff Spillane
25. South Coast Today
Vineyard Wind to celebrate opening in New Bedford office
June 25, 2017
By Jennette Barnes
26. Wicked Local Brewster
With Cape Wind's demise, Alliance vows 'never again'
December 8, 2017



Offshore wind takes a new course for Massachusetts

By Erich Stephens

Posted Oct 30, 2017 at 3:01 AM

The Cape Wind project was first proposed in 2001, six years before the first iPhone. A lot has changed for the better since 2001, and not just with cell phones. Today's offshore wind turbines are now vastly more efficient than those proposed by Cape Wind, and can be installed in much deeper water, far from any shore.

Unfortunately, some things have not changed much since 2001, including the threat of global warming, particularly to coastal communities like ours. And Massachusetts is still at the end of the energy pipeline, putting us at risk with sometimes unreliable supply and resulting price spikes.

Massachusetts has now set a new course to realize the benefits and opportunities of modern offshore wind technology. In 2016, legislators from the South Coast, the Cape and Islands led the way in enacting a law requiring the state's utilities to procure a total of 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind energy. Gov. Charlie Baker quickly signed the legislation, and his administration has since been working actively and thoughtfully towards its implementation.

This new policy gives Massachusetts an opportunity to be at the center of a new industry, putting many hundreds to work in the region harnessing the affordable, local, clean energy blowing far offshore, and doing so with minimal impacts to the coastal views we all hold important.

In December, Vineyard Wind and two other companies will submit bids to build projects using state-of-the-art offshore wind technology. Each project proposed must be over 13 miles from the nearest shore, and use a location selected in a multi-year, public process.

Scientific studies of the nearby ocean and seafloor were conducted over several years, ensuring that the best information was used in making project siting decisions. The fishing industry, birds, marine mammals, the tourism industry, the region's history and natural viewsheds were all carefully considered by a panel of tribal, local, state, and federal officials in selecting appropriate areas for offshore wind.

The Vineyard Wind project will be the closest project to the Cape, although more than 30 miles away. At this distance the turbines will usually be invisible, and barely visible if at all.

The Cape stands to directly benefit from the Vineyard Wind project. Vineyard Wind is exploring connecting cables from the project to already-existing electrical substations by placing the cables underneath roads, alongside existing buried utility and sewer lines. Modern technology allows us to install these cables deep underneath beaches with little or no disturbance, using access points placed in existing roads and set back from dunes and other sensitive habitats. Vineyard Wind is seeking to enter into host community agreements with the towns where the cables would be located, including Yarmouth and Barnstable, providing significant, fixed revenue streams to those communities over the 30-year life of the project, helping to pay for schools, public safety, and road maintenance – while causing no additional town expenditures.

Vineyard Wind has and will continue to seek public participation early in our project planning process, when concerns for communities and the environment can be more easily addressed, and local benefits identified. We engaged a fisheries' representative to help us better understand concerns of area fishermen. We entered into a community benefits agreement with Vineyard Power, a nonprofit co-operative with over 10 percent of the Martha's Vineyard's electricity customers as members.

Once completed, the 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind will generate enough clean energy to supply more than 750,000 homes, making an enormous contribution to reducing global warming pollutants while enhancing our energy security and stabilizing prices. Offshore wind will also bring billions of dollars of private investment into the region, diversifying and growing the region's economy. There will be investment in local ports, new services such as transport vessels, ongoing research offshore, and training the skilled workforce needed to build and operate the projects.

Vineyard Wind hopes to work with the communities of Cape Cod and the Islands in realizing together the many benefits of offshore wind.

— Erich Stephens is the CEO of New Bedford-based Vineyard Wind, one of three companies competing to build the first offshore wind project off the coast of Massachusetts.



Vineyard Wind makes the rounds

By Mary Ann Bragg

Posted Nov 8, 2017 at 9:08 PM Updated Nov 9, 2017 at 6:29 AM

SOUTH YARMOUTH — With the prospect of “hundreds of thousands of dollars” in tax revenue coming to the town each year from an offshore wind farm, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen Chairman Tracy Post remained mum Wednesday but looked pleased.

“She’s glad to hear it,” Vineyard Wind Chief Executive Officer Erich Stephens said of the personal property tax the town of Yarmouth would likely levy on the company for the energy transmission cable that could run from the water’s edge in Yarmouth for about 2 miles to a substation just over the town line in Barnstable.

“It pains me to say it,” Stephens said of the amount of tax.

At the open house Vineyard Wind hosted Wednesday at the senior center, and at a similar event the night before in Barnstable, the company intended to introduce itself to the town and prepare townspeople for what may come, Stephens said.

Citizens on the Cape and the Islands should expect even more information sessions, open houses and get-to-know-you events as all three offshore wind energy companies with federal leases south of the Islands put their best foot forward.

One of Vineyard Wind’s competitors, Bay State Wind, has co-sponsored a 10K race on Martha’s Vineyard, given a presentation to a Rotary Club on the island and asked for the written support of the Chilmark Board of Selectmen. The company will kick off a series of open houses in coastal communities of Southeastern Massachusetts and on Cape Cod and the Islands.

“We see this as a collaborative process between Bay State Wind and the towns, and appreciate the feedback we have received,” Bay State Wind spokeswoman Lauren Burm said. Likewise, Deepwater Wind, the third competitor, is also planning outreach efforts on the Cape and Islands, spokeswoman Meaghan Wims said.

All three companies are expected to bid in December on an opportunity to generate 400 megawatts of energy, and potentially up to 800 megawatts, to be sold to three electric distribution companies in the state. Part of the required bid documentation is evidence of public support, such as letters from public officials and newspaper articles, copies of agreements with communities, identification of stakeholders and a plan for community engagement activities.

At the same time, Stephens said Wednesday's open house was for community members, "for the sake of knowing about what's being proposed in their town."

For Vineyard Wind, the preferred cable route is straight from its 167,000-acre leased area directly north, underwater, to Lewis Bay to a bulkhead at the end of New Hampshire Avenue in West Yarmouth, Stephens said. Then, the cable would snake along Berry Avenue to Higgins Crowell Road to eventually end up near an Eversource substation near Mary Dunn Road in Barnstable.

A second but more densely developed route, including more industrial areas, is for the cable to come aground in Barnstable, Stephens said.

"Something will be in Barnstable," given the location of the substation, Stephens said. "It's a question of how do we get there."

The cable-laying itself is at least three years away, given permitting requirements, he said.

Actual construction of the wind farms is still several years away, as all three companies attempt to obtain energy contracts in Massachusetts and work through federal regulatory procedures with their leases.

At the open house on Wednesday, South Yarmouth resident Elizabeth Wolff expressed skepticism at the idea of spending "double" the amount for an offshore wind farm compared with a land-based one.

"It's madness," Wolff said. "It's ill-conceived and impractical."



Offshore wind companies look to make friends on Cape Cod

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At the open house Vineyard Wind hosted Wednesday at the senior center, and at a similar event the night before in Barnstable, the company intended to introduce itself to the town and prepare townspeople for what may come, Stephens said.

Citizens on the Cape and the Islands should expect even more information sessions, open houses and get-to-know-you events as all three offshore wind energy companies with federal leases south of the Islands put their best foot forward.

One of Vineyard Wind’s competitors, Bay State Wind, has co-sponsored a 10K race on Martha’s Vineyard, given a presentation to a Rotary Club on the island and asked for the written support of the Chilmark Board of Selectmen. The company will kick off a series of open houses in coastal communities of Southeastern Massachusetts and on Cape Cod and the Islands.

“We see this as a collaborative process between Bay State Wind and the towns, and appreciate the feedback we have received,” Bay State Wind spokeswoman

Lauren Burm said. Likewise, Deepwater Wind, the third competitor, is also planning outreach efforts on the Cape and Islands, spokeswoman Meaghan Wims said.

All three companies are expected to bid in December on an opportunity to generate 400 megawatts of energy, and potentially up to 800 megawatts, to be sold to three electric distribution companies in the state. Part of the required bid documentation is evidence of public support, such as letters from public officials and newspaper articles, copies of agreements with communities, identification of stakeholders and a plan for community engagement activities.

At the same time, Stephens said Wednesday's open house was for community members, "for the sake of knowing about what's being proposed in their town."

For Vineyard Wind, the preferred cable route is straight from its 167,000-acre leased area directly north, underwater, to Lewis Bay to a bulkhead at the end of New Hampshire Avenue in West Yarmouth, Stephens said. Then, the cable would snake along Berry Avenue to Higgins Crowell Road to eventually end up near an Eversource substation near Mary Dunn Road in Barnstable.

