# EVERSOURCE STANDARD OF CONDUCT GOVERNING ACTIVITY RELATED TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AND SOLICITATIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES

Effective: January 1, 2023

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Eversource commits to comply with all laws and regulations, rules, and standards and codes of conduct governing utility interactions by and between affiliate companies to ensure that the Eversource electric distribution companies (The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy) (collectively "Eversource EDCs" with each individual company an "Eversource EDC") do not provide an unfair competitive advantage, preferential treatment, or improper subsidy to Eversource's competitive energy affiliates, including specifically its offshore wind affiliates ("Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliates").
- 12. Eversource acknowledges the need to follow certain additional standards of conduct to ensure:
  - 1.2.1. Competitive solicitations for clean energy resources, including specifically offshore wind, are conducted in a fair, transparent and competitive manner;
  - 1.2.2. All applicable laws and regulations, rules, and standards and codes of conduct, including specifically those relating to such **Competitive Energy Solicitations**, are observed;
  - 1.2.3. All potential bidders in **Competitive Energy Solicitations** are treated fairly and equitably and are provided the same access to solicitation-related information as an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**;
  - 1.2.4. No potential bidder in a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**, including specifically an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**, receives preferential treatment, subsidy or confidential, non-public information not available to other potential non-affiliated bidders;
  - 1.2.5. No potential bidder in a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**, including specifically an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**, is given an unfair competitive advantage;
  - 1.2.6. No costs and expenses of **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliates** are cross-subsidized by customers of the **Eversource EDCs**; and
  - 1.2.7. Eversource employees, consultants or representatives do not engage in conduct that creates an actual or apparent conflict of interest in connection with any **Competitive Energy Solicitations**.

## 2. PURPOSE

21. This **Standard of Conduct** is effective on *January 1, 2023*, and establishes protocols and standards to govern the conduct of Eversource employees, consultants and representatives in connection with (a) Eversource's ownership interest in, and development, construction, operation and maintenance of, competitive energy projects, including specifically offshore wind, and/or the development and submission of bids in connection with **Competitive Energy Solicitations**; and (b) the planning, conduct, administration, or oversight of **Competitive Energy Solicitations**, where an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate** may be or is a bidder.

### 3. **DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1. *Competitive Energy Solicitation*—Any solicitation process seeking competitive bids for renewable or clean energy resources or products sponsored, overseen or regulated by state or federal regulatory bodies in which an **Eversource EDC** is participating.
- 32. Confidential Business Information ("CBI")—Confidential and proprietary business information of the company, including technical, financial, commercial, marketing, intellectual property or other business information. This also includes confidential Critical Infrastructure Information vital to electric, transmission, generation, and distribution operations. Critical Infrastructure Protection ("CIP") information designated as such by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") CIP standards, and critical energy infrastructure information ("CEII") designated as such by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC").
- 33. *Confidential Competitive Energy Solicitation Information ("CCESI")*—Confidential, non-public information, including **CBI** relating to:
  - 3.3.1. The planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** or an RFP issued in connection therewith, or the evaluation of bids or proposals, or the selection of proposed projects in connection with any such **Competitive Energy Solicitation** or an RFP issued thereunder;
  - 3.3.2. The planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of a proposal in response to an RFP issued in connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** on behalf of an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**; or,
  - 3.3.3. The negotiation of any contracts with any selected bidder.
- 34. **Eversource Bid Team**—Eversource employees, consultants and representatives who participate on behalf of an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**, including specifically an offshore wind affiliate, in the planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of a proposal in response to an RFP in, and/or the negotiation of any contracts pursuant to, a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**.
- 35. **Eversource Common Supervisor**—Eversource supervisory employees who are not members of an **Eversource Bid Team** or **Eversource Evaluation Team** and who directly or indirectly supervise in the normal course of their job responsibilities one or more employees participating (a) on an **Eversource Bid Team** and (b) on an **Eversource Evaluation Team**.
- 3.6. **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate**—Eversource affiliate company that is engaged in the sale or marketing of electricity, renewable generation or energy-related services on a competitive basis.
- 37. **Eversource Evaluation (Buy) Team**—Eversource employees, consultants and representatives who participate on behalf of an **Eversource EDC** in the planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of an RFP issued in connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**, and/or the evaluation of proposals, selection of proposed projects, negotiation of any agreements, and related filings with state and/or federal regulatory authorities on behalf of an **Eversource EDC** in connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**.
- 38. **Eversource Senior Executives**—The CEO and Executive Vice Presidents of Eversource Energy and Eversource Energy Service Company, as applicable.
- 39. Standard of Conduct—This Eversource Standard of Conduct Governing Activity Related to

- Offshore Wind Development and Solicitations for Clean Energy Resources (Effective *January 1*, 2023.
- 3.10. For purposes of this **Standard of Conduct** "representatives" shall be deemed to include legal counsel.

