



Outerbridge Renewable Connector Project

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Offshore Wind Transmission Proposal

**Additional Information Submitted to Support NJ Board of Public
Utilities in the Evaluation of Transmission Projects Proposed
Under the 2021 State Agreement Approach**

**** PUBLIC VERSION ****



ISSUE INFORMATION

Outerbridge New Jersey, LLC
1 Tower Center Blvd #11
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Certain information in this Additional Information Filing contains commercially sensitive business information and therefore has been redacted from this Public Version of the Applicant's submission.



September 30, 2022

Ms. Carmen Diaz
Acting Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625 – 0350

Via email to: Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Re: In the Matter of Offshore Wind Transmission, Docket No. QO10100630, Additional Information

Dear Acting Secretary Diaz,

Rise Light & Power, LLC, on behalf of our wholly-owned subsidiary Outerbridge New Jersey, LLC (collectively, "Rise") respectfully submits the following additional material information for consideration in connection with its evaluation of our Outerbridge Renewable Connector ("Outerbridge") project, submitted in response to the 2021 State Agreement Approach to Support New Jersey Offshore Wind ("SAA").

Since our last correspondence, Rise has completed three material tasks that mature and de-risk the Outerbridge project and keep it on-track for being in service as early as 2028:

1. We completed the field survey of our planned cable route along the Conrail Right of Way, as well as an independent engineer's review of the same, which provides further assurance that our planned cable route can reasonably be expected to be suitable for the infrastructure contemplated by the Outerbridge project.
2. [REDACTED]
3. We helped establish the New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce and Equity Community Development Corporation ("NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC") to ensure members of the BIPOC community have equal access to jobs in the offshore wind industry.



Additional Information #1: Completion of Field Surveys.

In Q1 2022, Rise engaged [REDACTED] a New Jersey based land surveying firm, to conduct a topographic survey of the 15 mile Conrail Right of Way (“ROW”), spanning from the Werner site in South Amboy to the Half Acre site in [REDACTED]. The survey was completed in early September and was subsequently reviewed by an independent engineer – [REDACTED].

The survey evaluated the specific alignment in which the Outerbridge project plans to install underground HVDC cables along the ROW, and gathered the data necessary to support Rise’s Application for Pipe or Wire Occupancy on Conrail property. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

An executive summary of [REDACTED] review is appended to this letter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Additional Information #3: Helped establish the New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce and Equity Community Development Corporation (“NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC”) so that members of the BIPOC community have equal access to jobs in the offshore wind industry.

Based on feedback from community leaders across New Jersey, Rise established the NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC to ensure the growth of the offshore wind industry will be inclusive of black, indigenous and people of color (“BIPOC”) and provide meaningful opportunities to disadvantaged communities. A common message from our discussions with community leaders is that the State would benefit from a



community organization focused on determining how best to fill the resource gaps that remain as barriers to participating in established training programs and/or accepting opportunities for employment. These include transportation, childcare, stipends for daily living expenses during training, and criminal record. Rise's response was to work with the faith community to provide the resources to launch this unique approach to community empowerment. Rise has committed to provide both the initial founding grant of \$1M and underwriting for startup organizational costs, the later not subject to an SAA selection.

The Board of Trustees of the NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC looks forward to working with the State to bolster workforce development for the offshore wind industry. Rise is not affiliated with the NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC, and its role is limited to that of a grantor. Rise encourages other companies in the offshore industry to partner the NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC so we can build towards a more inclusive workforce in the Garden State.