A second, but more densely developed route, including more industrial areas, is for the cable to come aground in Barnstable, Stephens said.

"Something will be in Barnstable," given the location of the substation, Stephens said. "It's a question of how do we get there."

The cable-laying itself is at least three years away, given permitting requirements, he said.

Actual construction of the wind farms is still several years away, as all three companies attempt to obtain energy contracts in Massachusetts and work through federal regulatory procedures with their leases.

At the open house on Wednesday, South Yarmouth resident Elizabeth Wolff expressed skepticism at the idea of spending "double" the amount for an offshore wind farm compared with a land-based one.

"It's madness," Wolff said. "It's ill-conceived and impractical."



Vineyard Wind Bolsters Team with Offshore Wind Industry Leaders

10/30/2017

Lars Pedersen assumes new role as CEO, Iain Henderson from Scottish Power joins as CFO

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Vineyard Wind, an offshore wind energy developer vying to build the first utility-scale project off the coast of Massachusetts, is transitioning its organization to prepare for the construction phase of its project, naming longtime offshore wind industry expert Lars Thaaning Pedersen as its new CEO and Iain Henderson as its CFO.

Erich Stephens, who has led development of the project since 2014, will become Vineyard Wind's Chief Development Officer, and will continue his work focusing on the pre-construction development of the project.

The executive team additions were part of a long-planned evolution by project owners Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and Avangrid Renewables aimed at bolstering the team with industry experts with a long track record of successfully constructing and operating projects in Europe.

"As we grow our team in Massachusetts, we have assembled some of the best people in the offshore wind industry to advance our effort," said Pedersen. "With Erich's unrivalled experience developing offshore wind in the US, leading the Vineyard Wind project from its inception, and the addition of Iain to our team, we believe we will be able to soon deliver the best possible offshore wind project for Massachusetts. We're looking forward to building the offshore wind industry here in New England and I am excited to be a part of the team.

Lars Thaaning Pedersen

Prior to relocating to Massachusetts and being named CEO, Pedersen had served as the project director for Vineyard Wind on behalf of Copenhagen Offshore Partners, the offshore wind development company of CIP.

Pedersen has a deep background in the offshore wind industry since 2008. As co-CEO of Copenhagen Offshore Partners, Pedersen has overseen the development of three offshore wind projects since 2014, including a project off the coast of Canada and one in Europe. Prior to COP, Pedersen had been an executive at DONG Energy, the Danish offshore wind company for about 10 years. At DONG Energy, Pedersen most recently served as Senior Vice President, Market Development & Asset Management. In that role, Pedersen oversaw the Development and Operations of more than 10 European offshore wind projects.

Iain Henderson

Prior to joining Vineyard Wind, Henderson was the Head of Regulated Transactions for Scottish Power's Renewables business unit for seven years. He's been with Scottish Power for a total of 18 years. Scottish Power is a subsidiary of Iberdrola, the utility that also owns Avangrid Renewables, one of the owners of Vineyard Wind. At Scottish Power, Henderson managed the divestment of offshore transmission assets of the company and managed agreements with joint venture partners.

About Vineyard Wind

Vineyard Wind, a portfolio company of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and Avangrid Renewables, is an offshore wind development company, based in New Bedford, Mass., that is seeking to build the first large-scale offshore wind energy project in the US.

Vineyard Wind is one of three companies that has acquired lease rights to build wind projects off the coast of Massachusetts. Vineyard Wind's project area is about 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. Last summer, Massachusetts required utilities to procure 1,600 megawatts (MW) of clean, offshore wind energy within the next decade. When the 1,600 MW of generation capacity are operational, they will generate enough clean, homegrown energy to power the equivalent of more than 750,000 Massachusetts homes every year.

SouthCoastTODAY

Vineyard Wind opens New Bedford office

By Jennette Barnes





Posted Jun 29, 2017 at 9:52 PM Updated Jun 29, 2017 at 9:52 PM

NEW BEDFORD — Vineyard Wind, one of three likely bidders for the state's first offshore wind contract, held a ribbon cutting and reception for its New Bedford office Thursday.

The celebration, on the fifth floor of the Bank of America building on Pleasant Street, came the same day that a final request for proposals was issued by electricity companies, in conjunction with the state, detailing the requirements for the first project.

On hand for the opening were state Rep. Patricia Haddad, D-Somerset, president pro tem of the House of Representatives, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell, and others who have promoted offshore wind.

“I think this is probably one of the most exciting things that will ever happen on the SouthCoast,” Haddad said. She thanked the New Bedford legislative delegation for allowing her to become part of the movement for offshore wind.

Mitchell said New Bedford initially took criticism for embracing offshore wind, but today, mayors around the country are talking about how their cities can become drivers of a green energy revolution.

“A great deal of our political capital and a great deal of our credibility was put out on the line to ... persuade people that this could happen,” he said.

He thanked Vineyard Wind Chief Executive Officer Erich Stephens for his leadership on the subject, calling Stephens “one of the American apostles of the offshore wind industry.”

Stephens praised local and state leaders, saying they played a critical role in an initiative that will make the region the national leader in offshore wind, create a new industry in Massachusetts, and help the state do its part to fight climate change.

Four people work in the local Vineyard Wind office now, but another will be added over the summer, and if they are chosen to build, they will have hundreds of people working at the port and in their offices, Stephens said.

Vineyard Wind is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners of Denmark.

SouthCoastTODAY

New Bedford meeting brings wind, fishing industries together

By Michael Bonner / mbonner@s-t.com

Posted Oct 4, 2017 at 5:22 PM Updated Oct 4, 2017 at 7:11 PM

NEW BEDFORD — Jim Kendall painted the city's streets with snow when he articulated how fishermen may feel about offshore wind during a meeting Wednesday that brought both sides together.

As a child on SouthCoast, Kendall spent his snow days sledding on the streets.

"You just can't do stuff like that anymore," he said.

He's seen the same influx in traffic on the ocean in his evolution from fisherman to fishermen representative for Vineyard Wind. Time has added stock limits, marine monuments and the latest is offshore wind. More traffic equates to more difficulty fishing.

"That's part of the problem," Kendall said. "There's constraints now where there never were earlier."

Both offshore wind and commercial fishing understand neither is leaving the ocean. So John Quinn chaired a New England Fisheries Management Council habitat committee meeting in New Bedford, which invited offshore wind representatives.

"My general policy view is I'm viewing wind as complementing not replacing fishing," Quinn said. "That balance is why we're having meetings, seminars and symposiums about it."

Vineyard Wind, Bay State Wind, Deep Water Wind and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management presented information to the committee for about two hours before an hour question-and-answer session.

Concerns from the committee included navigation around the turbines, radar interference and the burying of cables under the ocean's surface.

It's uncertain how many towers would be erected in certain areas, so the total number of turbines vessels would have to navigate around is unknown. The quota is often based on the demand of specific states. However, many maps were provided of the area where companies own leases off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Research also continues on the effects the turbines impose on marine life in the area.

As one of the first formal meetings between the sides, answers weren't always available. But the discussion set in motion a process where at some point the issues could be solved.

"Oftentimes stuff can be resolved with a phone call or an email," Quinn said. "They've got to work collaboratively to solve some of these pressing issues but not confrontationally."

There may be no other choice.

"It's going to happen so I guess we have to try to make the best of it or minimize any of the problems," Kendall said.



Avangrid acquires big stake in Massachusetts offshore wind project with Vineyard Wind

May 11, 2017 [Paul Dvorak](#)

Partnership combines global experience, strategic expertise, and deep financial backing

Avangrid Renewables and Vineyard Wind have formed a strategic partnership to jointly develop a large scale wind energy project off the coast of Massachusetts. Avangrid Renewables is acquiring a 50% ownership interest in Vineyard Wind, the offshore wind energy developer that is part of the Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) portfolio.

The companies say this is a major strategic partnership that combines Avangrid Renewables' U.S. onshore wind development capabilities with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Iberdrola's European offshore wind expertise to give Vineyard Wind a significant advantage in building Massachusetts' first offshore wind project.

Avangrid Renewables is a subsidiary of AVANGRID Inc Iberdrola S.A., a worldwide leader in the energy industry with significant offshore wind holdings in Europe, owns 81.5% of the outstanding shares of AVANGRID common stock.

The partnership of the two companies will bring extensive offshore wind expertise and substantial financial firepower to the Commonwealth's initiative to build offshore wind projects in Massachusetts. Last summer, Massachusetts required utilities to procure 1,600 MW of clean, offshore wind energy within the next decade, setting off an intense competition among offshore wind developers in the region.

