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Lt. Governor

BRIAN O. LIPMAN Director

April 27, 2022

Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Carmen Diaz, Acting Board Secretary NJ Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 1st Floor, P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Ocean Wind, LLC Pursuant

to N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) for a Determination that Easements Across

Green Acres-Restricted Properties and Consents Needed

for Certain Environmental Permits in, and with Respect to, the City of

Ocean City are Reasonably Necessary for the Construction or Operation of the Ocean Wind 1 Qualified Offshore Wind Project

BPU Docket No. QO22020041

Dear Acting Secretary Diaz:

Pursuant to the procedural schedule issued by President Fiordaliso on March 22, 2022, please find attached the direct testimony of Maximilian Chang filed on behalf of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel in connection with the above-referenced matter.

Consistent with the Order issued by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities in *In the Matter of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Temporary Waiver of Requirements for Certain Non-Essential Obligations*, BPU Docket No. EO20030254, Order dated March 19, 2020, this document is being electronically filed. No paper copies will follow. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O. Lipman, Esq.

Director, Division of Rate Counsel

By: /s/ Maura Carosellí

Maura Caroselli, Esq. Deputy Rate Counsel

MC Enclosure

cc: Service List

In the Matter of the Petition of Ocean Wind, LLC Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) for a Determination that Easements Across Green Acres-Restricted Properties and Consents Needed for Certain Environmental Permits in, and with Respect to, the City of Ocean City are Reasonably Necessary for the Construction or Operation of the Ocean Wind 1 Qualified Offshore Wind Project BPU Dkt. No. QO22020041

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
PETITION OF OCEAN WIND,)
LLC PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 58:3-)
87.1(F) FOR A DETERMINATION)
THAT EASEMENTS ACROSS)
GREEN ACRES-RESTRICTED)
PROPERTIED AND CONSENTS)
NEEDED FOR CERTAIN) BPU DOCKET NO. QO22020041
ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS IN,)
AND WITH RESPECT TO THE)
CITY OF OCEAN CITY ARE)
REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR)
THE CONSTRUCTION OR)
OPERATION OF THE OCEAN)
WIND I QUALIFIED OFFSHORE)
WIND PROJECT)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MAXIMILIAN CHANG ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

BRIAN O. LIPMAN, ESQ. DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL 140 EAST FRONT STREET, 4th FLOOR P.O. BOX 003 TRENTON, NJ 08625

FILED: APRIL 27, 2022

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Attachment 1

1 I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS 2 Q. Please state your names, positions, and business address. 3 A. My name is Maximilian Chang. I am a Principal Associate with Synapse Energy 4 Economics, an energy consulting company located at 485 Massachusetts Avenue, 5 Cambridge, Massachusetts. 6 On whose behalf are you submitting testimony in this proceeding? Q. 7 A. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel 8 ("Rate Counsel"). 9 Q. Mr. Chang, please describe your professional background at Synapse Energy 10 **Economics.** 11 My experience is summarized in my resume, attached as Attachment 1. I am an A. 12 environmental engineer and energy economics analyst who has analyzed energy 13 industry issues for 13 years. In my current position at Synapse Energy Economics, 14 I focus on economic and technical analysis of many aspects of the electric power 15 industry, including: (1) utility mergers and acquisitions, (2) utility reliability 16 performance and distribution investments, (3) nuclear power, (4) wholesale and 17 retail electricity markets, and (5) offshore wind. 18 Q. Mr. Chang, please describe your educational background. A. 19 I hold a Master of Science degree from the Harvard School of Public Health in 20 Environmental Health and Engineering Studies, and a Bachelor of Science degree

from Cornell University in Biology and Classical Civilizations.

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Q. Mr. Chang, have you previously submitted testimony before the Board of

