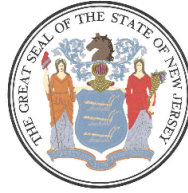


State of New Jersey
Governor Philip D. Murphy
Lt. Governor Tahesha L. Way



Christine Guhl-Sadovy
President

Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
Marian Abdou
Michael Bange
Commissioners

Board of Public Utilities



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NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE OPENING OF A SOLICITATION FOR A TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT TO SUPPORT NEW JERSEY'S OFFSHORE WIND PUBLIC POLICY

[Docket No. QO23100719](#)

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT

The Staff ("Board Staff" or "Staff") of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") hereby gives notice of a hybrid public stakeholder meeting to discuss the Prebuild Infrastructure ("PBI") in which all interested parties and members of the public are invited to participate.

See below for registration information. Pre-registration is required.

Background and Procedural History

On November 18, 2020, BPU formally requested that New Jersey's regional grid operator, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM") incorporate the State's then-current goal of 7,500 megawatts ("MW") of offshore wind ("OSW") by 2035 into the PJM transmission planning process through the SAA.¹ Under this process, Staff worked with PJM to include the State's OSW public policy requirement in a PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Plan ("RTEP") window that was opened in April 2021. PJM pre-qualified entities, including transmission developers, transmission owners, OSW generation developers, and other qualified firms ("Designated Entities") submitted competitive transmission proposals to PJM by the close of the New Jersey SAA 1.0 RTEP window on September 17, 2021.

PJM received 80 project proposals from 13 Designated Entity applicants. The proposals provided a wide variety of detailed OSW transmission solutions, cable corridors, cost estimates, delivery dates, proposals to phase construction, and other project details. After a thorough review by Staff, PJM, and The Brattle Group, Inc., the Board's consultant, on October 26, 2022, the Board awarded a series of projects to construct a portion of the onshore transmission facilities necessary to successfully deliver 7,500 MW of OSW to the electric transmission system in this State ("SAA 1.0").²

As part of the SAA 1.0 project awards, the Board gave special attention to additional transmission facilities, including the duct banks and associated cable vaults that would be required for use by subsequent qualified offshore wind projects ("QOWPs") to interconnect with the PJM high-voltage electric

¹ In the Matter of Declaring Transmission to Support Offshore Wind a Public Policy of the State of New Jersey, BPU Docket No. QO20100630, Order dated November 18, 2020 ("November 18, 2020 Order").

² In the Matter of Declaring Transmission to Support Offshore Wind a Public Policy of the State of New Jersey, BPU Docket No. QO20100630, Order dated October 26, 2022, at Appendix A ("October 26, 2022 Order" or "SAA 1.0 Order").

grid.³ These transmission facilities, referred to as the PBI, would be constructed between the landing point identified in SAA 1.0, the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center and the awarded point of interconnection (“POI”) with the PJM high-voltage electric grid, the Larrabee Collection Station (“LCS”). The PBI would minimize environmental and community impacts by consolidating the shore crossing and onshore cable corridors on route to the POI. Ultimately, the SAA 1.0 project awards contemplated that the PBI would be procured in a subsequent generation solicitation, later determined to be the Board’s third OSW solicitation (“Third Solicitation”). However, the Third Solicitation Solicitation Guidance Document (“S3 SGD”) indicated that the SAA might later be modified to include the PBI.⁴

On March 6, 2023, the Board approved and issued the S3 SGD.⁵ The S3 SGD required each Third Solicitation applicant to submit a separate application for the construction of the PBI to support up to four (4) future QOWPs in accordance with the requirements contained in the S3 SGD.⁶ On August 4, 2023, four (4) OSW developers submitted to the BPU applications for QOWPs, as well as separate applications for the PBI in accordance with the SGD (“S3 PBI Proposals”).