Three companies to date have acquired lease rights to build projects off the coast, including Vineyard Wind. Vineyard Wind's project area is about 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. Vineyard Wind plans to begin construction of its project in early 2020, in order to bring the economic development and clean energy benefits of offshore wind to Massachusetts as soon as possible. Vineyard Wind has also worked hard to establish long-term relationships and partnerships with the local community that will provide significant benefit to the project.



Avangrid Renewables, Vineyard Wind announce plans to develop wind energy project off coast of Massachusetts

Published on May 15, 2017 by Daily Energy Insider Reports

Avangrid Renewables and Vineyard Wind recently announced that they formed a strategic partnership in order to jointly develop a wind energy project off the coast of Massachusetts.

Through the agreement, Avangrid Renewables will acquire a 50 percent ownership interest in Vineyard Wind, an offshore wind energy developer that is part of the Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) portfolio.

“This is a major strategic partnership that combines Avangrid Renewables’ US onshore wind development capabilities with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Iberdrola’s European offshore wind expertise to give Vineyard Wind a significant advantage in building Massachusetts’ first offshore wind project,” Lars Thaaning Pedersen, co-CEO of Copenhagen Offshore Partners, CIP’s offshore wind development company, said.

Avangrid Renewables is a subsidiary of AVANGRID Inc. Iberdrola S.A. which has substantial offshore wind assets in Europe. It owns 81.5 percent of the outstanding shares of AVANGRID common stock.

Vineyard Wind plans to begin construction of its project, which is located approximately 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard in early 2020.

“This partnership allows Vineyard Wind to leverage the financial firepower that both CIP and AVANGRID can bring to bear to develop and build this project,” Pedersen said. “AVANGRID’s interest in this project demonstrates that they recognize the strength of the local team, the local support we have, and the exciting potential for offshore wind in Massachusetts.”

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POLITICS, IDEAS & CIVIC LIFE IN MASSACHUSETTS

[PLUGGING IN/](#) [ENERGY/](#) [OPINION](#)

Offshore wind moving too slowly

Faster buildout will mean greater savings, jobs



[ERICH STEPHENS](#) May 30, 2017

“GOOD THINGS COME to those who wait” is an old phrase extolling the virtues of patience. When it comes to bringing offshore wind energy to Massachusetts, it is advice we should ignore. We shouldn’t wait a moment longer than we need to.

As of right now, Massachusetts is proposing to wait and bring offshore wind energy to market at a pace that is much slower than it needs to be. That could mean the state’s consumers pay more than it has to for the power while Massachusetts is lapped by other states looking to be the Northeast hub of the industry. For Massachusetts and offshore wind, the time is now. Delay only means higher costs and lost opportunity.

Last year, Gov. Charlie Baker and the state Legislature made a landmark commitment to procure 1,600 megawatts of clean, offshore wind energy within the next decade. Once all 1,600 megawatts are built out, it will be enough energy to power almost a million homes every year. As part of the process to make that commitment a reality, the state’s largest utilities and the Department of Energy Resources recently issued a draft request for proposals from offshore wind developers who are bidding to build the first project 15 miles off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.

The draft request for proposals states that the offshore projects wouldn’t have to be online and operating until January 2027 – more than a decade after the legislation was passed. Such a delay will cause the cost of projects and the clean energy generated from them to be higher than if the projects were online sooner. In addition, thousands of jobs and economic development would be delayed while we postpone reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Aside from the benefit of generating clean energy sooner, why should the state move faster? There are several important reasons:

- **Cost benefits** — The earlier projects are selected, the better chance those projects have of using a higher level of the federal investment tax credit, which declines with each year. With its current schedule, the state risks pushing projects into qualifying

for the 2019 tax credit level instead of the 2018 level. This will result in as much as \$80 million in higher project costs for the developer, and that is ultimately reflected in the price consumers pay. The higher federal tax credit support will allow projects to be more competitively priced and lead to direct ratepayer savings.

- Seasonal impacts — Working offshore is highly seasonal, so even a few weeks delay can result in missing a whole year of working time on a project. Naming the winning bidder in mid-2018 instead of early 2018 increases the risk of missing 2018 offshore work season.
- Jobs and economic benefits for Massachusetts — Because of its large and landmark commitment to offshore wind energy, Massachusetts stands to be a major hub for economic activity in the industry — from construction to manufacturing. Waiting years to get these projects in the waters could mean that other states like Rhode Island, which already has the first offshore project, or Maryland, which recently awarded 368 megawatts of contracts to two projects would take the leading positions in this new industry and benefit from more private infrastructure investment and job creation. Massachusetts already has a port in New Bedford that is ready for developing and building offshore wind. Waiting to build projects using this port would be a lost opportunity for in the Massachusetts' economy.

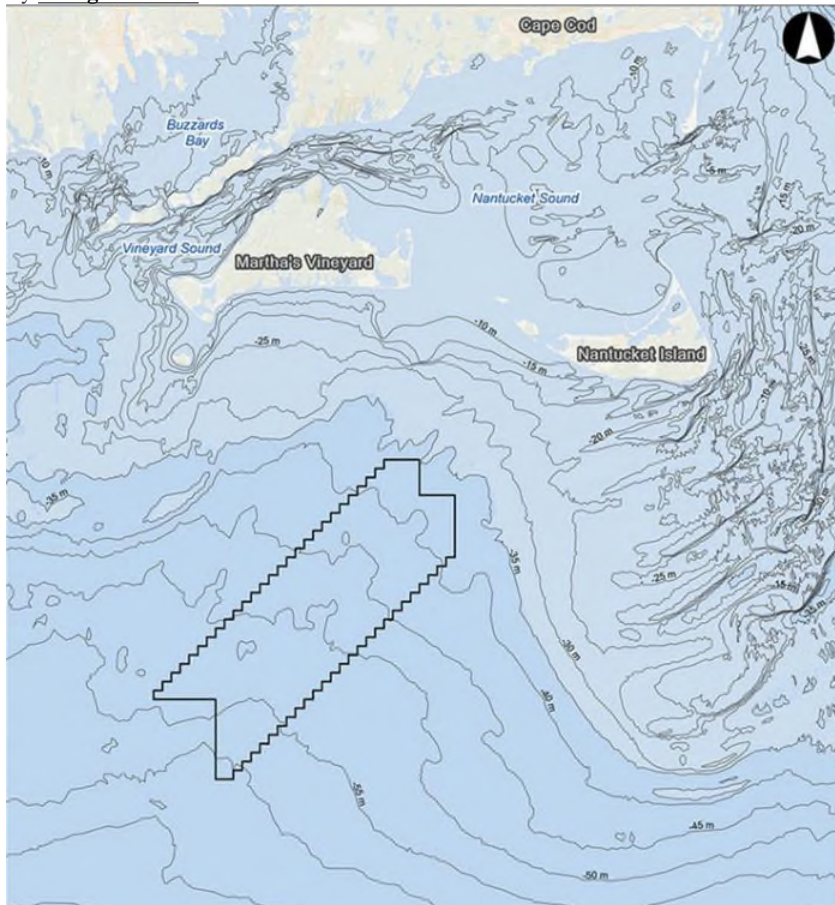
A shorter process should be easily achievable for the offshore wind developers. Each of the eligible developers will have had sufficient time to submit competitive proposals.

As the Department of Public Utilities reviews the draft request for proposals with the intent of approving it at the end of June, it should shorten the timeline for bidding and selecting projects, and require projects to be in service no later than 2023. For the sake of lower prices and the state's economy, there is no reason to wait. Offshore wind is ready to work for Massachusetts.

Erich Stephens is the CEO of Vineyard Wind, one of three companies competing to build an offshore wind project 15 miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

Vineyard Wind announces new partner for offshore wind project

By **George Brennan**



A map on the Vineyard Wind website shows where the company has leased to site an offshore wind farm about 15 miles south of the Vineyard.

updated May 9, 2:45 pm

A major player in the international renewable energy market is joining the race to erect a wind farm off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.

Avangrid Renewables has purchased a 50 percent stake in Vineyard Wind, one of three offshore wind companies that have federal leases for offshore wind projects.

“It means we have a great team that’s gotten even better,” Vineyard Wind CEO Erich Stephens told The Times. The company was already working with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), and now Avangrid brings its expertise in land-based turbines, he said. “Avangrid is one of the top three in the United States.”

Mr. Stephens declined to comment on the terms of the deal.

Avangrid is a subsidiary of Iberdrola Group, a company with more than 14,000 megawatts of renewable energy sites spread across a dozen countries, according to the company’s website. Avangrid’s main focus has been land-based turbines. It has 60 renewable energy projects across the country, the website states.

