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Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 1:45 PM

To: Secretary, BPUBoard [BPU] <Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Offshore Wind.Submission of Written Testimony on Rebuild Infrastructure

Secretary of the Board
BPU
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350.

via: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Re: Testimony: Rebuild Infrastructure Project, Docket Number QO23100719.

My name is Kip Cherry, Hamilton, NJ, speaking as Conservation Chair for the Central Group of the Sierra Club. As you have heard in oral testimony, the Sierra Club fully supports opening a solicitation for transmission infrastructure that will support offshore wind development.

We think that a Rebuild Facility will create major efficiencies by providing a single connecting point through which four (4) separate projects can run cable vaults, duct banks, and related facilities. The project will span from the cable vaults at the Point of Demarcation to the Transition Vaults that are to be built and installed at Sea Girt. This facility also will continue beyond the Transition Vaults through Horizontal boreholes, installed by directional drilling.

Constructed independently and in advance of the turbine installations, this also allows CAFRA and related permitting along the shoreline to be completed, again, in advance of turbine installation. This transmission infrastructure also advances power production, allowing the wind power companies to install their cables through the Prebuild apparatus, relatively quickly and efficiently.

With all the permitting, design and construction process reduced to one project, this creates not only major efficiencies in design and construction, but also minimizes environmental damage.

An issue of electric power is the Electromagnetic Field (EMF). EMF is created by a wide variety of electrical devices from hair dryers to power lines and cables and is subject to mitigation. The level of mitigation is a design issue dependent on a number of factors. Key factors are distance, depth buried, shielding using a variety of metals, and cable design, all contribute to mitigation. There is already a large amount of cabling off the coast of New Jersey and coming through the waterway bed, safely buried on land and serving area communities.

And lastly, I want to talk about Hurricane Helene. This hurricane could have been a Sandy, or an Irene, or a Hurricane Ida. But it was much worse. With up to 30" of rain and up to 106 mph winds, it was not just a bad storm, it took lives, upended homes, and took down bridges. Hurricane Helene is a demonstration that climate change continues to move forward, and fighting it using renewables is critical.

We need to continue to find solutions to the issues that come with using renewables, and that particularly includes Offshore Wind.

We think this project will be an important step forward in taking advantage of the benefits of offshore wind power.

Thank you.

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