### 4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. Bid & Evaluation Teams—Eversource employees, consultants and representatives participating in a Competitive Energy Solicitation will be a member of an Eversource Bid Team or an Eversource Evaluation Team. No Eversource employees, consultants or representatives participating in a Competitive Energy Solicitation may be a member of both an Eversource Bid Team and an Eversource Evaluation Team or may change from one team to the other (a) during the same or successive Competitive Energy Solicitation processes; and (b) for a period of at least two (2) years from the termination of their last participation on a Bid or Evaluation Team in a prior Competitive Energy Solicitation process, whichever is longer.
  - 4.1.1. Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to the Massachusetts 83C Round 4 Competitive Energy Solicitation, there shall be no switching from one team to the other if the person participated in one or more Competitive Energy Solicitations under Section 83C or 83D as an Eversource Evaluation Team or Eversource Bid Team member prior to the effective date of this Standard of Conduct.
  - 4.1.2. For any Massachusetts Competitive Energy Solicitation following 83C Round 4 where the person switching from one team to the other is due to an ordinary, non-temporary change in job title and/or responsibilities and is otherwise allowed, Eversource shall post on the website for the **Competitive Energy Solicitation** in which that person is first participating as a member of the opposite team:
    - 4.12.1. the identity of any **Eversource Bid Team** member in a past solicitation who has become an **Eversource Evaluation Team** member in the current solicitation;
    - 4.122. the identity of any **Eversource Evaluation Team** member in a past solicitation who has become an **Eversource Bid Team** member in the current solicitation; and
    - 4.123. the person's new job title and/or responsibilities.
  - 4.1.3. The confidentiality obligations under this **Standard of Conduct** shall continue to apply to all persons who switch from one team to the other as described below in Sections 5.7 and 6.2.
- 42. **Rosters**—Eversource will develop and maintain rosters of Eversource employees, consultants and representatives participating in a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** as members of an **Eversource Bid Team** or an **Eversource Evaluation Team**. Rosters will be posted on the Compliance & Me site on the Eversource HUB and will be reviewed and updated at least quarterly by the Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer in consultation with the leads from the **Eversource Bid Teams** and **Eversource Evaluation Teams**, as well as the leadership of the **Competitive Energy Affiliates**.
  - 4.2.1. In addition, in connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** in Massachusetts, Eversource will, if required,
    - 42.1.1. Post on the designated clean energy solicitation website in a timely fashion the names of Eversource employees, consultants and representatives participating in a

Competitive Energy Solicitation as members of an Eversource Bid Team or an Eversource Evaluation Team.

- 42.12. Provide the Independent Evaluator (if one is appointed) in a timely fashion, with
  - 42.12.1. a list of job titles and organizational roles of members of **Eversource Bid Teams** and **Eversource Evaluation Teams**; and
  - 42.122. the names of **Common Supervisors** of members of **Eversource Bid Teams** and **Eversource Evaluation Teams**, along with their job titles and organizational roles.
- 43. Common Supervisor Mitigation Plans—Eversource Common Supervisors will develop a written mitigation plan setting out the controls they and their reports who are members of Eversource Bid Teams and Eversource Evaluation Teams will implement to ensure compliance with the Standard of Conduct, including specifically the confidentiality and no-conduit requirements, and provide them to Eversource's Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer.
- 44. **Badging**—In connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation**, members of an **Eversource Bid Team** and an **Eversource Evaluation Team**, will be assigned colored ID badge holders to wear to enable easy visual identification of their status as follows:
  - 4.4.1. Eversource Evaluation Team members will wear a red ID badge cover; and
  - 4.4.2. Eversource Bid Team members will wear a green ID badge cover.
- 45. **Compliance**—The degree of participation and the conduct of an **Eversource EDC** or an **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate** in a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** will be consistent with, and in compliance with, applicable state and federal laws, regulations and orders.
- 46. Affiliate Disclosures—The Eversource EDCs agree to request the inclusion of a requirement, in any RFP issued in connection with a Competitive Energy Solicitation, that bidders disclose any affiliation, ownership interest, financial interest, or other potential conflict of interest with any electric distribution companies involved in the solicitation process.
- 4.7. Legal Representation—Eversource Bid Team and Eversource Evaluation Team will be represented by separate in-house legal counsel and, where practicable, by separate outside counsel during a Competitive Energy Solicitation; however, to the extent any outside law firm represents both the Eversource Bid Team and the Eversource Evaluation Team, such firm must establish ethical walls within their firm pursuant to a written mitigation plan to ensure separation of attorneys supporting an Eversource Bid Team and those supporting an Eversource Evaluation Team.
- 48. Independence—An Eversource Bid Team and Eversource Evaluation Team participating in a Competitive Energy Solicitation will report through and operate within independent companies, business units or departments to the extent reasonably feasible, based on the corporate and organizational structure of Eversource at the time. Where not reasonably feasible, Eversource will take measures to ensure compliance with this Standard of Conduct.