News of the partnership comes one week after an initial request for proposals was issued for the state’s three utilities — Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil — to purchase power from an offshore wind farm.

In 2016, the state passed legislation requiring the utilities to purchase up to 1,600 megawatts of electricity from renewables by 2027. That’s enough energy to power 750,000 homes in Massachusetts.

Last week’s launch of the RFP process sets a lengthy process in motion. Final RFPs are expected to go out at the end of June, with a contract awarded by the state Department of Public Utilities by Nov. 1, 2018. Companies are expected to file bids to generate up to 400 megawatts of electricity in the initial phase, although bids of up to 800 megawatts will be accepted if the evaluation team determines that larger-scaled proposals produce economic benefits for ratepayers.

“It’s coincidental,” Lars Thaaning Pederson, co-CEO of Copenhagen Offshore Partners, said of the timing of partnership and the RFP process. The partnership with

Avangrid gives the project greater financial strength, he noted: “We have strong resources to draw on.”

The Vineyard Wind project is competing with Bay State Wind, a collaboration between DONG Energy and Eversource, and Deepwater Wind. Both companies said in separate statements released last week that they intend to be bidders.

The Vineyard Wind site is about 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard.

Because the lease area was established after a lengthy vetting process, it has faced little of the pushback that the Cape Wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound created for more than a decade.

“There was a lot of input in deciding what was the right area for offshore wind in Massachusetts,” Mr. Stephens said, noting that Island towns, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and other stakeholders were included in the process.

“We heard from the fishing community, and our work with them is ongoing,” he said. “By and large, the fishing community on the Vineyard and all different ports are generally OK with this area that the task force identified.”

There is a community benefits agreement with Vineyard Power, Mr. Stephens said, that helps identify issues and areas of concern that can be addressed as the development process moves forward.



Dartmouth man joins Vineyard Wind management

Posted Jul 12, 2017 at 5:00 PM Updated Jul 12, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Vineyard Wind, an offshore wind energy developer vying to build the first utility-scale project off the coast of Massachusetts, has hired Dartmouth resident Jack Arruda to serve as technical development manager for the company.

Arruda has a lengthy background in developing and operating power projects in the Northeast, according to a news release from Vineyard Wind. In his new role, he will lead the local technical development of the proposed Vineyard Wind project and oversee issues such as grid interconnection, on-shore route permitting and cable installation, and managing the development and use of the port facilities for both construction and operation of the project, the release said. He will work closely with the project's fisheries' representative Jim Kendall, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Port of New Bedford and the harbormaster, and other city and state officials.

Vineyard Wind is one of three companies that has acquired lease rights to build wind projects off the coast of Massachusetts. Vineyard Wind's project area is about 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, the developer said. Last summer, Massachusetts required utilities to procure 1,600 megawatts of clean, offshore wind energy within the next decade. When the 1,600 megawatts of generation capacity are completed, they will generate enough clean, homegrown energy to power the equivalent of more than 750,000 Massachusetts homes every year, according to the company.

“Jack brings a tremendous depth of technical experience, as well as local knowledge, to Vineyard Wind — exactly what we need to ensure the project is built on time and on budget, and all the while being a good neighbor with the many people who live and work on the SouthCoast and the waters offshore,” said Vineyard Wind CEO Erich Stephens. “We’re thrilled to have someone with Jack’s background join our team as his local experience and knowledge WILL be essential for a successful project and adds to the level of expertise on our team.”

A lifelong resident of Dartmouth and a graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a degree in marine engineering, Arruda has more than 25 years of experience operating and managing energy projects.

“I’m thrilled to be working with Vineyard Wind,” Arruda said in the release. “It’s the perfect opportunity for me given my background in the power-generation field and having been in the maritime industry earlier in my career. I’m excited about this project. I think offshore wind will play a key role in the energy future of our region, and it’s going to bring tremendous opportunity to the South Coast area.”

Prior to joining Vineyard Wind, Arruda served as the director of operations for Caithness Energy. Previously, he spent 17 years with Energy Management Inc., where he worked in the development of solar and combined cycle natural gas-fired electrical generation facilities. In addition, as part of EMI, he was involved in the design and planning around the proposed Cape Wind energy project. He was previously the operations and facility manager at the 270-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Tiverton, Rhode Island, for eight years working for Calpine and GE.

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Utilities unveil RFP for offshore wind power

Procurement, as drafted, wouldn't be complete until late 2018



[BRUCE MOHL](#) May 1, 2017

THE STATE'S UTILITIES on Monday set in motion a first-of-its-kind procurement for 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power by asking Massachusetts regulators to approve a bid process that gives companies some flexibility in setting the size of their projects while requiring them to price out two very different approaches to delivering the electricity to the mainland.

The [draft request for proposals](#), or RFP, also raises the possibility that Massachusetts could invite a Rhode Island utility and the state of Connecticut to participate in the solicitation.

Legislation authorizing the offshore wind power procurement was approved in 2016. The law allows the state's utilities to sign contracts for 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power over the next 10 years. The power price is required to drop with each successive contract. The contracting process is being run by the state's utilities – Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil – and being monitored by the Baker administration, Attorney General Maura Healey, and the Department of Public Utilities.

The procurement process is a lengthy one. The final RFP is expected to go out June 30, proposals are due December 20, and approved contracts are scheduled to go to the Department of Public Utilities for approval on Nov. 1, 2018. The minimum bid fee is \$300,000, but can rise depending on how many pricing offers a company makes.

The three companies vying for offshore wind contracts off the coast of Martha's Vineyard have very different views about the size of the initial power contract, but have been united in their belief that each firm should build its own transmission line to the mainland. The draft RFP accommodated the varying views on contract size, while leaving the door open to an alternative approach on the transmission line.

The draft RFP would require each of the companies to bid on an initial 400 megawatt contract but would also allow them to submit other bids for as little as 200 megawatts and as much as 800 megawatts. Bay State Wind, a partnership of DONG Energy and Eversource Energy, has lobbied for an initial procurement of as much as 800 megawatts, half the total procurement. Bay State says a contract of that size would yield the lowest price for electricity.

The other two companies, Deepwater Wind and Vineyard Wind, say 800 megawatts is way too big. Deepwater Wind, which has supported initial bids in the 200 to 600 megawatt range, has called an 800 megawatt proposal “massively risky.” Vineyard Wind, which favors four procurements of 400 megawatts each, said its approach would avoid a “winner-take-all” scenario and secure the best possible prices.

In a footnote to the draft RFP, the utilities said the state could bring Narragansett Electric Co. of Rhode Island and the state of Connecticut into the procurement process if their participation would have “positive or neutral impact on Massachusetts ratepayers.”

All three offshore developers have said they want to build their own transmission lines to their wind farms, but the draft RFP calls for bidders to price their projects two ways – one with them building their own transmission line and one with them building a transmission line that could later be expanded to not only serve them but also other future wind farms in the area.

Since Eversource is involved both in the procurement of offshore wind power and in a partnership for the development of it, the RFP includes a standard of conduct document that bars officials at the company in the two areas from talking with each other except in special circumstances.

Erich Stephens, the CEO of Vineyard Wind, said in a statement he was glad to see the state requiring a 400-megawatt bid. “We’re concerned that the timeline for the process is a lengthy one, but we remain hopeful the final RFP will provide for a quicker schedule, so that Massachusetts can get to work building its new offshore wind industry. We look forward to submitting a highly competitive bid,” he said. Thomas Brostrom, general manager for North America at DONG, said in a statement that large-scale wind farms will produce the lowest cost for electricity. “We have seen through the development of more than 20 projects around the globe that utility-scale offshore wind drives the greatest economic benefits for local communities and the supply chain,” he said. “Additionally, we are excited to take part in developing a long-term viable offshore wind industry along the eastern seaboard and are encouraged by the commitments from states such as Massachusetts but also the growing interest of neighboring states. We can see the large volume potential here, which is the single most important driver for cost reduction and economic development through local supply chain developments.”

Officials at Deepwater Wind said they were still studying the RFP.



Wind Farm Surveys Begin Off Martha's Vineyard

By Alex Elvin|

Aug. 2nd, 2017

As wind farm developers begin to jockey in earnest to build projects in waters off the Vineyard, a new round of surveys related to a turbine project south of the Island is set to begin this week.

Research vessels operating out of Vineyard Haven and New Bedford will conduct the surveys.