2 **Public Utilities?**

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3 A. Yes. I filed testimony before the Board in several dockets, including, but not 4 limited to: I/M/O the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company for Approval of an 5 Energy Efficiency Program ("EEP") with an Associated Energy Efficiency Tracker ("EET") Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1, BPU Docket No. GO12050363; 6 7 I/M/O the Merger of Exelon Corporation and Pepco Holdings, Inc., BPU Docket 8 No. EM1406581; I/M/O the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company for 9 Establishment of a Storm Hardening Surcharge, BPU Docket No. ER14030250; 10 I/M/O the Merger of the Southern Company and AGL Resources, Inc., BPU 11 Docket No. GM15101196; I/M/O the Application of PSEG Nuclear, LLC and 12 Exelon Generation Company, LLC for the Zero Emission Certificate Program -13 Salem Unit 1, BPU Docket No. ER20080557, I/M/O the Application of PSEG 14 Nuclear, LLC and Exelon Generation Company, LLC for the Zero Emission Certificate Program - Salem Unit 2, BPU Docket No. ER20080558, and I/M/O the 15 Application of PSEG Nuclear, LLC for the Zero Emission Certificate Program – 16 Hope Creek, BPU Docket No.ER20080559; I/M/O the Petition of Public Service 17 18 Electric and Gas Company for Approval of the Second Energy Strong Program 19 (Energy Strong II), BPU Docket Nos. EO18060629 and GO18060630; I/M/O the 20 Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light Company for Approval of an 21 Infrastructure Investment Program, BPU Docket No. EO18070728; and I/M/O the 22 Petition of Atlantic City Electric Company for Approval of an Infrastructure

- Investment Program, and Related Cost Recovery Mechanism, Pursuant to
 N.J.A.C. 14:3-2A.1, et seq., BPU Docket No. EO18020196.
- 3 Q. Mr. Chang, have you previously testified before utility regulatory agencies or
- 4 legislative bodies?
- 5 A. Yes. I have previously testified before the District of Columbia Public Service 6 Commission, the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, Illinois State Senate, the 7 Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, the Maine Public Utilities Commission, the 8 Maryland Public Service Commission, and the Massachusetts Department of 9 Public Utilities. I have also filed testimony before the Delaware Public Utilities 10 Commission, the Kansas Commerce Corporation, the Illinois Commerce 11 Commission, the United States District Court for the District of Maine, and the 12 Virginia State Corporation Commission.

13 II. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

14 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

15 A. The purpose of my testimony is to review the petition¹ filed by Ocean Wind, LLC

("Company" or "Ocean Wind") requesting a determination from the New Jersey

Board of Public Utilities ("Board") that its preferred onshore export cable route is

reasonably necessary for the construction and operation of the 1,100 megawatt

("MW") Ocean Wind I project. Ocean Wind also requests the Board to find and

¹ I/M/O the Petition of Ocean Wind, LLC Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f) for a Determination that Easements Across Green Acres-Restricted Properties and Consents Needed for Certain Environmental Permits in, and with Respect to, the City of Ocean City are Reasonably Necessary for the Construction or Operation of the Ocean Wind 1 Qualified Offshore Wind Project, BPU Docket No. QO22020041.

determine that the easements described in its petition over property owned by

Ocean City (which are Green Acres-restricted) are reasonably necessary for the

construction and operation of the Ocean Wind 1. Lastly, Ocean Wind requests the

Board issue an Order approving the acquisition of the necessary easements across

the subject properties.

Q. Please summarize your findings and recommendations.

- 7 A. My findings and recommendations are summarized as follows:
 - Ocean Wind's preferred plan requires "access" over Green Acres designated parcels along 35th Street and Roosevelt Boulevard in Ocean City, New Jersey.²
 - Ocean Wind's preferred plan would impact 0.658 acres of Green Acre parcels.³ This reflects a reduction of 0.18 acres discussed in the Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson, attached as Exhibit OW-2 to the petition,⁴ and the petition of Ocean Wind.⁵
 - Ocean Wind must provide compensation for its proposed diversion of Green
 Acre-restricted parcels at a ratio of at least ten-to-one.⁶ Ocean Wind should
 solely bear the total cost of the Green Acre reimbursement and ratepayers
 should bear none of the reimbursement costs.

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³ Response to RCR-INF-3.

² <u>Id.</u> at ¶ 13.

⁴ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson at p. 12, line 1.

⁵ Petition at ¶ 29.

⁶ <u>See</u> N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.10(g), Table 1.

- Ocean Wind did not provide the projected costs of its preferred onshore export cable route, or the alternatives⁷ evaluated by the Company.
 - Ocean Wind contends that its preferred plan is the shortest route to the B.L England (BLE) substation point of interconnection (POI) with PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM").⁸ However, Ocean Wind also identified an alternative route that follows the path of an abandoned railroad right-of-way that may be longer in distance but may result in fewer disturbances. Nonetheless, Ocean Wind qualitatively eliminated this alternative route.⁹
 - The Board-ordered¹⁰ transmission upgrade cost allocation methodology caps

 Ocean Wind's contribution to any transmission upgrade at \$116 million, and

 provides that any transmission upgrade costs over \$174 million will be borne

 entirely by ratepayers.¹¹
 - Should the Board grant Ocean Wind its requested easements, I recommend that the Board require Ocean Wind demonstrate that its preferred plan is also the least cost plan to minimize the cost impact to ratepayers, or show why the least-cost plan is not a reasonable alternative.

