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To: [FAST41Initiation_OS](#); fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Webform submission from: FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:29:26 AM

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Greetings,

Pursuant to Title 41 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act 42 U.S.C. § 4370m (2016) ("FAST-41"), you have received an Initiating Notice for consideration to determine eligibility for coverage under FAST-41. You will have 14 days from the date of this submission to render a determination.

Review the submission details below. This submission is also stored on the Permitting Dashboard and can be found in the "FIN Submissions" view page upon logging in.

Permitting Dashboard user log in link: <https://cms.permits.performance.gov/user>

Project Information

Project Title:

Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project

Sector: [Renewable Energy Production](#) Type: [Wind: Federal Offshore](#)

Project Location Address:

- **City:** Virginia Beach
State: Virginia
-

Coordinates:

- **Latitude:** 36.907956
Longitude: -75.349065
-

Project Sponsor Contact Information:

- **Company Name/Agency:** Dominion Energy Virginia
Project Sponsor: Dominion Energy Virginia
Street Address: 707 East Main Street
City: Richmond
State: Virginia
Zip: 23219
POC Name: Joshua J. Bennett
POC Title: Vice President, Offshore Wind, Dominion Energy Virginia
POC Work Phone: [8046380248](tel:8046380248)
POC Email Address: joshua.j.bennett@dominionenergy.com
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Alternative Point Of Contact (Optional):

Project Purpose:

The purpose of this proposed Project is for the Virginia Electric and Power Company, doing business as Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion Energy), to: provide between 2,500 and 3,000 megawatts (MW) of clean, reliable offshore wind energy; increase the amount and availability of renewable energy to Virginia consumers; and create the opportunity to displace electricity generated by fossil fuel-powered plants.

The Project directly supports the goals of the 2020 law passed by the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), which supports development of 2,500 to 3,000 MW of clean, reliable offshore wind energy to be in service by 2028. The Project would increase the amount and availability of renewable energy to Virginia consumers, while creating the opportunity to displace electricity generated by fossil fuel-powered plants and offering substantial economic and environmental benefits to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Project, as designed, should provide

approximately 8.8 million megawatt-hours of carbon-free power to the grid on an annual basis. This equates to over 5.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide that will be reduced from the power generating fleet to meet the needs of Dominion Energy's customers. The onshore electrical portion will connect to the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM)-managed regional electric transmission grid, and at peak output the Project will power approximately 660,000 homes.

The Project is not only an important steppingstone toward commercial-scale offshore wind development, but also will further Dominion Energy's commitment to have 3,000 MW of solar and wind energy under development or in operation by the beginning of 2022.

The Project will respond directly, in a cost-effective manner, to this expressed need and demand and help achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions across the region. To meet this need and demand in a timely and efficient manner, it is imperative that the design and permitting for the Project proceed as expeditiously as possible so that the Project can be constructed and commence operations in advance of these State-mandated deadlines.

Project Description:

Dominion Energy is proposing to construct, own, and operate the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Commercial Project (the Project). The Project will be located in the Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Virginia (Lease No. OCS-A-0483) (Lease Area). The Lease Area, located within Official Protraction Diagram NJ18-11 Currituck Sound, covers approximately 112,799 acres (45,658 hectares) and is approximately 27 statute miles (23.75 nautical miles, 43.99 kilometers) off the Virginia Beach coastline.

Offshore components of the Project will consist of up to 205 wind turbine generators (WTGs), between two and three Offshore Substations, up to 300 miles (484 kilometers) total length of Inter-Array Cables, and up to nine buried submarine high-voltage alternating-current Offshore Export Cables. The Offshore Substations, Inter-Array Cables, and WTGs will be located in federal waters in the Lease Area, while the Offshore Export Cable Route Corridor will traverse both federal and state territorial waters of Virginia. The construction stage of the Project will include a temporary construction laydown area(s) and construction port(s). The operations and maintenance stage of the Project will include an onshore operations and maintenance facility with an associated Base Port.

The onshore components of the Project will consist of up to two Cable Landing Locations, up to 27 Onshore Export Cables from the Cable Landing Location(s) to a Collector Station at Naval Air Station Oceana, Interconnection Cables from the Collector Station to the Onshore Substation, which is an existing substation currently owned by Dominion Energy called the Fentress Substation. Onshore Export Cables are anticipated to be constructed as underground transmission lines, while the Interconnection Cables are expected to be constructed as overhead transmission lines or as a combination of overhead and underground (hybrid) transmission lines. The Cable Landing Location, Onshore Export Cables, Collector Station, Interconnection Cables and Onshore Substation will be located in the area of Hampton Roads in Virginia.

Prior to submitting this Initiation Notice, Dominion Energy submitted a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) and Construction and Operations Plan (COP) Survey Plan to BOEM to conduct high-resolution geophysical, geotechnical, benthic, and other survey activities in the Lease Area, Offshore Export Cable Route Corridor, and Onshore Project Area. BOEM acknowledged that the surveys proposed in the SAP and COP Survey Plan would meet the information requirements for the SAP and COP, and survey work commenced in Spring 2020 and will continue through approximately June 2021. These surveys will inform overall Project design and engineering, allow for siting flexibility, and will identify the locations, if any, of environmental, cultural, and historic resources. Data acquired through this field program will be provided in the Facility Design Report/Fabrication Installation Report (FDR/FIR) or as COP supplemental filings as required for the Project.

A COP for the Project, which includes detailed assessments of environmental, cultural, and historic resources, was submitted to BOEM on December 17, 2020, for a determination of sufficiency and completeness.

Summary of Financing, Reviews and Authorizations:

There is no federal financing required for the proposed Project.

Environmental reviews, permits, and authorizations will be required from federal permitting agencies, including BOEM, United States Army Corp of Engineers Norfolk District, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, United States Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, United States Department of Defense, United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4.

As Project components are proposed in the Commonwealth of Virginia, approvals from the applicable state and local agencies will also be required. At the state level, the Virginia State Corporation Commission will issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission will issue a Submerged Lands Permit for the portions of the Project located in state waters under the Virginia Code and regulations. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and local wetlands boards will issue a Joint Tidal Wetland Permit and Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit pursuant to the Code of Virginia and the Section 401 Water Quality Certification requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. The United States Environmental Protection Agency also requires that the Project submit air permit applications under the Clean Air Act for marine vessels or other equipment used to construct and/or operate the Project; the authority for this permit has been delegated by the United States Environmental Policy Act to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Localities also may issue siting, zoning, and other permits. The North Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act also has been considered.

Project Assessment:

Dominion Energy filed its COP with BOEM on December 17, 2020, at which point BOEM began its sufficiency and completeness review. Designating the Project as a "covered project" is consistent with, and will help further, the public policy objectives to improve the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for covered infrastructure projects. The Project is a "covered project" as defined under 42 United States Code (U.S.C) § 4370m(6).

The Project involves construction of infrastructure for renewable energy production and transmission, is subject to NEPA, requires a total investment of substantially more than \$200,000,000, and does not qualify for presently available abbreviated authorization or environmental review processes. In addition, the Project will require an Environmental Impact Statement, and will require authorization from or environmental review involving more than two federal agencies, as discussed above. As such, this large and complex Project is likely to benefit from enhanced federal agency oversight and coordination. The exclusions in 42 U.S.C. §4370m(6)(B) are inapplicable to the Project.

Form Submitter Contact Information:

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