Vineyard Power president Richard Andre: "This is a really exciting time for us." — *Mark Lovewell*

Project leaders for Vineyard Wind, town selectmen and others gathered at the Tisbury Wharf on Monday for a tour of the vessel Henry Hudson, whose crew will spend the next month or so collecting data to help determine a route for the electric cables running between the wind farm and the mainland.

"This is a really exciting time for us because we are actually starting to see work being done in Vineyard Haven," said Richard Andre, president of Vineyard Power, the Island energy cooperative that has partnered with OffshoreMW to develop the wind farm beginning about 14 miles south of the Vineyard. Mr. Andre said crew members will all be living on the Island. "Maybe this is a sign of what's to come in the future, with more economic activity," he said.

The survey covers an area including Muskeget Channel east of Chappaquiddick, and a potential route that goes across Nantucket. The cables would land somewhere around Hyannis, although the exact route and landing site are still undetermined.

Vineyard Wind chief executive officer Erich Stephens, who also attended the boat tour on Monday, said the plan calls for the cable to terminate either at the Barnstable or West Barnstable substation.

He said the potential route over Nantucket was considered partly as an alternative to the shorter route along Muskeget Channel, an area well known for its fast currents and shifting sand. But Nantucket has also appealed for help in light of the limited capacity of its own cables to the mainland.

The Henry Hudson crew will collect geophysical data related to water depth and sea floor features. The 101-foot research vessel Shearwater out of New Bedford, will follow up with geotechnical data, including samples from the bottom. Robert Mecarini, owner of Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey Inc. of New Jersey, which is conducting the surveys, said the Shearwater may also make some appearances in Vineyard Haven, although it would depend on access to fuel and other factors.

“Offshore wind has been a long time coming,” he said Monday, as traffic passed on Beach Road and visitors came and went from a cruise ship docked nearby. He said his company has worked on every offshore wind project in the country so far, with the exception of Cape Wind and the recently completed Block Island Wind Farm.

“This is our back yard, so it means a lot to us to be working on this project,” he said.



Research vessel will collect geophysical data related to water depth and sea floor features. — *Mark Lovewell*

Three wind energy companies in recent years have planted their flags in waters off the Vineyard, including the Danish conglomerate Dong Energy, which is developing a wind farm just west of the Vineyard Wind area, and Deepwater Wind, which developed the Block Island Wind Farm and is working on two other projects near Rhode Island. On Tuesday this week Deepwater Wind announced a new project 12 miles south of the Vineyard. Revolution Wind envisions a utility-scale project coupled with an energy storage system.

It all adds up to brisk activity as developers compete to build their projects in waters off the Vineyard. Among other things, the developers will compete for state-mandated energy contracts with utility companies, with bids due by Dec. 20.

Vineyard Wind developers are hoping a community benefits agreement associated with their project will give them a leg up in the process.

A crew of about six scientists at a time will conduct the geophysical survey, collecting various data about the potential cable routes, including the presence of shipwrecks and other obstructions on the sea floor. Two protected species observers will join the crew and help avoid harmful interactions with marine mammals and other sea life.

Senior project manager Steve MacDonald, who introduced visitors to some of the boat's nearly \$1 million worth of equipment, said workers will review the data every morning and adjust the survey area as needed. He added that feedback from community members has helped surveyors avoid important fish habitat in the area.

Mr. Mecarini said the geophysical survey was expected to begin Wednesday, with the boat operating between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. He said the geotechnical portion would likely get underway next week, once some preliminary data has been collected.

The Inquirer and Mirror

Wind-farm survey vessels off Nantucket for next two weeks

By The Inquirer and Mirror

Posted Aug 8, 2017 at 8:47 AM Updated Aug 8, 2017 at 9:02 AM

(Aug. 8, 2017) Over the next two weeks, Vineyard Wind will be conducting seafloor surveying between its offshore wind-lease site, located approximately 14 miles southwest of Nantucket, and Cape Cod, including Muskeget Channel and Nantucket Sound. In addition, the survey will also include Nantucket's Madaket and Dionis areas.

The company's 45-foot surveying vessel may come within 50 feet of Nantucket's shores in these specific areas between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. A professional marine mammal observer will be onboard to ensure no danger to sea life or beachgoers.

Vineyard Wind, which is competing with Deepwater Wind and a partnership between DONG Energy and Eversource to build major wind energy installations in leased tracts 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, began geophysical surveys last week of the ocean floor "to identify best cable locations," the company said in a notice to boaters.

A 45-foot boat may be operating an unoccupied underwater robot, the company said, and a second boat, a 100-foot vessel, will be conducting shallow coring or collecting sediment samples while maintaining station further offshore.

Both vessels may be towing geophysical equipment up to 300 feet behind them, Vineyard Wind said. The survey work began late last week and is expected to last about three weeks, the offshore wind developer said.

A 2016 law requires Massachusetts utilities to procure 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind and 1,200 megawatts of new hydropower, solar, wind and other renewable sources by 2027. Proposals for 400-800 megawatt projects of offshore wind are due in December, and Vineyard Wind officials have said the company is preparing to submit its bid by then.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vineyardwind.com/>

Vineyard Wind crews will begin survey for cable sites

Two boats, one out of Vineyard Haven, will collect data for best route to land.

By **George Brennan**



The survey vessel Henry Hudson will be working out of Vineyard Haven Harbor for the next three weeks, part of an effort by Vineyard Wind to map potential routes for cabling from its proposed wind farm 15 miles off the southern coast of Martha's Vineyard.

On Monday morning, officials from Vineyard Wind and its partner Vineyard Power, which represents about 5,000 Island customers, offered tours of the Henry Hudson to showcase not only the technology aboard the vessel, but the potential for the Vineyard to see some economic impact from wind farm projects.

Vineyard Wind is one of three companies looking to be the first to locate a wind farm off the coast of Massachusetts. The companies have to submit final bids by Dec. 20, and one of the companies will be selected to move ahead in April.

Also on Monday, Deepwater Wind announced that it has begun work on its 144-megawatt proposal, which will also incorporate a 40-megawatt battery storage facility, spokesperson Meaghan Wims said. The Deepwater project, which is known as Revolution Wind, also announced that construction will be staged out of New Bedford if the company wins the bid.

A spokesman for Bay State Wind, a collaboration between DONG Energy and Eversource, did not return a call seeking comment.

One of the ways that Vineyard Wind is attempting to set itself apart is by completing the geological surveys for a potential cabling route from the farm to the mainland on Cape Cod, Erich Stephens, Vineyard Wind CEO, told The Times. The company, which teamed up with international powerhouse [Avangrid Renewables in May](#), is looking for areas where it will be the least expensive and least disruptive environmentally to lay cable six to 10 feet below the seabed.

“We’re looking to build sooner, with the least amount of environmental impact,” Mr. Stephens said. By demonstrating that willingness, the company can show regulators it can be a part of the state’s greenhouse gas solution, and take advantage of tax credits for offshore wind that are being phased out — a benefit for ratepayers, he said. Another potential plus is local jobs.

“Martha’s Vineyard doesn’t have the infrastructure for construction staging, but once the wind farm is built, it could provide a home base for operations and maintenance jobs,” Mr. Stephens said.

During Monday’s tour, Robert Mecarini, president of Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey, and Steve MacDonald, senior project manager for the company, showed the nearly \$1 million worth of equipment onboard Capt. Eric Houtray’s vessel. The sub-bottom profiler and something they call “the boomer” provide data that shows if they’ll have a clear shot at burying cable or if there are obstructions like shipwrecks or huge boulders in the way.

“As the vessel moves along, we can see it in real time,” Mr. MacDonald said, pointing to a computer screen with vibrant colors. “It looks like we’re painting the subfloor.”

The Henry Hudson will be going in and out of Vineyard Haven every day on a 7 am–to–7 pm schedule collecting data. Workers from the boat, who total about 12, will be staying at a Vineyard house during off hours. “Hopefully contributing to the local economy,” Mr. Mecarini said.

A second vessel, the 110-foot Shearwater, will also be doing a geotechnical survey of the proposed routes. That vessel is being staged in New Bedford, but may make stops in Vineyard Haven as well.

On each of the vessels, there are scientists to collect and analyze the data, but there are also mammal experts to make sure the work doesn’t have an adverse impact on whales, dolphins, or fisheries.

A map distributed by Vineyard Wind shows they’ll be looking at paths to the east of Martha’s Vineyard through the Muskeget Channel, or possibly going through Nantucket. The Nantucket path could benefit that island, which has only two transmission cables for electricity, Richard Andre of Vineyard Power said. While

Martha's Vineyard has three cables, if Nantucket were to add a third it would cost islanders \$75 million that they would have to find a way to fund, he said.