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¹⁰ I/M/O the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation for 1,100 MW – Evaluation of the Offshore Wind Applications, BPU Docket No. QO18121289, Order dated June 21, 2019, at p. 18.

⁷ Response to RCR-INF-1.

⁸ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson at p. 9, line 12.

⁹ <u>Id.</u> at p. 7, lines 5-8.

 $^{^{11}}$ In this example, Ocean Wind's portion would be: (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.7+\$10 million. The rate payer portion would be: (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.3.

III. OCEAN WIND'S PREFERRED PLAN

2 Q. Please summarize the Company's proposed plan.

A. Ocean Wind's petition describes the Company's plans to install its export cables from its offshore wind turbines along a proposed route that follows 35th Street in Ocean City, along Roosevelt Boulevard, and then crossing Peck Bay to a route that eventually connects to a substation located at the former BLE generating station where it will interconnect with the PJM grid as described in more detail in Ocean Wind's petition.¹²

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Q. Please describe your understanding of the Board's obligations in this

proceeding.

It is my understanding that the Board must make a determination that the Company's preferred plan is "reasonably necessary for the construction or operation of the qualified offshore wind project or open access offshore wind transmission facility." If the Board finds that the Company's petition is consistent with the "reasonably necessary" standard, then the applicable statute states

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the board shall issue an order approving the acquisition of the requested easement, right-of-way, or other real property interest, and notwithstanding the provisions of any other State law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, such order shall effectuate the qualified offshore wind project's or the open access offshore wind transmission facility's property interest and shall be recorded by the appropriate county recording officer at the request of the qualified offshore

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¹² Petition at ¶ 13.

¹³ N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f)(2) (2021).

2 3		facility. ¹⁴
4	Q.	Has the Company provided a cost estimate for its proposed plan?
5	A.	No. Instead, Ocean Wind contends that:
6		[M]any of Rate Counsel's requests seek information
7		relating to the cost of alternatives considered by Ocean
8		Wind. Given the structure of the Board of Public Utilities'
9		[Offshore Renewable Energy Certificate] OREC Order and
10		award, the financial risk and costs association with
11		alternative routes falls largely on Ocean Wind. With the
12 13		exception of the transmission system upgrade cost sharing
13 14		mechanism, it is Ocean Wind, and not New Jersey electric utility ratepayers, that bears the risk of the project costs. 15
15		utility fatepayers, that bears the risk of the project costs.
16		Accordingly, Ocean Wind did not provide any cost estimates for its preferred plan
17		or any of the qualitatively evaluated alternative paths. 16
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19	Q.	Do you agree with the Company's contention regarding the financial risks
20		and costs of the project costs?
21	A.	While the Company is correct that it bears some risk of the project cost, and that
22		ratepayers share risks for the transmission system upgrade costs, the Board
23		approved the OREC price based on public and confidential information provided
24		by Ocean Wind. The Board should have to the opportunity to review ongoing
25		project costs to ensure that the approved OREC price was reasonable to incent the
26		development of offshore wind.

^{14 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>
15 Introductory Statement Applicable to All Responses Below, provided by Ocean Wind with Responses to RCR-INF-1 through RCR-INF-17, Apr. 4, 2022.
16 Response to RCR-INF-1.

Q. Has the Company identified specific transmission system upgrade costs in

2 this petition?

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- 3 A. No, the Company's Petition does not explicitly identify any related transmission
- 4 system upgrade costs.

5 Q. Does the Company identify substation upgrades in its petition?

A. Yes, in response to the Board's Supplemental Question 4, the Company provided a limited narrative of the required substation upgrade costs that would be required at the BLE, Higbee, and Ontario substations. Specifically, Ocean Wind noted that the BLE substation would be "able to receive up to 432 MW without any upgrades" but in the next sentence, Ocean Wind noted that there would need to be a substation upgrade of \$1.5 million. In the same response, Ocean Wind indicated that the Higbee and Ontario substations would require significant upgrades since the operating voltage for both substations would need to change from 69 kilovolt ("kV") to 138 kV, and that both substations would not be able to handle the injection of capacity from Ocean Wind I. Ocean Wind further indicated that upgrades for the Higbee substation could cost in the range of \$350 million. Ocean Wind further reiterated those preliminary estimates in the Response to RCR-INF-9.