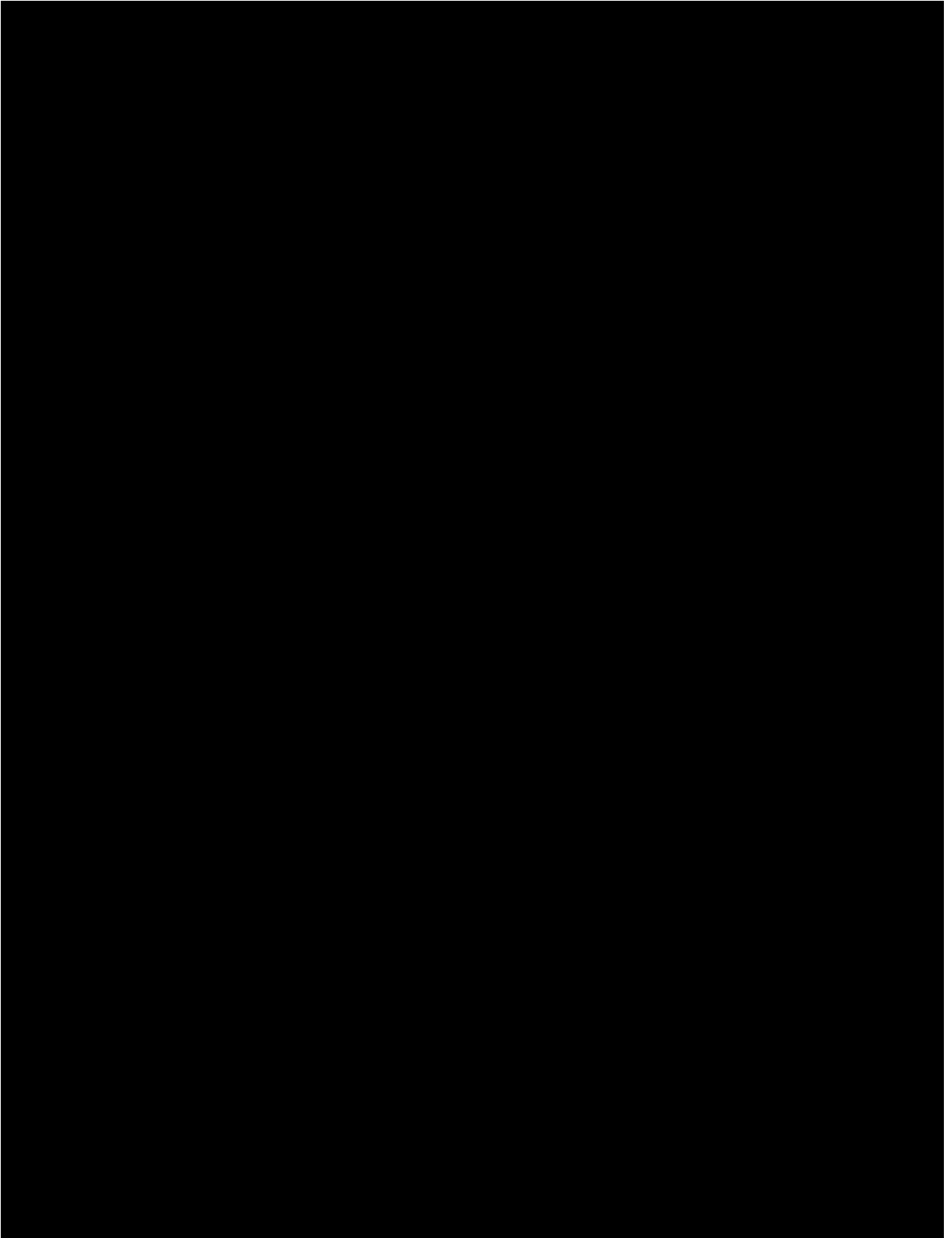
Rise appreciates this opportunity to provide additional information to the Board and its staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of further assistance.