Vineyard Wind adding to Nantucket's power supply could be seen as an overall benefit in the bid process, Mr. Andre said.

The cabling paths avoid the area of Nantucket Sound where the proposed Cape Wind project owns a lease for 130 wind turbines. That project has been on hold for several years, and is considered dead by some, though the lease remains in effect.

On Tuesday, Audra Parker, CEO of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, blasted the final environmental impact statement released by federal officials, which she says ignores public comments by her group, the Steamship Authority, and elected officials opposed to keeping the lease open.

"That lease is valid until 2041, giving Cape Wind the right to build or sell it to another developer," Ms. Parker said. "As long as Cape Wind holds the lease and vows to build, the Sound remains vulnerable to industrial development."

Reached at his Boston office, Jim Gordon, CEO of Cape Wind, said the project is awaiting a federal permit.

In recent years, the project has lost its commitments for power-purchase agreements, and failed to get a permit for transmission lines.

Asked if the project is moving forward, Mr. Gordon said, "Yes, we are." He declined further comment.

Ms. Parker said her organization hasn't taken a position on the proposals off the southern coast of the Vineyard. The distinction between the Cape Wind project and those proposals is that the development sites were zoned by the federal government. "The process is better than a developer picking the site purely by profits," she said.

A 30-day comment period is open on the environmental impact statement, she said.

Local officials impressed

Richard Toole, a commissioner on the Martha's Vineyard Commission, was on Monday's vessel tour with Tisbury selectmen Tristan Israel and Melinda Loberg.

"I like anything that is clean energy and saves us money," Mr. Toole said after the tour.

Both Mr. Israel and Ms. Loberg also had positive feelings after their tour of the Henry Hudson.

"In the short term, I think it's great," Mr. Israel said of the use of Vineyard Haven Harbor by the company. Mr. Israel said he's also trying to encourage the companies to help educate Vineyard youth for potential jobs. "They would have an in-home workforce, so to speak," he said.

Ms. Loberg downplayed some issues raised by lobster fishermen and draggers who have criticized the wind farm, saying the impact will be limited.

"Once it's done, there will be spawning, and [the area] could be a nursery for fish," she said. There is also a potential to run tours the site, which is done in Europe, Ms. Loberg said. "I see it as a tourism thing, people wanting to go out and see them."

If it wins the bid, the Vineyard Wind project has the potential to supply electricity for 300,000 homes, Mr. Stephens said.

"We're moving quickly, on the assumption we'll be the preferred project," Mr. Stephens said.

Mr. Mearini said his company, which has been involved with or had employees involved with other offshore wind projects, is excited to be working off the Vineyard.

“Offshore wind is a long time coming to the Northeast, and it’s going to bring in a lot of jobs,” he said.

Mr. Stephens said the Vineyard Wind project is at a critical stage. “We want to do this in the most economical way with the least amount of environmental impact,” he said.

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Worcester Business Journal

MAY 10, 2017

Offshore wind competition heats up



BY STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

One of the competitors for an offshore wind energy license in Massachusetts is teaming up with Avangrid Renewables, adding a partner with financial resources and experience in European wind energy markets.

Vineyard Wind on Tuesday announced that Avangrid Renewables is purchasing a 50 percent ownership interest in the project, which is

competing with Deepwater Wind and a partnership between DONG Energy and Eversource to build major wind energy installations in leased tracts 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard.

An [August 2016 state law](#) calls for the procurement of up to 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2027.

Avangrid's majority shareowner is Spain-based Iberdrola, a large utility company active in offshore wind, with projects under development or construction in England, France and Germany, according to the companies. Avangrid also has offshore wind lease rights off the North Carolina coast.

Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), an infrastructure development fund, owns the other half of Vineyard Wind after last year acquiring the project when it was known as OffshoreMW. CIP also has management and investment stakes in offshore wind projects under construction in Germany and Scotland. Company officials said they'll send executives to join Vineyard Wind's local team in New Bedford, which they said currently includes four people.

In a statement, CIP co-CEO Lars Thaaning Pedersen called the new alliance at Vineyard Wind a "major strategic partnership" and asserted the players and experience now behind the project "give Vineyard Wind a significant advantage in building Massachusetts' first offshore wind project."

In a phone interview, Pedersen said the fast-growing \$100 billion offshore wind industry in Europe is more than 20 years old and has "really commercialized over the last five years." Overseas investors are looking to new markets, he said.

"The technology has matured and new markets are opening up, the U.S. being one of them," he said.

Last year, Deepwater Wind's 30-megawatt project off Block Island, Rhode Island -- a project that has received investments from GE Energy Financial Services and the global bank Citi -- became the nation's first offshore wind farm.

Erich Stephens, CEO of Vineyard Wind, said project officials are reviewing a [draft request for proposals](#), developed jointly by electricity distribution companies and the state Department of Energy Resources, that is expected to be finalized by June 30.

"Our objective is to really implement the policy that the Massachusetts legislation put forth last summer as quickly as possible," he said, adding that Vineyard Wind is hoping for shorter timeframes in the RFP process in part to keep costs lower.

The draft RFP calls for 400-megawatt proposals.

Writing in the Standard-Times in April, Stephens said a solicitation seeking one 400-megawatt project every four years would benefit Massachusetts.

"It will drive down the price for consumers three different times, as the law states that each time a wind project comes on line, the price must be lower than the previous project," he wrote. "If, for instance, the state did this in two 800 megawatt phases, the price would only fall once. Four projects of 400 MW will ensure that most jobs stay here, in SouthCoast and in Massachusetts."

Avangrid Renewables is a subsidiary of Avangrid Inc., which has more than \$31 billion in assets and operations in 27 states. Avangrid Networks is comprised of eight electric and natural gas utilities, serving 3.2 million customers in New York and New England, according to the company, and Avangrid Renewables operates 6.5 gigawatts of electricity capacity, primarily wind power, in 22 states.

Officials from Deepwater Wind and DONG Energy declined to comment Tuesday on the Vineyard Wind deal.



Martha's Vineyard Offshore Wind Project Acquired By Danish Company

Posted by
Lauren Tyler

-
August 26, 2016

Danish fund management company Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) has [acquired](#) 100% of Offshore MW LLC, a company holding a 166,886-acre offshore wind energy lease south of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

The lease was issued by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The project will be continuously developed by the existing local development team and supported by CIP.

Offshore MW is eligible to participate in the utility tender program established by [recently enacted legislation](#) in Massachusetts. According to CIP, the first tender round to obtain a long-term power off-take agreement is expected to take place in mid 2017.

Richard Andre, president of [Vineyard Power](#), a partner of OffshoreMW, says, "We're very pleased that we'll now be working with the CIP team. We've met with them and know they bring an enormous amount of offshore wind expertise, they have the investment capacity and they appreciate what we have to offer as a local community partner. Together we'll be able to deliver a great project for the Vineyard and for the entire commonwealth."

In addition, the name of the project will be Vineyard Wind to reflect the project's proximity to the island, as well as OffshoreMW's long-standing ties to Vineyard Power Cooperative.



OffshoreMW enlists Jim Kendall as fishing industry rep

By Mike Lawrence

Posted Aug 12, 2016 at 8:07 PM Updated Aug 12, 2016 at 8:07 PM

NEW BEDFORD — An offshore wind developer hired a longtime local fisherman as its fisheries representative Friday, and another developer's survey boat could arrive at the Marine Commerce Terminal on Saturday, as the offshore wind industry continues to ramp up on SouthCoast after Monday's signing of landmark energy legislation in Boston.

Erich Stephens, executive vice president of New Jersey-based wind power developer OffshoreMW, said longtime local fisherman and industry advocate Jim Kendall will be OffshoreMW's fisheries representative. Kendall, now executive director of New Bedford Seafood Consulting, is a former scalloper with more than 50 years of experience in the industry.

"His job is to make sure we're hearing from the fishing industry," Stephens said.

Stephens said OffshoreMW previously hired Kendall several years ago, to provide guidance as the company looked at potential lease areas for turbine development in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard. OffshoreMW now is one of three companies with leases in that region of ocean waters.

Kendall said the new, contract agreement was finalized Friday.

“My main concern is trying to minimize any impacts on the fishing industry, and anything that’s going to either disrupt their work or endanger them,” Kendall said.

Stephens said the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requiring offshore wind developers to have both a fisheries representative, who speaks for the fishing industry, and a fisheries liaison, who speaks for the wind power company. Stephens said OffshoreMW’s liaison role will be filled in the short-term by Rachel Pachter, the company’s senior permitting adviser.