¹⁷ Response to BPU Supplemental Question 4.

¹⁸ <u>Ibid.</u>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

 $[\]frac{1}{\text{Response}}$ to RCR-INF-9.

Q. Do you have concerns about the need for upgrades for the BLE substation?

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2 A. Yes, as noted in the response to the Board's Supplemental Question 4, Ocean 3 Wind stated that the BLE substation would be able to receive 432 MW without 4 any upgrades. The remaining 668 MW from the 1,100 MW Ocean Wind I would interconnect at the Oyster Creek substation.²². However, Ocean Wind did not 5 provide any specific upgrade cost information. I find the lack of cost information 6 7 to be problematic to ensure that Ocean Wind's preferred option is reasonable, if 8 not the least cost option with regard to the transmission upgrade costs that would 9 be shared by ratepayers.

Q. If there are no specific transmission system upgrade costs specified in the petition, why are you concerned about costs to ratepayers?

A. When the Board issued its 2019 Order approving the Ocean Wind project, the Board contemplated that there would be transmission upgrade costs expected to be between \$36 to \$130 million. Ocean Wind anticipates that the Ocean Wind project will require transmission upgrade work even with the proposed BLE and Oyster Creek substation POIs, since the Ocean Wind project will inject more power into the transmission network than B.L England (450 MW) and Oyster Creek (636 MW) generating stations that formerly occupied the two respective

Offshore Wind Applications, BPU Docket No. QO18121289, Order dated June 21, 2019, at p. 18.

Ocean Wind. Construction and Operations Plan Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm. Volume 1. March 2021 at p. 56. Available at https://www.boem.gov/ocean-wind-construction-and-operations-plan
 I/M/O the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation for 1,100 MW – Evaluation of the

locations.²⁴ At this time there appears to be limited opportunities for stakeholders to provide input to the Board as Ocean Wind embarks on its process to install 1,100 MW of offshore wind. There is a nexus between the decisions about the easements for the export cable routes and the substation requirements, which then impact the POI for the project. These decisions, in turn, impact what transmission upgrades will be required for the project. Later on in my testimony, I illustrate how the Board's transmission upgrade cost sharing allocation appears to create an incentive for the Company to propose more expensive transmission upgrades since the Company's cost share becomes capped if there is a transmission upgrade cost of more than \$174 million.²⁵

IV. GREEN ACRES IMPACTED PARCELS

12 Q. Please summarize the identified Green Acres parcels.

A. Ocean Wind contends that its preferred path would require the diversion of two
parcels of land that are described in the petition and its response to RCR-INF-3.
The two parcels amount to 0.658 acres. In addition, the Company provides
another detailed description with overlayed maps of the two easement areas in
Appendix D of Witness Pilar Patterson's Direct Testimony. In note that the
Company's acreage in the response to RCR-INF-3 differs from the Company's

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 $\frac{1}{1}$ Response to RCR-INF-3.

²⁴ Ocean Wind. Construction and Operations Plan Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm. Volume 1. March 2021 at p. 23.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson, Appendix D.

Petition, which indicates that the parcels amount to 0.838 acres. ²⁹ The Company 1 2 should be required to explain the discrepancy. Since Rate Counsel had limited 3 opportunity for discovery in this matter, I was unable to determine the reason for 4 the discrepancy.

Q. Does Ocean Wind have a proposed compensation amount for the Green

Acres easement areas?

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A. Yes. Ocean Wind provided an appraisal value of the two parcels in response to RCR-INF-3.³⁰ Specially, Ocean Wind's appraiser determined that the easements for the two parcels have an appraised value of \$20.500.³¹ Ocean Wind further 10 concludes that under N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.10(g), Ocean Wind is required to compensate the appropriate entity pursuant to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program rules a value based on a ratio of at least 10-to-one. When applied to Ocean Wind's appraised value, this results in an estimated compensation of \$205,000.

Do you have an opinion of the appraised value of the easements? Q.

A. I do not have an opinion of the appraised value of the easements since I am not an 16 17 appraiser. Moreover, the Company did not provide Rate Counsel with copies of the appraisals, despite the Company's reference to the same in a discovery 18 response.³² If and when the Company provides copies of the relied-upon 19 20 appraisals, other intervenors may have an opinion on the appraised value of the

²⁹ <u>Id.</u> at p. 12, line 1.