# 5. STANDARDS & CONTROLS

5.1. Communication & Training—Eversource will communicate the standards under the Standard of Conduct to all Eversource employees, consultants and representatives serving on an Eversource Bid Team and an Eversource Evaluation Team, as well as all Eversource Common Supervisors and Eversource Senior Executives and provide them with appropriate initial and

- periodic refresher training and awareness communications.
- 52. Certifications—All Eversource employees, consultants and representatives serving on an Eversource Bid Team or Eversource Evaluation Team, as well as all Eversource Common Supervisors and Eversource Senior Executives, shall certify in writing at the beginning of each Competitive Energy Solicitation process in which they participate that they reviewed, understand, and agree to comply with the Standard of Conduct in a form consistent with Appendix A, and will certify in writing at the conclusion of each Competitive Energy Solicitation process in which they participate that they complied with and did not violate the Standard of Conduct during the solicitation process in a form consistent with Appendix B.
- 53. Non-Discrimination/No Preferential Treatment—Eversource Evaluation Team members shall not treat the bid or proposal of an Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate (including any bid or proposal in which an Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate is participating) in a preferential manner or treat any other bid in a discriminatory manner. This requirement shall also apply to Common Supervisors and/or Senior Executives to the extent they participate in the bid selection process.
- 5.4. Expense Reporting; No Cross-Subsidization—The Eversource Bid Team will properly report their time, services and expenditures pursuant to Eversource procedures to prevent cross-subsidization of an Eversource Bid Team member, or Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate by the Eversource EDCs and their customers.
- 55. Confidentiality—Members of an Eversource Bid Team shall not directly or indirectly share, discuss or disclose CCESI with members of an Eversource Evaluation Team. Members of an Eversource Evaluation Team shall not directly or indirectly share, discuss or disclose CCESI with members of an Eversource Bid Team.
  - 5.5.1. No Eversource employee, consultant or representative who is not an Eversource Evaluation Team member, Eversource Senior Executive or Eversource Common Supervisor shall be given access to CCESI pertaining to the planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of the solicitation process or an RFP issued in connection therewith, or the evaluation of proposals, or the selection of, or negotiations pertaining to, proposed projects in connection with the solicitation process or an RFP issued thereunder.
  - 5.5.2. No Eversource employee, consultant or representative who is not an Eversource Bid Team member, Eversource Senior Executive or Eversource Common Supervisor shall be given access to CCESI pertaining to the planning, conduct, administration, endorsement, or oversight of the development of a proposal in response to an RFP issued in connection with the solicitation process on behalf of a Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate.
- 5.6. No Conduit Requirements—In addition to the confidentiality requirements for members of Eversource Bid Teams and Eversource Evaluation Teams, no Eversource employees, consultants or representatives not members of an Eversource Bid Team or an Eversource Evaluation Team, may be a conduit for communicating directly or indirectly any CCESI to other employees not authorized to access the CCESI, including specifically as follows:
  - 5.6.1. Eversource Senior Executives and Common Supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance of their direct and indirect reports with the Standard of Conduct and may not be a conduit for communicating directly or indirectly any CCESI:

- 5.6.1.1. Obtained or learned from a member of an **Eversource Evaluation Team** with a member of an **Eversource Bid Team**; or
- 5.6.12. Obtained or learned from a member of an **Eversource Bid Team** with a member of an **Eversource Evaluation Team**
- 5.6.13. Except as allowed under the rules of the specific **Competitive Energy Solicitation** or the **Standard of Conduct**.
- 5.7. *CCESI from Prior Solicitation Processes*—The confidentiality and no-conduit obligations apply to CCESI developed and related to prior Competitive Energy Solicitations unless and to the extent that such information is in the public realm.
- 58. *Information Security Controls*—Each Eversource Bid Team or Eversource Evaluation Team will have access to a secure file share and/or Microsoft Teams/SharePoint location for the development, access and maintenance of CCESI and other information related to the Eversource Bid Team or Eversource Evaluation Team, as applicable.
  - 5.8.1. Access to the secure information location will be limited to individuals who are members of an **Eversource Bid Team** or **Eversource Evaluation Team** who have completed their initial **Standard of Conduct** training and have certified that they reviewed, understand, and agree to comply with the **Standard of Conduct**.
  - 5.8.2. The Eversource Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer will control access to the secure locations.
- 59. Competitive Energy Solicitation Meetings—There shall be no meetings of one or more Eversource Bid Team members and one or more Eversource Evaluation Team members relating to a Competitive Energy Solicitation at which CCESI or any other non-public information relating to a Competitive Energy Solicitation is discussed or disclosed or that otherwise violates the terms of the applicable Request for Proposals for Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Projects, including specifically Sections 1.4 and 1.6.
- 5.10. Competitive Energy Solicitation Communications—There shall be no correspondence or communications related to a Competitive Energy Solicitation in which CCESI or any other non-public information relating to a Competitive Energy Solicitation is discussed or disclosed, where such communication or correspondence is sent to one or more Eversource Bid Team members and one or more Eversource Evaluation Team members, or that otherwise violates the terms of the applicable Request for Proposals for Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Projects, including specifically Sections 1.4 and 1.6.
- 5.11. Communicating Standard of Conduct Questions & Suspected Violations—Questions regarding compliance with the Standard of Conduct, as well as reasonably suspected violations of the Standard of Conduct shall be promptly communicated to the Eversource Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer.
- 5.12 Violations of the Standard of Conduct; Mitigation Plan; Reporting—When the Eversource Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer becomes or is made aware of any reasonably suspected violation of the Standard of Conduct, he shall promptly investigate to determine whether a violation has occurred. If he concludes a violation of the Standard of Conduct has occurred, he will document the nature of the violation, including its materiality, and develop an appropriate plan to cure or mitigate the impact of the violation and to prevent the prospect of reoccurrence.

- 5.12.1. In connection with **Competitive Energy Solicitations** in Massachusetts, the Eversource Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer shall promptly inform the Independent Evaluator, if one is appointed, of the nature of a violation or reasonably suspected violation of the **Standard of Conduct**, his opinion with respect to its materiality, and a plan, if any, to cure or mitigate the impact of the violation or reasonably suspected violation and to prevent the prospect of reoccurrence.
- 5.12.2. In connection with, and near or following the end of, a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** in Massachusetts, and upon the request of the Independent Evaluator (if one is appointed), the Eversource Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer shall confirm Eversource's compliance with the **Standard of Conduct** during the solicitation process in a form similar to **Appendix C**, with any appropriate qualifications under the circumstances.
- 5.13. Evaluation & Selection of Proposals—Since Eversource participants in a Competitive Energy Solicitation are divided into an Eversource Evaluation Team and an Eversource Bid Team subject to the terms of the Standard of Conduct, the Eversource Evaluation Team members may participate, as contemplated under the rules of the particular solicitation process or RFP issued thereunder, in the evaluation or selection of proposed projects submitted by an Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate, and the negotiation of contracts relating to any projects selected in connection with a Competitive Energy Solicitation or an RFP issued thereunder, including any submitted by an Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliate.
  - 5.13.1. Eversource will ensure that all interactions, discussions, communications and negotiations between any **Eversource Bid Team** members and **Eversource Evaluation Team** members are in full compliance with:
    - 5.13.1.1. all applicable state statutory and regulatory requirements;
    - 5.13.12. all federal statutory and regulatory requirements including the FERC Standards of Conduct for Transmission Providers, as detailed in FERC Orders 717, 787 and 807;
    - 5.13.13. any compliance plan, standards of conduct or tariff filed by the **Eversource EDCs** with FERC or any state regulatory agency; and
    - 5.13.14. all other applicable laws, regulations, rules, standards and codes of conduct, including any standard or code of conduct specific to the **Competitive Energy Solicitation** in question governing interactions between the **Eversource EDCs** and their **Eversource Competitive Energy Affiliates**.
    - 5.13.15. This Standard of Conduct.
- 5.14. Eversource may take further actions above and beyond those required under this Standard of Conduct as it considers necessary or appropriate to avoid an actual or perceived conflict of interest in connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** or an RFP issued thereunder or to reduce the possibility of non-compliance with the **Standard of Conduct**.