Monday on a State House lawn, after Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law requiring utilities to purchase contracts for at least 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power between 2017 and 2027, Stephens said OffshoreMW would begin survey work Sept. 1.

He expanded on that Friday, saying a geophysical survey could take three to four weeks, and potentially be followed by a two- to three-week geotechnical survey. The surveys will be conducted by a boat that works out of New Bedford, Stephens said.



Vineyard Power and Partner Win Offshore Wind Lease

- **Julia Wells** *Thursday, January 29, 2015 - 7:30pm*

The Island-owned energy cooperative Vineyard Power, along with a partner, was awarded a provisional lease Thursday to develop an offshore wind farm in federal waters off the Vineyard. The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced the lease following an online auction Thursday morning. Vineyard Power and its partner Offshore MW bid \$166,000 for the right to lease just over 166,886 acres about 12 nautical miles south of the Island. One other lease was awarded Thursday to a separate bidder, RES America Development Inc., for a little over \$281,000. Four lease areas were up for bid.

“This is a huge milestone,” Vineyard Power president Richard Andre told the Gazette following an announcement by the Department of the Interior. “We’ve had all these little steps we have taken, and now this one truly feels like a real sense of accomplishment.”

The bid next goes through a process that includes review and approval by the U.S. Department of Justice. Once that is cleared, Vineyard Power and Offshore MW will have 45 days to pay the first year’s \$500,000 annual rent, and then will spend the next four and a half years developing a detailed plan for construction. There are still many technical steps and hurdles to clear, including an environmental impact statement and state legislation that would clear the way for power purchase agreements with utility companies. The power purchase agreements are needed to obtain financing.

The nonprofit Island energy cooperative was formed five years ago and has about 1,400 members with an ultimate goal of 8,000 members. To date the cooperative has focused largely on solar installation sites around the Island and on planning for the wind farm leasing venture. Mr. Andre said early plans call for building a wind farm of 350 to 400 megawatts, or about 60 to 65 turbines. Vineyard Power’s share would be approximately 40 megawatts or six or seven turbines, he said.

The 1,200-square-mile Massachusetts wind energy area begins 12 nautical miles from shore and is divided diagonally into four zones. Developers bid on 25-year leases on one or more of the zones at the online auction Thursday. Although there were many qualified bidders, in the end only two bidders participated, Mr. Andre said.

The process was costly and involved an advance deposit of about \$450,000 per lease area. Vineyard Power and Offshore MW put down a deposit for two preferred areas and in the end were awarded one. Mr. Andre said the online auction involved computerized tokens for qualified bidders and began at 8:30 a.m. Thursday. "It went two rounds, extremely quick," he said. "We were announced the winner of one zone by 10 a.m." The bidding was sanctioned by Vineyard Power membership earlier this month. A key part of the process involved a community benefits agreement that had been approved by BOEM. Under the agreement, developers who partnered with a community organization such as Vineyard Power qualified for a 10 per cent discount. Mr. Andre said Vineyard Power's community benefits agreement with Offshore MW, executed formally on Jan. 14, marked a milestone of its own.

"This is the first community benefits agreement in the U.S. for offshore wind," he said. "It's a model for Martha's Vineyard to form this cooperative and now to be awarded a lease."

He concluded: "It's been hard work getting to this stage; five years ago it seemed almost herculean. It's a good day to pause and reflect."



MA WIND ENERGY AREA SURVEYS BEGIN

Survey work for OffshoreMW in the BOEM Massachusetts Wind Energy Area will begin on September 23rd and will last approximately 30 days.

By Toby Lapinski | September 23, 2016

The R/V Shearwater will be conducting survey work for OffshoreMW in the BOEM Massachusetts Wind Energy Area beginning on September 23rd. The survey work will last approximately 30 days.

In September and October, a reconnaissance geophysical survey will take place within a portion of the BOEM Massachusetts Wind Energy Area, Lease area OCS – A 501 (see chart.)

This survey will gather data on seabed and subfloor conditions that will assist in identifying potential

locations for future siting of offshore wind turbines. Details of subsequent phases of the survey will be determined and announced shortly. Please check in with either of the contacts below for the latest information.



Survey work will take place in the Primary Survey Area. Vessel will run primarily in parallel NE/SW lines. Additional lines will run perpendicular in the NW/SE direction. Minimal reconnaissance survey lines will be run in the remainder (SW portion) of the Lease area.

COLLECTING DATA AND WORKING WITH THE LOCAL FISHERIES

This is the first step of data collection and assessment that OffshoreMW will undertake within the next several years in this area. Offshore MW is committed to communicating and working with local fishermen in the region across all fishery sectors and during all stages of development of the proposed offshore wind farm. Information gathered over the next few years will be used to design the wind farm.

In advance of and during the survey operations, we seek contact with fishermen who are or may be working in the survey area. Please contact either:

Rachel Pachter, Fishery Liaison for OffshoreMW – 508-680-6455

or [**rpachter@offshoremwllc.com**](mailto:rpachter@offshoremwllc.com).

Jim Kendall, Fishery Representative for New Bedford Seafood Consulting – 508-287-2010

or [**nbsc@cpomcast.net**](mailto:nbsc@cpomcast.net).



Fugro in Another Geotech Survey for US Wind Development



zoom

Fugro has been awarded a contract by Vineyard Wind, formerly named OffshoreMW, to perform a marine geotechnical site investigation within its wind development lease, offshore Massachusetts.

The company's 105-meter drilling vessel M/V Fugro Synergy will perform the study, which will include numerous seabed CPTs and exploration boreholes, along with sampling and downhole CPTs.

Following the fieldwork, a program of laboratory testing and reporting will be performed by Fugro's offices in Houston TX and Norfolk VA.

The site investigation will be used to verify geologic ground models that Vineyard Wind is developing based on previous geophysical data collected from the 166,866-acre lease area.

The investigation is planned to start before the end of October and take around two to three weeks.

To remind, Fugro Synergy also this month started a geotechnical survey campaign on behalf of DONG Energy at the proposed site for the Bay State Wind offshore wind farm.



OffshoreMW taps Alpine wisdom

Seabed surveys will pave way for 1GW project off Massachusetts
22/09/2016

OffshoreMW has selected Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey to conduct seabed profiling for the 1GW Vineyard offshore wind project off Massachusetts.

Alpine research vessel Shearwater will head out Friday to carry out geophysical surveys, OffshoreMW executive VP Erich Stephens told [reNEWS](#).

The 110-foot vessel will map the sea floor and measure water depths, primarily in the northeast section of the 166,886-acre (675 square km) lease area, which starts about 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard.

Alpine is part of UK-based Gardline Marine Sciences Group. The campaign is expected to take three to four weeks, depending on the weather, said Stephens.

This is the first step of data collection and assessment that OffshoreMW plans to undertake over the next several years. "Our focus is on getting the geological surveys done this year," said Stephens.

A different vessel is expected to conduct geotechnical work, including deep borings and cone penetration tests, in October.

"The plan is to have it ready to go as soon as the geophysical survey work is wrapped up," said Stephens.

OffshoreMW, along with rival developers Dong and Deepwater Wind, have agreed to lease the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal in Massachusetts as a staging and deployment port for offshore wind construction.

Massachusetts is developing a procurement program after the state last month adopted an energy bill that requires utilities to contract 1.6GW of offshore wind power by July 2027.

The first tender round is expected to take place in mid-2017.



Update on Offshore Wind Plans at Vineyard Power Annual Meeting

- [Alex Elvin](#)
- *Friday, August 14, 2015 - 10:40am*

Vineyard Power is entering a new phase in its plans to develop a wind farm south of the Vineyard. Having successfully partnered with developer Offshore MW to secure a lease on 167,886 acres in January, the Island-owned energy cooperative is now focusing on public outreach. On the development side, Offshore MW must now complete a detailed environmental impact statement, along with a construction and operation plan.

About a dozen people attended Vineyard Power's sixth annual meeting at the Katharine Cornell Theatre on Sunday. President Richard Andre provided an update on the group's ongoing efforts in solar and wind development, and looked ahead to the logistics and politics of developing one of the first offshore wind farms in the country.



Paul Pimentel, chair of the Vineyard Power board. — *Mark Lovewell*

The partnership's lease area begins in federal waters about 14 miles south of the Vineyard, directly east of another area leased by a large Danish company. Mr. Andre said the wind turbines would be barely visible on a clear day. Two smaller areas, between the Vineyard and Block Island, have been leased by Deepwater Wind.