 $[\]frac{1}{100}$ Response to RCR-INF-3.

³¹ Ibid. 32 Ibid.

1 easements. I do believe that the acquisition of the easements should not be 2 considered a transmission upgrade cost, and the cost of the easement should be 3 the sole responsibility of Ocean Wind consistent with Ocean Wind's contention 4 that "the financial risk and costs association with alternative routes falls largely on Ocean Wind."³³ This is especially true since there are other proposed routes that 5 6 do not require easements over Green Acres' encumbered parcels. V. 7 **ALTENATIVE PATHWAYS** 8 Please summarize your findings regarding the Company's proposed Q. 9 alternative pathways analysis. While Ocean Wind provided six alternative routes, ³⁴ Ocean Wind did not provide 10 A. 11 quantitative estimates of the cost of each route. At a minimum, Ocean Wind 12 should provide an initial cost estimate of its preferred route with the cost estimate 13 of the least cost option, if it is not the preferred route. 14 Q. Please describe the Company's alternative route analysis as presented by the 15 Company. In response to the Board's Supplemental Question 1, Ocean Wind provided a 16 A. 17 table summarizing the project screening and siting criteria for the onshore export cable route. 35 I have excerpted those criteria in the table below: 18

³³ Introductory Statement Applicable to All Responses Below, provided by Ocean Wind with Responses to RCR-INF-1 through RCR-INF-17, Apr. 4, 2022.

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³⁴ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson, Appendix C.

³⁵ Response to BPU Supplemental Question 1.

1 Table 1 Ocean Wind Onshore Export Cable Selection Criteria 2

Minimize extreme changes in slope
Prioritize property availability, including State- and county-owned
roadways, and existing utility ROW.
Avoid known Superfund Sites or sites designated as hazardous
Avoid known locations of historic or archaeological resources.
Avoid or minimize number of infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, culverts)
crossings to reduce impacts to existing onshore infrastructure
Minimize impacts to wetlands and floodplains
Minimize the overall length of the route to minimize impacts to terrestrial
communities, wildlife species, and sensitive habitats
Minimize impacts to aesthetic resources
Minimize impacts to sensitive receptors such as hospitals, schools, and

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Q. Did the Company provide a summary of the length of road disturbed among

the considered onshore cable routes?

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A. Yes. In Response to Board's Supplemental Question 12, Ocean Wind provided a summary of the disturbed length of road for the six considered routes shown in Appendix C of Ms. Patterson's testimony. ³⁶ This table is shown below:

Table 2 Length of Disturbed Roadways of Proposed Cable Routes³⁷

Route Color	Location	Length of Road
		(miles)
Pink	5 th Street	7.7
Blue	13 th Street	6.6
Purple	Railroad	0.6
Green	Strathmere and Route 9	16.2
GSP	Sea Isle City and GSP	12.4
Orange	35 th Street	4.3
(Preferred)		

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Table 2 shows that the Company's preferred route has the shortest length of disturbed road in comparison to all of the other options with the exception of the

³⁷ Response to BPU Supplemental Question 12.

³⁶ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson, Appendix C.

purple railroad route ("Railroad Route"). The Railroad Route has a shorter disturbed road length distance since if follows the railroad right of way.

3 Q. Does the Company describe the railroad route and why it was not pursued?

A. Ocean Wind provides a qualitative description and analysis of the Railroad Route. In Response to the Board's Supplemental Question 13, Ocean Wind details the proposed Railroad Route would make landfall at 51st Street, and then follow an abandoned railroad right of way for the entirety of the proposed route to the BLE substation. Ocean Wind rejected the Railroad Route because it concluded that the "ROW includes several historic properties and designated historic districts, and impacting these resources would be inconsistent with the project siting criteria." Unfortunately, Ocean Wind did not conduct a cost estimate of either an overhead or underground route for the Railroad Route, so it is unclear if the longer Railroad Route would actually be more expensive than the preferred route. It believe the Board should investigate the Railroad Route more thoroughly before it determines that it is not preferable to the preferred route.

Q. Does Ocean Wind provide any quantitative analysis of the cost of the route alternatives?

18 A. No. Ocean Wind did not perform any quantitative analysis of the alternatives that it considered.⁴¹

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40 Response to RCR-INF-14. 41 Response to RCR-INF-6.