### 6. TERMINATION OF STANDARD OF CONDUCT

- 6.1. In connection with a **Competitive Energy Solicitation** process or an RFP issued thereunder, this **Standard of Conduct** will remain effective for members of any **Eversource Bid Team** and **Eversource Evaluation Team** participating in the solicitation process and their **Eversource Common Supervisors** until the earlier to occur of:
  - 6.1.1. The conclusion of all regulatory filings or approval proceedings resulting from the

solicitation process;

- 6.1.2. The execution of all power purchase or other agreements by the participating **Eversource EDC** with the selected bidder(s); or
- 6.1.3. The termination or abandonment of the solicitation process followed by any necessary or appropriate regulatory approvals.
- 62 Notwithstanding the above, the confidentiality and no-conduit obligations under this **Standard of Conduct** pertaining to **CCESI** will remain in effect and survive the termination of this Standard of Conduct.

EVERSOURCE ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY on behalf of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Duncan R. MacKay

Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer

Eversource Energy Service Company

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860-665-3495

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## Appendix A

## **CERTIFICATION**

I certify that I reviewed the EVERSOURCE STANDARD OF CONDUCT GOVERNING ACTIVITY RELATED TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AND SOLICITATIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES, and have reviewed the Standards of Conduct Training, understand its terms and conditions, and agree to follow and be bound by the standards, including specifically the confidentiality and no-conduit rules, set forth therein.

If I have any questions regarding compliance with or interpretation of the Standard of Conduct, including any potential violations of its terms, I will promptly notify the Eversource Chief Compliance Officer, Duncan R. MacKay, Deputy General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer (<u>Duncan.MacKay@Eversource.com</u> or 860-665-3495).

Signed:	
	Please indicate your role(s)
Printed Name:	Eversource Common Supervisor
	Eversource Evaluation/Buy Team
Title:	Eversource Bid Team
	Eversource Senior Executive
Dated:	
Supervisor Name:	-
Title:	_

### **APPENDIX B**

## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I participated on the Eversource [Evaluation/Bid] Team in connection with the Massachusetts 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process. As part of this certification, I certify that (a) I completed the training required under section 5.1 of the EVERSOURCE STANDARD OF CONDUCT GOVERNING ACTIVITY RELATED TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AND SOLICITATIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ("Standard of Conduct"); (b) I affirmed my commitment to honor and comply with the Standard of Conduct during the 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process by signing a Certification in a form similar to Appendix A of the Standard of Conduct; (c) I honored and complied with the Standard of Conduct throughout the 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process; and, (d) I have no knowledge, and no reason to believe, that there has been any failure to comply with the Standard of Conduct during the 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process.

Signed:
Printed Name:
Title:
Dated:
Supervisor Name:
Title:

#### APPENDIX C

## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I am the Eversource Chief Compliance Officer, and I certify that Eversource has complied with the EVERSOURCE STANDARD OF CONDUCT GOVERNING ACTIVITY RELATED TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AND SOLICITATIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ("Standard of Conduct") that applied to the Massachusetts 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process for Energy and Renewable Energy Certificates from Offshore Wind Resources under Section 83C of the Massachusetts Green Communities Act, as amended, and Section 21(a) of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018.

As part of this certification, I certify that: (a) the training required under Section 5.1 of the Standard of Conduct was conducted for Eversource Evaluation Team and Bid Team members and for Eversource Common Supervisors; (b) all such persons affirmed their commitment to honor and comply with the Standard of Conduct in a form consistent with Appendix A of the Standard of Conduct; (c) all such persons certified in writing at or near the conclusion of the 83C Round 4 Solicitation Process that they honored and complied with the Standard of Conduct in a form consistent with Appendix B of the Standard of Conduct; and (d) I have no knowledge, and no reason to believe, that there has been any failure to comply with the Standard of Conduct.

Signed:
Printed Name:
Timed Ivaine.
Citle:
Dated: