



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
RESOURCES**

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August 7, 2025

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C of Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008, as Amended

Dear Secretary Marini:

On August 23, 2023, the Department of Public Utilities (Department) issued a final Order approving the proposed timetable and method for the fourth solicitation (83C Round IV RFP) for offshore wind energy generation pursuant to Section 83C of the Green Communities Act, St. 2008, c.169, as amended by the Energy Diversity Act, and the Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind (Section 83C).¹ The RFP was proposed jointly by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Companies), modified by the Department, and issued publicly on August 30, 2023.

After receiving and evaluating bids pursuant to the Round IV RFP, on September 6, 2024, DOER selected three projects, the Avangrid Renewables, LLC New England Wind 1 Bid, 791 MW Proposal; the SouthCoast Wind Multi-State Bid, 1087 MW Proposal; and the Vineyard Offshore Multi-State Vineyard Wind 2 Bid, 800 MW Proposal to enter into contract negotiations with the Companies.² On June 30, 2025, the Companies notified the Department that due to ongoing uncertainty from federal level activities, the two remaining counterparties, Avangrid and SouthCoast Wind, have not yet completed their contract negotiations and are now targeting the completion of the Section 83C Round IV negotiations and execution of contracts on or before December 31, 2025.

¹ 83C Round IV RFP, D.P.U. 23-42, Order (Aug. 23, 2023).

² Vineyard Offshore subsequently withdrew the Vineyard Wind 2 project from contract negotiations.

Section 83C requires DOER to establish a staggered procurement schedule that ensures any subsequent solicitation occurs within 24 months of a previous solicitation.³ In accordance with this mandate, on October 29, 2024, DOER in consultation with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General (AGO) issued a Request for Quotes for a Section 83C Round V Independent Evaluator (IE) and contracted with the Round V IE on February 19, 2025.⁴ DOER convened a Section 83C Round V RFP kick-off meeting on April 22, 2025, with the Companies, AGO, and IE (Drafting Parties). Given the ongoing Section 83C Round IV contract negotiations and uncertainty from the federal government, the Drafting Parties issued a Request for Public Comment to prospective bidders and public stakeholders soliciting feedback on, amongst other issues, prospective bidders' intent to bid into Round V and a preferred procurement schedule that would maximize cost-effectiveness and benefits for Massachusetts electric ratepayers in the context of the current industry landscape.⁵ Commenters overwhelmingly recommended not issuing a Round V RFP until 2026 at the earliest, referencing federal policy uncertainty such as the Presidential Memorandum halting federal permitting of wind projects⁶, ensuing litigation challenging that Memorandum, availability of the investment tax credit, and tariff uncertainty, as well as ongoing Round IV contract negotiations.⁷

Following prior Section 83C solicitations, the Department directed future Drafting Parties to make improvements to the subsequent solicitation based on lessons learned from the prior solicitation.⁸ Section 83C Round IV contract negotiations need to conclude⁹ for such improvements to be fully understood and completely incorporated into the Round V procurement process.

Given the ongoing Section 83C Round IV contract negotiations, coupled with uncertainty from the federal government pertaining to offshore wind permitting and generally, at this time, the Drafting Parties do not anticipate submitting a draft 83C Round V RFP containing a proposed timetable and method of solicitation for Department review until at least 2026. DOER will continue to inform the Department of the progress towards the submittal of a draft 83C Round V RFP for Department review and approval.

³ St. 2022, c. 179, § 61(b).

⁴ Section 83C(f).

⁵ Massachusetts 83C Round V Offshore Wind Solicitation, Request for Public Comment (available at <https://macleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/83c-r5-request-for-public-comment-final-052225.pdf>).

⁶ "Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf From Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects." January 20, 2025 (available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/>).

⁷ See, e.g., Ocean Winds Comments, at 3, Vineyard Offshore Comments, at 2, Conservation Law Foundation Comments, at 3 (available at <https://macleanenergy.com/83c-v-request-for-public-comments/>).

⁸ See, e.g., *83C Round III*, DPU 22-70/-71/-72, *Order*, at 18 (Dec. 30, 2022) (indicating the Department's expectation that the Drafting Parties will consider other stakeholders' input on process improvements when drafting the RFPs for future solicitations).

⁹ *Id.*

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES**

By its attorneys:

s/Ben Dobbs

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