³⁸ Response to BPU Supplemental Question 13.

³⁹ Ibid

Q. Do you find this problematic?

A. While Ocean Wind is only required to demonstrate that its route is "reasonably necessary" in this proceeding, ⁴² Ocean Wind should provide the Board with information on the costs of the alternatives and preferred route to demonstrate that the preferred route is reasonably necessary relative to the alternatives. While Ocean Wind also bears some of the costs and financial risks of the export cable route, the choice of the export cable route to the point of interconnection may have impacts on the future transmission upgrades that would be required relative to other alternatives. As I describe below, ratepayers are obligated to pay for transmission upgrades under a Board-authorized transmission upgrade cost sharing mechanism.

Q. What is your recommendation for the Board pertaining to the preferred route and the evaluated alternatives?

I recommend that the Board require Ocean Wind to provide cost estimates of the preferred route and cost estimates of the alternatives evaluated by the Company. This information would provide support for the Board's decision if it determines that the orange preferred route is indeed "reasonably necessary."

A.

⁴² N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(f)(2).

VI. TRANSMISSION UPGRADE COST CONCERNS

2 Q. Please summarize your concerns regarding transmission upgrade costs.

While Ocean Wind's Petition concerns easements over Green Acres encumbered parcels that are required for the export cables from Ocean Wind I through Ocean City, the export cables will connect to the BLE substation as the POI with PJM. In this proceeding, Ocean Wind has only provided information that the BLE substation is currently capable of receiving 432 MW. 43 Ocean Wind indicated that it has not considered the Higbee and Ontario substations since both substations would need to be converted from 69 kV to 138 kV.44 While I have no reason to disagree with Ocean Wind's assessment, nonetheless Ocean Wind has not provided any cost estimates of the transmission upgrades required for any of the options considered. 45 Therefore, the Board does not know the actual transmission upgraded costs that may be imposed on ratepayers as a result of the implementation of the Ocean Wind I project. Since the Board is aware that future transmission upgrades will be necessary for Ocean Wind I to become operational, the feasibility and costs associated with these upgrades should be evaluated at this time.

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⁴³ Response to BPU Supplemental Question 4.

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ocean Wind has indicated that the Oyster Creek substation will be the other POI for the project.

1 Q. Did the Board require a cost sharing mechanism for transmission upgrade 2 costs? 3 A. Yes. The Board's Order for the approval of ORECs for Ocean Wind I detailed the 4 following transmission upgrade cost sharing mechanism: 5 First \$10 million: 100% Ocean Wind \$10 million to \$130 million: 70% Ocean Wind, 30% Ratepayers 6 7 \$130 million to \$174 million: 50% Ocean Wind, 50% Ratepayers 8 • Over \$174 million: 100% Ratepayers⁴⁶ 9 I note that it appears the Board chose the \$174 million based on Ocean Wind's 10 Downside Case of \$174 million and Ocean Wind's expected upgrade cost range 11 of \$36 to \$130 million at the time of the proceeding.⁴⁷ 12 Q. How does the transmission upgrade impact Ocean Wind? I believe the cost sharing mechanism does not create an incentive for Ocean Wind 13 A. 14 to find the least cost transmission upgrade solution since any transmission 15 upgrade cost above \$174 million will be borne by ratepayers. Effectively, the 16 transmission upgrade cost sharing mechanism caps Ocean Wind's transmission 17 upgrade costs at \$116 million. For illustrative purposes, I have created a table 18 below that demonstrates how the cost sharing mechanism flows to Ocean Wind 19 and ratepayers at various amounts:

⁴⁶ I/M/O the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation for 1,100 MW – Evaluation of the Offshore Wind Applications, BPU Docket No. QO18121289, Order dated June 21, 2019, at p. 18.
⁴⁷ Ibid.

