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To: [FAST41Initiation_OS](#); fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Webform submission from: FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:50:28 PM

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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:

Revolution Wind Farm Project

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

Project Location Address:

- **City:** North Kingstown
State: Rhode Island

Coordinates:

Project Sponsor Contact Information:

- **Company Name/Agency:** Orsted North America Inc. and Eversource Investment LLC
Project Sponsor: DWW Rev I, LLC (a 50/50 joint venture between Orsted North America Inc. and Eversource Investment LLC)
Street Address: One International Place, Suite 2610
City: Boston
State: Massachusetts
Zip: 02110
POC Name: James Neveu
POC Title: Permitting Manager, Revolution Wind
POC Work Phone: [\(857\) 210-9152](tel:8572109152)
POC Email Address: janev@orsted.com

Alternative Point Of Contact (Optional):

Project Purpose:

DWW Rev I proposes the Revolution Wind Farm Project, an offshore wind farm to be located approximately 20 statute miles south of the coast of Rhode Island in federal waters in the area designated by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as Renewable Energy Lease Number OCS-A 0486 (the Project).

The purpose of the Project is to provide clean, reliable offshore wind energy that will increase the amount and availability of renewable energy to New England consumers while creating the opportunity to displace electricity generated by fossil fuel-powered plants and offering substantial economic and environmental benefits to the New England region. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York have adopted substantial renewable portfolio standards and clean energy targets to address issues associated with climate change, highlighting the current and future demand for this Project.

The Project has been awarded three Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) totaling 704 MW of generation capacity: 1) a 200 MW contract with the State of Connecticut approved in December 2018; 2) a 400 MW contract with the State of Rhode Island approved in February 2019; and 3) a 104 MW contract with the State of Connecticut approved in November 2019. The Project is being developed to fulfill its obligations to Connecticut and Rhode Island in accordance with the PPAs. The Project maximum generating capacity is 880 MW.

Project Description:

The wind farm portion of the Project will be located in federal waters in the area designated by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as Renewable Energy Lease Number OCS-A 0486 (Lease Area). The Lease Area is approximately 20 statute miles (mi) (17.4 nautical miles [nm], 30 kilometers [km]) south of the coast of Rhode Island. The Lease Area was awarded through the BOEM competitive renewable energy lease auction of the Wind Energy Area (WEA) off the shores of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Other components of the Project will be located in state waters of Rhode Island and onshore in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The proposed interconnection location for the Project is the existing Davisville Substation, which is owned and operated by The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) and located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The Project will specifically include the following offshore and onshore components:

- Offshore Components: up to 100 Wind Turbine Generators connected by a network of Inter-Array Cables; up to two Offshore Substations connected by an OSS-Link Cable; and up to two submarine export cables, generally co-located within a single corridor.
- Onshore Components: a landfall location located at Quonset Point in North Kingstown, Rhode Island; up to two underground transmission circuits, co-located within a single corridor; and a new Onshore Substation located adjacent to the existing Davisville Substation.

Beginning in 2017, DWW Rev I conducted comprehensive desktop studies of oceanographic, geologic, shallow hazards, archeological, and environmental resources in the Lease Area. These desktop studies informed the preliminary siting of the Project and supported the development of Site Assessment Plans (SAPs), which were implemented in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The purpose of the surveys identified in the SAPs was to conduct site characterization for Project siting and engineering, as well as to support natural resource assessments such as marine archeological and benthic resource studies. The SAPs were submitted in accordance with the stipulations of the Lease, as well as BOEM regulations and guidelines.

DWW Rev I is working with federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and other stakeholders to appropriately assess environmental resources, address issues of concern, avoid and mitigate potential effects, and obtain the necessary permits and approvals to support the construction and operation of the Project. Survey protocols for baseline characterization of the resources have been agreed with relevant federal and state agencies through inter-agency meetings and discussions. A Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for the Project, which includes detailed assessments of environmental, cultural, and historic resources, was submitted to BOEM on March 13, 2020.

Summary of Financing, Reviews and Authorizations:

There is no federal financing required for the proposed Project. The Project will be financed by DWW Rev I, which plans to finance the development, construction, and operation of the Project with 100 percent equity.

Environmental reviews, permits, and authorizations will be required from a number of federal and state permitting agencies, including BOEM, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Quonset Development Corporation.

Project Assessment:

The Project is a Covered Project under 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4370m(6), as it:

- i. is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- ii. will require a total investment well in excess of \$200 million;
- iii. does not qualify for abbreviated authorization or environmental review processes under any applicable law;
- iv. is likely to benefit from enhanced oversight and coordination because the Project will require authorization from several federal agencies;
- v. will require an Environmental Impact Statement; and
- vi. is not subject to 23 U.S.C. § 139 or 33 U.S.C. § 2348.

DWW Rev I filed its COP with BOEM on March 13, 2020 and understands that BOEM is conducting a sufficiency and completeness review of the COP. Designating the Project as a Covered Project is consistent with, and will help further, the important public policy objectives underlying the FAST-41 program; namely, to improve the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the federal environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects. Furthermore, FAST-41 designation will help DWW Rev I, Rhode Island, and Connecticut ensure that the Project will timely assist these states in meeting their energy, economic and environmental goals. The transparency, accountability and inter-agency coordination that are the hallmarks of the FAST-41 process are essential to helping Rhode Island and Connecticut achieve these goals.

Designating the Project as a Covered Project is consistent with the broad consensus view of the U.S. Department of Interior, the Permitting Council, and Congress that early coordination is a key to success for energy infrastructure projects. DWW Rev I understands that the Secretary of the Interior has made it a priority to streamline the environmental review and permitting process for offshore wind projects without compromising the Nation's conservation values. Adding the Project to the FAST 41 Dashboard will enhance interagency coordination and streamline permitting such that the Project is likely to achieve commercial operation sooner, while remaining protective of marine and other resources near the Project area.

DWW Rev I is mindful of the Department's need to efficiently deploy scarce administrative resources in meeting its many responsibilities to its diverse stakeholders. However, if the Department adopts the flexibility measures identified above, DWW Rev I finds that the designation of the Project as a Covered Project would not create burdens for purposes of NEPA initiation by BOEM or other federal agencies.

Form Submitter Contact Information:

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