



New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
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#NJChamberNow

September 25, 2024

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 S Clinton Ave
Trenton, NJ 08625

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

Dear New Jersey Board of Public Utilities:

By way of background, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce (“State Chamber”) has been in operation since 1911, advocating for initiatives that will improve New Jersey’s business climate and enhance job creation. With a broad-based membership ranging from Fortune 500 companies to the small mom-and-pop establishments, we represent every corner of the state and every industry sector.

The State Chamber supports offshore wind in New Jersey and the building of a new, clean energy industry that will spur significant economic growth in the Garden State. We need to increase renewable energy sources to meet our growing energy demands, and offshore wind is a viable opportunity to do this on the East Coast while creating thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity.

In relation to the wind industry, the State Chamber supports the Pre-Build Infrastructure (PBI) which is a critical piece of underground transmission infrastructure that will connect power generated by offshore wind to the Larrabee Collector Station. The PBI will include cable vaults, duct banks, and horizontal directional drilling boreholes.

The scope of the Prebuild includes all Cable Vaults, Duct Banks, and related facilities for four (4) separate Qualified Offshore Wind Projects. This coordinated onshore clean energy transmission corridor will provide savings for consumers and significantly reduce the development risk and any environmental impact. The PBI allows the state to have one point of cable landing instead of multiple points of interconnection for offshore wind projects across the shore. The PBI will run underground from the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center to the Larrabee Collector Station in Howell Township.

The installation of onshore cables to connect offshore wind farms to the grid is a proven, safe, and effective method used globally to integrate renewable energy into local and regional energy systems.

The onshore cables are essential to unlocking the opportunity that offshore wind will bring to New Jersey. Moreover, the economic benefits of offshore wind are significant. Offshore wind projects are expected to create thousands of high-quality, unionized jobs across a wide array of sectors, from construction to operations and maintenance. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has already invested in a state of the art wind port, positioning the state as a hub for offshore wind manufacturing and supply chain activity.

By activating the necessary onshore cable infrastructure, we ensure that these broader economic opportunities are realized, boosting local economies and businesses and providing long-term, sustainable employment.

The concerns about onshore cables can be addressed responsibly. Similar infrastructure projects for underground cables and utility systems have been executed for decades without significant disruption to communities. By following best practices in environmental science and engineering, such as proper siting, minimal disruption during construction, and adherence to all state and federal regulations, this infrastructure can be safely integrated into our communities.

It is this type of commitment that New Jersey should be seeking to achieve the State's economic and clean energy goals. As the longest serving member of the NJ Clean Air Council at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, my association recognizes the environmental benefits of offshore wind energy in improving air quality and creating a clean energy future for our residents and businesses.

We urge the BPU to prioritize the development of offshore wind and related transmission infrastructure.

Thank you for considering our points of view and for the opportunity to express our support. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Egerton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Egerton
Executive Vice President
Government Relations