Table 3 Illustrative Transmission Upgrade Costs and Cost Sharing Allocations based on Board-Approved Transmission Upgrade Cost Sharing 48

Illustrative Transmission Upgrade Costs (\$M)	Ocean Wind Obligation (\$M)	Ratepayer Obligation (\$M)
\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
\$75.00	\$55.50	\$19.50
\$125.00	\$90.50	\$34.50
\$175.00	\$116.00	\$59.00
\$200.00	\$116.00	\$84.00
\$250.00	\$116.00	\$134.00
\$300.00	\$116.00	\$184.00
\$350.00	\$116.00	\$234.00

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As shown in Table 3, any transmission upgrade cost that is above \$174 million will fall mostly to ratepayers. For example, transmission upgrade costs of \$175 million will require a cost share of \$116 million for Ocean Wind and \$59 million for ratepayers. ⁴⁹ If transmission upgrade costs are \$350 million, then Ocean Wind's cost share still remains at \$116 million whereas ratepayers' cost share rises to \$234 million. I have concerns that this cost sharing mechanism may unintentionally incent Ocean Wind to preference transmission upgrades that are not the least-cost or most efficient solution since Ocean Wind's investment in transmission upgrades are capped at \$116 million.

Q. Do you have any recommendations for the Board?

15 A. Yes. I recommend that the Board require Ocean Wind to provide an estimate of 16 transmission upgrade costs associated with each of the POI alternatives

⁴⁸ <u>Ibid.</u>

⁴⁹ In this example, Ocean Wind's portion would be: (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.7+\$10 million. The ratepayer portion would be: \$1 million + (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.3.

considered by the Company prior to finding that one of the routes is reasonably necessary. I understand that Ocean Wind may only be able to provide initial estimates, but I believe that timely and updated estimates will provide more clarity to ensure that Ocean Wind is pursuing a transmission solution for Ocean Wind I and other phases that is supported by engineering data at a reasonable cost to ratepayers.

7 VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Q. What are your findings and recommendations?
- 9 A. My findings and recommendations are summarized as follows:
 - Ocean Wind's preferred route requires "access" over Green Acres designated
 parcels along 35th Street and Roosevelt Boulevard.⁵⁰
 - Ocean Wind's preferred route would impact 0.658 acres of Green Acres parcels.⁵¹ This reflects a reduction of 0.18 acres discussed in the Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson⁵² and the application of Ocean Wind.⁵³
 - Ocean Wind must provide reimbursement for the diversion of the Green Acres parcels at a ratio of 10-to-one. ⁵⁴ If this route is approved, Ocean Wind should bear the additional cost of the Green Acres reimbursement, not ratepayers.
 - Ocean Wind did not provide the projected costs of its preferred route, including the transmission upgrades that will be necessary, or the alternatives

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⁵¹ Response to RCR-INF-3.

⁵⁰ Petition at ¶ 13.

⁵² Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson at p. 12, line 1.

⁵³ Petition at ¶ 29.

⁵⁴ <u>See</u> N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.10(g), Table 1.

- evaluated⁵⁵ by the Company. The Board should require this data in advance of approving the route.
 - Ocean Wind contends that its preferred route is the shortest route to the BLE substation POI with PJM. ⁵⁶ However, the Ocean Wind also identified an alternative that follows the path of an abandoned railroad right of way that may be longer in distance but may result in fewer disturbances. Ocean Wind qualitatively eliminated this alternative route. ⁵⁷ The Board should request further information about this Railroad Route.
 - The transmission upgrade cost allocation methodology caps Ocean Wind's contribution to any transmission upgrade at \$116 million based on a total transmission upgrade cost of \$174 million. Ratepayers bear 100% of any transmission upgrade costs above \$174 million. As a result, in order to fully evaluate the preferred route, the Board should request information on the costs associated with the transmission upgrades that will be necessary to make the approved route operational.
 - Should the Board grant Ocean Wind the requested easements, I recommend that the Board require Ocean Wind to demonstrate that its preferred route is also the least cost plan to minimize the cost impact to ratepayers.

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⁵⁵ Response to RCR-INF-1.

⁵⁶ Direct Testimony of Pilar Patterson at p. 9, line 12.