Staff reviewed the S3 PBI Proposals and found that the proposed cost of the PBI, given the requirement that the PBI could only be awarded to a developer who also receives an award as a QOWP as set forth in the S3 SGD, would impose an unreasonable burden on New Jersey’s ratepayers. On October 25, 2023, the Board rejected all of the S3 PBI Proposals and directed Staff to develop a separate solicitation for the PBI only.⁷

Pursuant to the Board’s direction, Staff developed a separate solicitation for the PBI (“the Prebuild Solicitation”) open to Designated Entities including transmission developers, transmission owners, OSW generation developers, and other qualified firms, in order to increase competition and lead to ratepayer savings. On November 17, 2023, the Board opened the Prebuild Solicitation solely for the PBI (“November 17, 2023 Order”).⁸

A hybrid public stakeholder meeting will be conducted on the following day and time so that members of the public may present their views on the proposed PBI project as described in the PBI solicitation guidance document.⁹

³ “Duct banks” are the concrete structure between cable vaults that house the necessary number of physically separate conduits (empty pipes) in which transmission cables can be installed (pulled through, from one point to another). “Cable vaults” are physically-separate, underground vaults (accessible through manhole covers), located at certain distances along the onshore cable route of the Prebuild Infrastructure, to allow each QOWP to install and maintain its own transmission cables without impacting other QOWPs’ transmission cables. See October 26, 2022 Order at 5.

⁴ BPU, S3 SGD, <https://njoffshorewind.com/third-solicitation/solicitation-documents/Final-Solicitation-Guidance-Document-with-attachments.pdf>, at A10-2 (“The Board and Board Staff will notify Applicants, as early as possible, if the SAA Project is chosen to develop the Prebuild Infrastructure.”)

⁵ In the Matter of the Opening of New Jersey’s Third Solicitation for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (OREC), BPU Docket No. QO22080481, Order dated March 6, 2023.

⁶ Id.

⁷ In the Matter of the Opening of New Jersey’s Third Solicitation for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (OREC), BPU Docket No. QO22080481, Order dated October 25, 2023.

⁸ In the Matter of the Opening of a Solicitation for a Transmission Infrastructure Project to Support New Jersey’s Offshore Wind Public Policy, BPU Docket No. QO23100719, Order dated November 17, 2023.

⁹ BPU, PBI SGD, <https://njoffshorewind.com/third-solicitation/solicitation-documents/Final-Solicitation-Guidance-Document-with-attachments.pdf>.

Hybrid Public Stakeholder Meeting Date and Start Time	Location - In-Person Public Stakeholder Meeting and Virtual Link or Call-in Information to Join the Public Stakeholder Meeting
October 1, 2024 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time (Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time)	Location of In-Person Public Stakeholder Meeting: Local 400, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 3301 NJ-138, Wall Township, New Jersey 07719 In-Person and Virtual Zoom Public Stakeholder Meeting Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Py15A2v2SrmKfCZsfd3Nyg (<u>Note</u> : If you are typing the URL, please use UPPERCASE for all capitalized letters.)

Representatives from Board Staff and technical experts will provide a presentation at the start of the stakeholder meeting to provide an overview of the PBI solicitation and address commonly asked questions. Members of the public are invited to express their views at the either virtually or in-person public stakeholder meeting. All comments will be part of the final record of the proceeding and will be considered by the Board. In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above public stakeholder meeting to the Secretary of the Board at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

With respect to the building for the in-person location, there is a mandated fire safety limit regarding the number of people such building is authorized to hold. Accordingly, to comply with this mandated limit, there are a limited number of spaces for in-person participation. **To attend in person, you must pre-register 48 hours before the event at the link above.** Please designate this during the online registration process at the link above. In-person registration will be accepted on a first-come basis.

The meeting will also be conducted virtually. **You must register before attending the meeting virtually at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date.** In order to encourage full participation, please submit any requests for needed accommodations and/or listening assistance, at least 48 hours prior to the above meeting date to the Secretary of the Board at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

If you are attending virtually and wish to reserve a speaking opportunity, please designate this during the online registration process. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and information about checking your system requirements in advance of the meeting. Please check your access devices in advance of the meeting to ensure that they will properly connect. **You will receive a link post-registration regardless if you chose to join virtually or in-person.**

Comments

The Board is also accepting written and/or electric comments.

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 15, 2024.

While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board's [Public Document Search](#) tool. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

E-mailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350.
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

All emailed or mailed comments should include reference to [Docket Number QO23100719](#).

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting them in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

Please direct all questions about this matter to: OSW.Stakeholder@bpu.nj.gov.

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your comments.

Sherri L. Golden
Sherri L. Golden
Secretary of the Board

Dated: September 16, 2024