



Board Secretary Aida Camacho-Welch
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: In the Matter of Offshore Wind Transmission, BPU Docket No. QO20100630

Dear Board Secretary Camacho-Welch:

March 28, 2022

I am very pleased to submit this letter of support for the New Jersey Seawind Connector project (NJSC), as proposed by NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic Holdings, LLC, as part of the Board of Public Utilities' process under the State Agreement Approach (SAA). The NJSC is designed to help facilitate New Jersey's clean energy future and promote the efforts of the Murphy Administration and the NJBPU to meet the state's goal of 7,500 MWs of offshore wind by 2035 – which is paramount for our state.

Our organization believes the NJSC proposal strongly supports these goals in several environmentally significant ways that will minimize the environmental impacts of the transmission project. First it is forward-looking: it accommodates potential future OSW growth sparing the BPU from having to go back and do the same project again. Second, the NJSC proposal minimizes the number of interconnections and cables coming to the Shore. Third, in doing so, the proposal maximizes the amount of MWs coming on to the Shore in an environmentally efficient and least disruptive manner.

The linchpin of harnessing the benefits of offshore wind is finding responsible and environmentally friendly interconnection points with public support and which minimize or eliminate other environmental tradeoffs. Simply put, if we cannot bring the power onshore and connect it to the grid, offshore wind will never meet its true potential.

There are few things more important to New Jerseyans than protecting our environment, which is critical not only for our health and the health of our ecosystem, but for New Jersey's culture, history and the future of our communities. We've become acutely aware of the impact that ignoring the warnings of climate change have in terms of severe weather events, impacts to endangered species and habitat, and rising sea levels at the Shore. Incorporating responsibly developed offshore wind infrastructure is critical to our state's clean, renewable energy future. We must act quickly, and the state's environmental mandate of a 50% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2030 and the requirements of the Global Warming Response Act and Governor Murphy's recent Executive Order 274 to reduce climate pollutants by 50% by 2030 all point to the same conclusion – the need for a massive ramp-up of clean, renewable energy via offshore wind and to facilitate the ability of the industry to scale.

New Jersey has been examining offshore wind for close to 20 years since the creation of the Offshore Wind Blue Ribbon Panel under Acting Governor Dick Codey in 2004. We applauded Governor Murphy's historic commitment to New Jersey's clean, renewable energy future through Executive Order 92, including adding 7,500 MW of offshore wind to the State's and region's electric grid by 2035. In fact,

this is just the fraction of the benefit we can achieve from offshore wind as documented by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and released in reports from our organization. The winds that blow off our Atlantic Coast could provide 40% of the electricity Americans use today and are a critical element of how we can ultimately achieve 100% clean, renewable energy.

The BPU's SAA approach is designed to integrate offshore wind in the most environmentally-responsible manner, recognizing that environmental protection and preservation is a paramount priority. The NJSC embodies these characteristics and I appreciate the Board's careful consideration of this project as it works through this critically important process.

Our organization supports equitable transmission approaches that not only maximize environmental protections, but also supports local labor, presents a reasonable cost, and minimizes risk to ratepayers. The SAA incorporates a competitive approach to reviewing qualified bidders, which enables the Board and the state's consumers to take advantage of the creativity and cost-effectiveness that this process embodies, all while protecting the environment.

New Jerseyans understand the importance and urgency of addressing the climate change crisis – and its human and ecological costs – and the support for offshore wind runs deep across partisan lines throughout the state, with support topping more than 80 percent. NJSC offers a clean, renewable energy solution while doing so in a way that respects the interests of consumers and the environment. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug O'Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

Doug O'Malley
State Director
Environment New Jersey

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