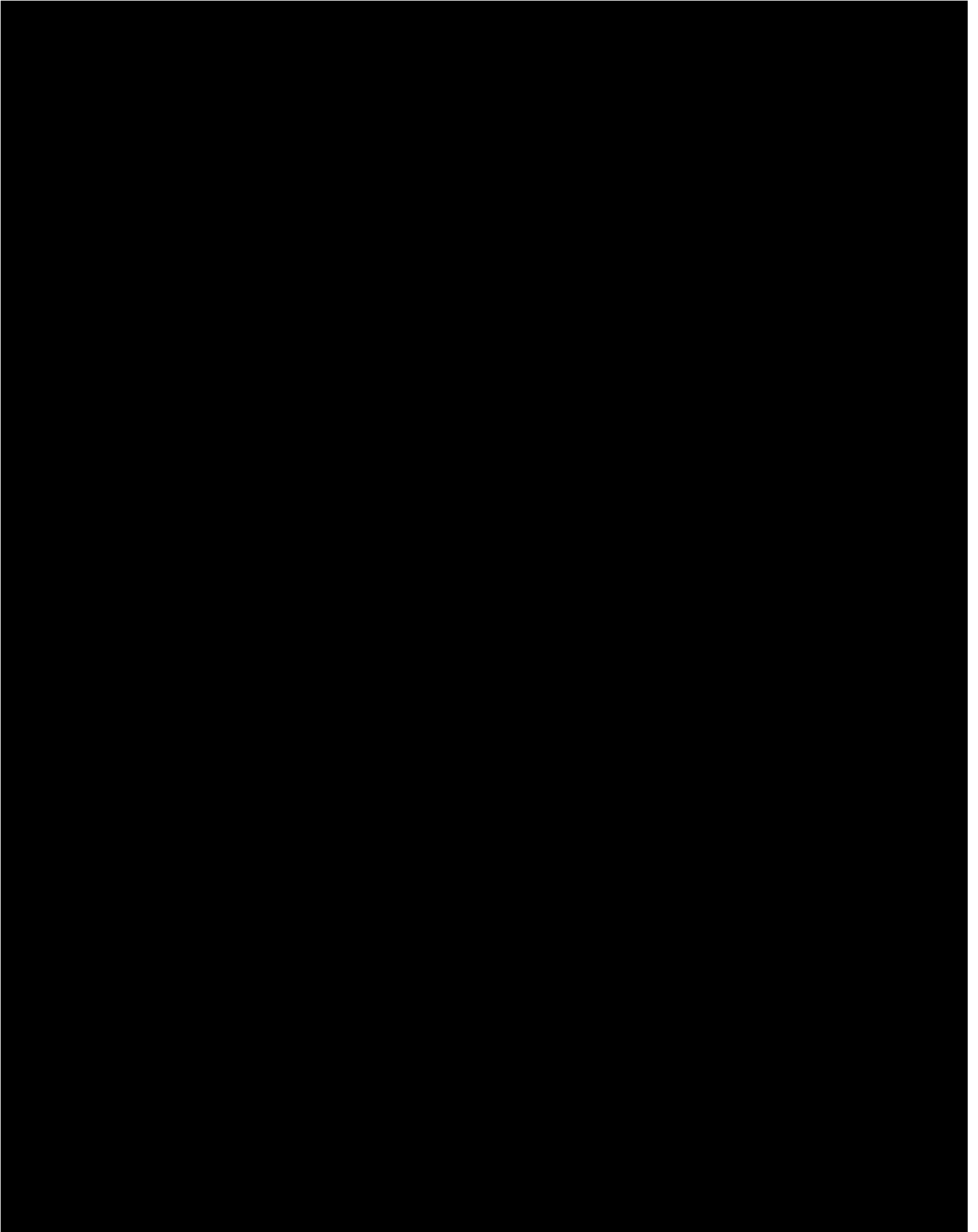
Respectfully,



Richmond Young
Director of Development
Rise Light & Power







Appendix 2: Op-Ed from President of NJ Offshore Wind Equity CDC



Why new nonprofit would increase access to clean energy jobs for people of color

N.J. Offshore Wind Workforce and Equity CDC has potential \$1M grant tied to Rise Light & Power's proposed Outerbridge Renewable Connector

By **The Rev. Joseph E. Woods, N.J. Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity CDC** (New Jersey) - September 27, 2022



The Rev. Joseph E. Woods is the pastor of the Saint Phillips Baptist Church of Hamilton and serves as president of the New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity Community Development Corp. - *New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity Community Development Corp.*

In addition to the promise of a healthier and more affordable state, New Jersey's transition to clean, affordable, renewable energy sources such as offshore wind also brings opportunities for high-quality jobs.