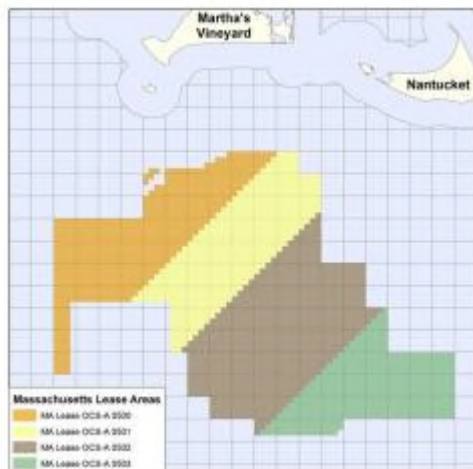
Co-op members voted in January to authorize the Vineyard Power and Offshore MW to bid in a federal auction Jan. 29. The partnership won the bidding at \$166,000, a small fraction of the \$3.8 million that Deepwater Wind had paid to secure its lease in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Earlier auctions in Maryland and Delaware had also drawn higher bids.

Mr. Andre said by the time Massachusetts entered the bidding process, the competition had dwindled. In addition, a community benefits agreement that aims to keep jobs and infrastructure on the Island provided a 10 per-cent discount in the auction. Mr. Andre said the discount had “changed the playing field” and encouraged Offshore MW to proceed.

Vineyard Power is now working to support state legislation introduced by Rep. Patricia Haddad that would require utility companies to purchase two-thirds of the state’s offshore wind capacity by 2030. Similar legislation was already in place in Rhode Island and Maryland at the time of the earlier auctions, which increased the demand for those areas, Mr. Andre said.

Dong Energy, the largest offshore wind developer in the world, secured a lease on the other Massachusetts zone for \$280,000. The two easternmost zones, which are farthest from shore, have yet to be leased.

Mr. Andre noted that Offshore MW recently completed a 300-megawatt wind project in Germany. “They are not speculative builders,” he said. “They intend to build an offshore wind farm here.”



There are four federal lease areas about 12 nautical miles south of the Vineyard; Vineyard Power and partner bid on area 0501.

Since its inception in 2009, Vineyard Power has spent almost as much as it has earned, about \$1 million. Treasurer Ron Dagostino said Sunday that he believed the co-op would have about

\$1,000 left in its account at the end of the year. “An organization like this flies by the seat of its pants,” he said. Much of the funding this year — about \$100,000 — came from Offshore MW as part of the community benefits agreement. Mr. Andre expected that funding to continue next year.

As an incentive to follow through with the project, Offshore MW must pay about \$500,000 a year just to hold the lease. The company also must begin construction within four and a half years. A 25-year lease period would start when operations begin.

Mr. Andre expected the project to create jobs up and down the East Coast. “That area out there could easily satisfy 2,000 megawatts, so that’s something like 20,000 jobs,” he said. “This is going to be a real significant game changer. And one of the things that we’re trying to do is keep a lot of those jobs here.”

Vineyard Power is now working with Offshore MW to explore the possibility of building a maintenance and operations facility in Vineyard Haven. “We’ve already had discussions with owners and people down at the harbor about making that a reality,” Mr. Andre said.

He added that the Vineyard would likely serve as headquarters, with administrative offices and a control room. The goal would be for Vineyard Power members eventually to own a 20 per cent portion of the wind farm, or about 100 megawatts, accumulated over time.

The cooperative is now focused largely on advocating for state legislation that would support renewable energy development. A community empowerment bill, introduced by Rep. Tim Madden, would allow towns to enter into long-term power purchase agreements, creating incentives for banks to finance renewable energy projects. Residents could opt out within 60 days of a town meeting vote, but the benefits would depend on most people being held to the agreement.

“If the bank sees that the residents can opt out, it’s effectively what we have now, which is not financeable,” Mr. Andre said. He expected a new website in support of the bill to be launched this week.

One benefit of wind energy, he said, is that once the infrastructure is in place, the resource is effectively free. That allows developers to offer long-term contracts that can help stabilize energy prices. He added that fossil fuel prices are increasing by about 4.5 per cent each year, and that

alternative energy options could decrease the demand for natural gas, lowering the overall energy prices in the region.

The project could also help address climate change, he said. According to the Martha's Vineyard Commission, rising sea levels will alter the Island's roads, infrastructure, buildings and wetlands.

"This community is on the forefront," Mr. Andre said.



Vineyard Wind to hold open houses in Barnstable, Yarmouth

By Geoff Spillane

Posted Nov 6, 2017 at 5:43 PM Updated Nov 6, 2017 at 5:55 PM

HYANNIS — Vineyard Wind will host two public open houses this week for Barnstable and Yarmouth residents to learn more about offshore wind and a grid/cable connection planned for the towns.

The Barnstable open house will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the cafeteria at Barnstable Intermediate School, 895 Falmouth Road in Hyannis. The Yarmouth event is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Senior Center, 528 Forest Road in West Yarmouth.

Vineyard Wind is proposing to build an offshore wind energy project 30 miles south of Martha's Vineyard that would power more than 450,000 Massachusetts homes each year.



Vineyard Wind to celebrate opening of New Bedford office

By Jennette Barnes

Posted Jun 25, 2017 at 7:39 PM Updated Jun 25, 2017 at 7:39 PM

NEW BEDFORD — Offshore wind energy developer Vineyard Wind, which opened a New Bedford office in the Bank of America building in the spring, will hold a ribbon cutting and reception June 29.

Vineyard Wind is one of three developers vying to build the first utility-scale wind-power project off the coast of Massachusetts.

The event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. at 700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510.

The next day, a request for proposals is due out for wind projects. A state law signed last summer requires electricity distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil — to buy long-term contracts for at least 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power in the next decade, enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

The electric companies have to solicit bids jointly by June 30 for the first project, which must provide at least 400 megawatts of power.

Scheduled to attend the Vineyard Wind opening are New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell and state Representatives Antonio Cabral (D-New Bedford), Pat Haddad (D-Somerset), Robert Koczera (D-New Bedford), and Paul Schmid (D-Westport).

Vineyard Wind is excited to be part of the community, spokesman John Lamontagne said in an interview.

Erich Stephens, CEO of Vineyard Wind, said in a press release that the company is thrilled to have local leaders join the celebration.

“Offshore wind will bring real economic opportunity to this region,” he said.

Vineyard Wind’s project area is about 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard.

Of the three wind developers, two — Vineyard Wind and Deepwater Wind — have offices in New Bedford. DONG Energy has an office in Boston.



With Cape Wind's demise, Alliance vows 'never again'

Posted Dec 8, 2017 at 3:01 AM

Now that Cape Wind is officially kaput, the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound has a new rallying cry: Never again.

“Sixteen years ago a coalition of business and political leaders, Cape Cod and Island communities, Native Americans and fishermen, pilots and environmental advocates – all stood united to say ‘no’ to a massive private development that would have ruined the national treasure that is Nantucket Sound,” a statement from the alliance said on Dec. 1, shortly after Cape Wind revealed it had ceased development of its proposed offshore wind farm project in the Sound.

“Today, I am thrilled to say that fight to stop Cape Wind is finally over,” said Audra Parker, president of the alliance.

“Cape Wind has announced it has abandoned its misguided plan to develop the Sound and is giving up its lease to 46-square miles of seabed. The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound intends to move forward with the strong and determined coalition we have forged to make certain that never again is a private developer given the rights to land that belongs to all of us.”

The controversial Cape Wind proposal to build 130 turbines in the Sound, within sight of the Cape coast on a clear day, was revealed in 2001 and in the years that followed was reviewed by many local, state and federal agencies.

The project suffered hefty blows when Eversource and National Grid in 2015 terminated their contracts to buy power from Cape Wind. Without those deals in place, the state Energy Facilities Siting Board last year said it wouldn't extend permits it had issued seven years earlier.

However, renewable energy supporters take heart: There's another project on the horizon that plans to install up to three wind farms about 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard in the next 10 years.

This newest generation of turbines stands more than 500 feet high and can produce 6 megawatts of power – about three times as much as each of Cape Wind's original 130 turbines would've produced.

It's Vineyard Power, a nonprofit electricity cooperative with a goal to "make the Vineyard carbon neutral by 2050." It has partnered with Vineyard Wind, which is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Avangrid Renewables.

"Vineyard Power is a co-op representing 5,000 residents on the Vineyard," its spokesman Richard Andre explained at a presentation early this year before the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance.

"We got involved in 2009 as a response to Cape Wind and formed the cooperative. The Department of the Interior intends to lease the ocean for wind development off Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket," he said.

Vineyard Wind said its federal permitting process is expected to continue through 2019. It expects construction to begin in 2020, and the farm could be operational in 2022 or 2033.