



October 4, 2024

Ms. Sherri Golden  
Secretary of the Board  
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor  
PO Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Via Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

RE: DOCKET: Q023100719

Dear Secretary Golden,

It is imperative that New Jersey not only embraces offshore wind development as a means of providing clean, affordable energy to its residents, but also facilitate the critical infrastructure necessary to fully realize the transformative benefits this industry offers. The Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC), a non-profit economic development organization representing over 300 mid to large-sized businesses across the southern eight counties of New Jersey, is committed to promoting responsible development throughout our region. Over the years, the SNJDC has served as a strong advocate for its members and the broader South Jersey business community, recognizing the immense potential of offshore wind to drive economic growth and support the state's clean energy transition.

Through our workshops, seminars, and various engagements with local stakeholders, we have consistently emphasized the importance of investing in regional infrastructure to meet New Jersey's clean energy objectives. We believe that the development of offshore wind is not only key to combating climate change but also an opportunity to position New Jersey as a leader in the renewable energy industry. This project has demonstrated a commitment to responsible development, implementing strategic siting and design practices that carefully consider environmental and community impacts.

The construction of onshore cables to connect offshore wind energy to the grid is both a proven and effective method for integrating renewable energy into local and regional energy systems. This process has been successfully executed across the globe, and the infrastructure involved is essential to unlocking the full potential of offshore wind in New Jersey. With this infrastructure in place, offshore wind energy will significantly reduce harmful air pollution, bringing substantial environmental benefits to the state.

Additionally, offshore wind is expected to create thousands of high-quality, unionized jobs across various sectors, ranging from manufacturing and construction to operations and maintenance. These economic benefits will ripple throughout New Jersey, boosting local economies and providing long-term career opportunities for residents.



The SNJDC fully supports the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Prebuild Infrastructure (PBI) solicitation currently underway and its efforts to activate the necessary onshore cable infrastructure. This project is a critical piece of underground transmission infrastructure that will connect power generated by offshore wind to the Larrabee Collector Station. While concerns have been raised about the potential impacts of onshore cables, we believe these issues can be responsibly managed. For decades, similar infrastructure projects involving underground transmission cables and utility systems have been implemented without causing significant disruption to communities. The same can be expected here, as project developers incorporate best practices to minimize any short-term inconveniences.

In conclusion, we believe investments in offshore wind infrastructure align with SNJDC's mission to promote responsible and sustainable economic development. By embracing this opportunity, New Jersey will not only enhance its clean energy future but also unlock tremendous economic opportunities for South Jersey and beyond. We urge the NJBPU to support the development of the necessary infrastructure to ensure the successful integration of clean, renewable offshore wind.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlene Z. Asselta".

Marlene Z. Asselta  
President, Southern New Jersey Development Council