The clean energy sector is competitive and, while any hardworking person interested in learning the skills necessary to work in a clean energy economy should be invited to the table, systemic injustices prevent many Black, indigenous, people of color, women, veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals, while white men are employed at disproportionately higher rates than other workers.

Likewise, many of the jobs that go to union members present further obstacles for people in BIPOC communities that can't obtain licensure due to lack of education or finances — an issue of circumstances rather than potential skills. Nor are there sufficient opportunities to become a union member.

The numerous obstacles to green jobs that perpetuate inequity in the state's clean energy workforce were illuminated in a report by the Applied Economics Clinic, which found Black residents — who make up about 15% of New Jersey's population — are only 9% of our clean energy workforce. Many clean energy jobs are located near New Jersey's most overburdened communities — places with disproportionately high health and employment burdens, the report found.

Essex County, for example has the third-highest asthma hospitalization rate and the fifth-highest infant mortality rate in the state. Hudson County has the second-highest rate of people who lack health insurance and the fourth-highest unemployment rate in the state.

New Jersey's diversity must be honored and embraced in order for the state's offshore wind workforce to reflect the BIPOC demographic makeup.

The New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity Community Development Corp. [is a newly formed entity](#), committed to dismantling the systemic oppression and institutional barriers that perpetuate employment inequities in the BIPOC communities through advocacy, education and collaborative efforts with unions and others committed to elevate members of these communities and prepare them for competitive work in the clean energy infrastructure.

As a start, we look to capitalize on a \$1 million grant from [Rise Light & Power](#), pending approval of the [New Jersey Board of Public Utilities](#) to develop Rise's proposed Outerbridge Renewable Connector project to deliver electricity generated by offshore wind farms to the state's power grid — powering up to 1.4 million homes and business across New Jersey.

Our CDC intends to grow its industry partnership to include additional members. Our work includes developing and implementing an action plan to identify and prioritize programs that address obstacles to meaningful employment in the offshore wind industry, including lack of training, mentoring, apprenticeships and digital literacy.

This is not only crucial to understanding the offshore wind employment landscape, but also gives the CDC an opportunity to effectuate change through strategic partnerships, collaborations and programming devised to dismantle barriers that keep members of oppressed communities out of this employment landscape.

PUBLIC

Gov. Phil Murphy's 2018 Executive Order for 100% clean energy reliance by 2050 and New Jersey's 2019 Energy Master Plan serve as a roadmap for how to accomplish the feat. Our goal is ensuring that we *all* get there.



As leaders in New Jersey's faith community, we are committed to ensure clean energy is not solely about breathing of fresh air. We want to make sure there is a long overdue sigh of relief from longstanding systemic racism, lack of employment access and toxic facilities near residential communities that members in our BIPOC communities have experienced for far too long.

The state's transition from dirty fossil fuels is an opportunity to transform the lives of people who, for generations, haven't been prioritized or valued. It's time for New Jersey's clean energy workforce to reflect the rich diversity that our state is known for if we expect to be a true leader in this industry.

The Rev. Joseph E. Woods is the pastor of the [Saint Phillips Baptist Church of Hamilton](#) and serves as president of the [New Jersey Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity Community Development Corp.](#)

[The Rev. Joseph E. Woods, N.J. Offshore Wind Workforce & Equity CDC](#)

editorial@roi-nj.com

[@roinjnews](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Subscribe](#) [Media Kit](#) [Report News](#)
[Advertise](#) [Contact ROI-NJ](#)

FOLLOW US

