

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held in the City of  
Albany on February 22, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

John B. Rhodes, Chair  
Gregg C. Sayre  
Diane X. Burman  
James S. Alesi

CASE 18-E-0071 - In the Matter of Offshore Wind Energy.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DRAFT GENERIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AS COMPLETE

(Issued and Effective February 22, 2018)

BY THE COMMISSION:

In August 2016, the Public Service Commission (Commission) issued an Order Adopting a Clean Energy Standard (CES or CES Order).<sup>1</sup> In the CES Order, the Commission recognized the development of offshore wind generation as one of numerous avenues required to achieve the State's renewable energy goals. The Commission also requested the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to identify the appropriate mechanisms and best solutions the Commission and State may wish to consider in developing an offshore wind program and maximizing the potential for offshore wind in New York.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Case 15-E-0302, Proceeding to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard, Order Adopting A Clean Energy Standard (issued August 1, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 103.

On January 29, 2018, NYSERDA filed a report titled "Offshore Wind Policy Options" (Offshore Options) paper. The Offshore Options paper is a component of New York State's Offshore Wind Master Plan,<sup>3</sup> based on in-depth research, analysis, and outreach by NYSERDA, to inform a path for meeting a goal of 2,400 MW of offshore wind energy generation by 2030. The Offshore Options paper proposes that there be two initial annual offshore wind procurement rounds of at least 400 MW each in 2018 and 2019. The Offshore Options paper proposes funding the procurements through an obligation on all electric retail load serving entities (LSEs), similar to the LSE obligation in the CES. The Offshore Options paper does not propose development of a particular offshore wind generation facility or site. Rather, it includes various financing options intended to broadly apply to the development of multiple projects, over time, in different locations that will result in the installation of 2.4 GW of offshore wind generation capacity by 2030 with the ability to deliver electricity to be consumed by New Yorkers. The financing options are all intended to procure 2.4 GW of offshore wind generation capacity and the environmental impacts are not expected to vary among the options presented.

The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GEIS), prepared pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the State's procurement of this 2.4 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030, and builds upon and incorporates by reference relevant material from NYSERDA's Offshore Wind Master Plan. The Offshore Wind Master Plan consists of 20 studies, the Offshore Wind Policy Options paper

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<sup>3</sup> Additional information regarding the Offshore Wind Master Plan can be found at <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshorewind>.

and various analyses and appendices compiled in furtherance of cost-effective development of offshore wind.

The Commission resolves:

1. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GEIS) prepared in connection with proposed actions by the Commission regarding establishment of an offshore wind procurement program, is accepted as complete.

2. Written comments on the Draft GEIS will be accepted if received at the Commission's Albany office on or before the close of business on Monday, April 9, 2018.

3. A Notice of Completion of Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, including the deadline for public comments, shall be issued and filed by the Secretary in accordance with the requirements of the SEQRA regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and in substantial conformance with the Appendix attached hereto.

4. In the Secretary's sole discretion, the deadlines set forth in this order may be extended. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for the extension, and must be filed at least one day prior to the affected deadline.

5. This proceed is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 18-E-0071 - In the Matter of Offshore Wind Energy.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

(Issued )

NOTICE is hereby given that the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission), as lead agency, has completed and accepted a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GEIS) in connection with proposed actions by the Commission to potentially approve an Offshore Wind program for the procurement of 2.4 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030. The address of the lead agency is Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350. The Draft GEIS has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law [State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)]. The proposed actions are "unlisted actions" as classified pursuant to SEQRA and would be located throughout the entire offshore wind energy area under consideration in the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>4</sup>

Copies of the Draft GEIS are available to the public at the Commission's Albany office at Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350 (Central Files, 14th Floor) and at the Commission's New York City Office at 90 Church Street, New York, NY 10007-2919 (Central Files, 4th Floor). An electronic copy of the Draft GEIS is also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.dps.ny.gov>. For additional information contact John

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<sup>4</sup> New York State, Area for Consideration for the Potential Locating of Offshore Wind Energy Areas (accessed January 4, 2018). <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-programs/Programs/Offshore-Wind/New-York-Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan/Area-for-Consideration>

Garvey, New York State Department of Public Service, 90 Church Street, New York, New York 10007 at (212)417-2200.

The Commission is undertaking this Draft GEIS in order to analyze and consider, in general and conceptual terms, the manner in which the State may fulfill its goal of procuring 2,400 MW of offshore wind energy. This Draft GEIS also evaluates the general, potential impacts of the Proposed Action, without identifying any direct effect on the environment at any specific location, and builds upon and incorporates by reference relevant material from NYSEDA's Offshore Wind Master Plan.<sup>5</sup>

Written comments on the Draft GEIS will be accepted if received at the Commission's Albany office on or before the close of business on Monday, April 9, 2018. Comments may be submitted by e-filing through the Department's Document Matter and Management System (DMM)<sup>6</sup> or by e-mail to the Secretary at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov). Those unable to submit their comments electronically may mail or deliver their comments to Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. All comments submitted to the Secretary will be posted on the Commission's website and become part of the official case record.

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Offshore-Wind/New-York-Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan>

<sup>6</sup> How to register with DMM, <http://www.dps.ny.gov/e-file/registration.html>