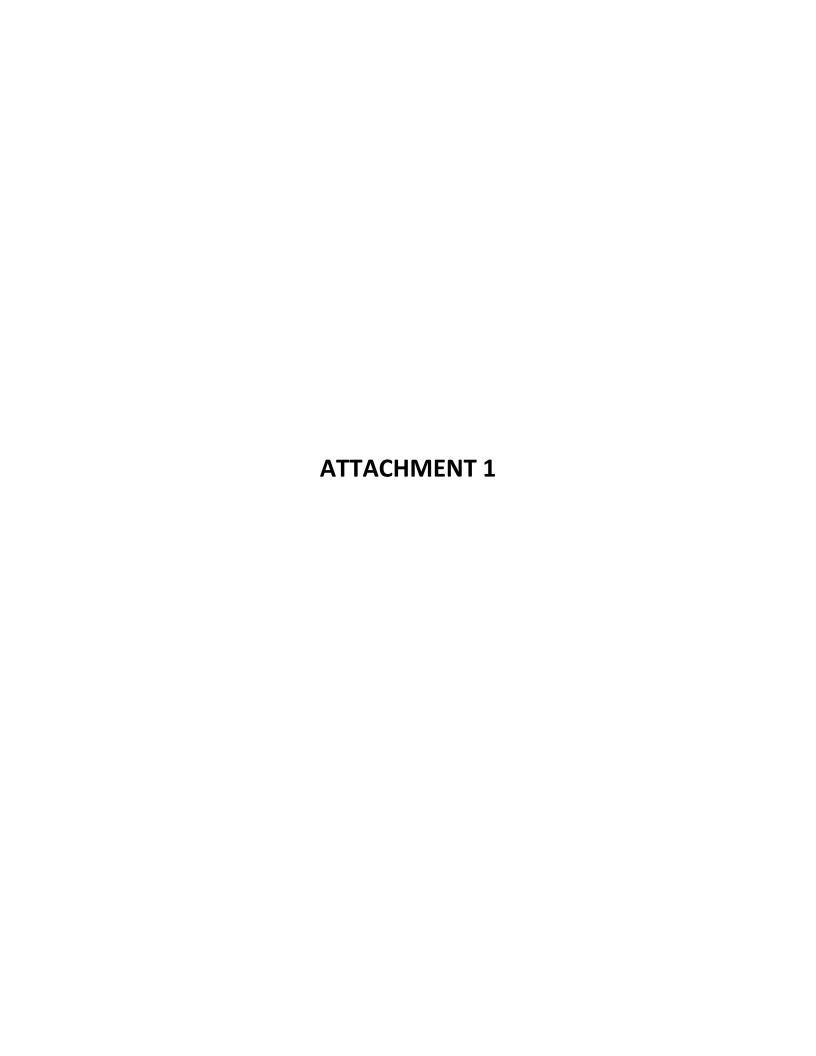
⁵⁷ Id. at p. 7, lines 5-8.

⁵⁸ In this example, Ocean Wind's portion would be: (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.7+\$10 million. The ratepayer portion would be: (\$174 million-\$130 million)*0.5 + (\$130 million -\$10 million)*0.3.

⁵⁹ I/M/O the Board of Public Utilities Offshore Wind Solicitation for 1,100 MW – Evaluation of the Offshore Wind Applications, BPU Docket No. QO18121289, Order dated June 21, 2019, at p. 18.

1 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

- 2 A. Yes. However, given the limited discovery process in this proceeding, I reserve
- my right to modify my testimony based on additional information provided by the
- 4 Company or other parties later in this proceeding.





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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Synapse Energy Economics Inc., Cambridge, MA. *Principal Associate*, 2013 – present, *Associate*, 2008 – 2013.

Consults and provides analysis of technologies and policies, electric policy modeling, evaluation of air emissions of electricity generation, and other topics including energy efficiency, consumer advocacy, environmental compliance, and technology strategy within the energy industry. Conducts analysis in utility rate-cases focusing on reliability metrics and infrastructure issues and analyzes the benefits and costs of electric and natural gas energy efficiency measures and programs.

Environmental Health and Engineering, Newton, MA. Senior Scientist, 2001 – 2008.

Managed complex EPA-mandated abatement projects involving polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in building-related materials. Provided green building assessment services for new and existing construction projects. Communicated and interpreted environmental data for clients and building occupants. Initiated and implemented web-based health and safety awareness training system used by laboratories and property management companies.

The Penobscot Group, Inc., Boston, MA. Analyst, 1994 – 2000.

Authored investment reports on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) for buy-side research boutique. Advised institutional clients on REIT investment strategies and real estate asset exchanges for public equity transactions. Wrote and edited monthly publications of statistical and graphical comparison of coverage universe.

Harvard University Extension School, Cambridge, MA. Teaching Assistant, 1995 – 2002.

Teaching Assistant for Environmental Management I and Ocean Environments.

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. Cancer Laboratory Technician, 1992 – 1994.

Studied the biological mechanism of tumor eradication in mouse and human models. Organized and performed immunotherapy experiments for experimental cancer therapy. Analyzed and authored results in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Master of Science in Environmental Science and Engineering, 2000

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Classics, 1992

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