

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Community Offshore Wind Application

Public Version



8.3 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

NYSERDA 2024 Offshore Wind Solicitation ORECRFP24-1

September 9, 2024



8.3 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
ESD	Empire State Development
KPI	Key performance indicator
MWBE	Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NYS	New York State
OGS	Office of General Services
POI	Point of interconnection
SDVOB	Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

NYSERDA solicitation requirements

Our stakeholder engagement plan addresses each requirement described in NYSERDA’s fifth solicitation for offshore wind energy (ORECRFP24-1).

Table 8.3-1 Solicitation requirements

Solicitation requirement	Section
Describe all stakeholder engagement activities and commitments during the planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project and associated investments	Standard Component 4.1
All letters of support for the Project should be included as a separate attachment to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with a cover page summarizing how many letters of support and from whom.	Attach. 8.3-1
Specific measures the Proposer will take to foster collaborative relationships with New York stakeholders including, but not limited to, local community members directly affected by the Project, local, state and federal elected officials representing communities directly affected by the Project, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations	Standard Component 3.1, 4.1
Where specific measures are not yet known for certain stakeholder groups at the time of proposing, the SEP must describe how the Proposer will acquire the data needed to work collaboratively with respective stakeholder groups, including an expected stakeholder engagement schedule, communication approach, and methodology to incorporate adaptive, inclusive thinking throughout the lifecycle of a Project	Standard Component 3.1, 4.1
Describe investments associated with stakeholder engagement efforts.	Standard Component 3.1
The SEP should provide a degree of certainty that the Proposer is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders and reporting engagement activities and progress during regular monthly (or more frequent) updates to NYSERDA and in the Quarterly Reports.	Standard Component 4.1, 5.1
The overall principles and goals proposers will follow to understand, incorporate, and respond to the diverse perspectives, needs, and concerns of stakeholders at every stage of development. Developers are encouraged to consider a mission statement that drives their engagement and supports accountability.	Standard Component 1.1
<p>How the developer will use research, data, and stakeholder feedback to update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and support decision-making throughout the life cycle of the Project (preconstruction, surveys, site design, construction, operations, and decommissioning). The Proposer shall address progress toward the following elements of a comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a stakeholder mapping exercise to obtain population, cultural, and economic statistics and information on communities or interest groups relevant to the Project. • Seek input from stakeholders; receive and review feedback related to potential positive, neutral, or negative effects resulting from the Project; incorporate stakeholder feedback into decision-making; report back to stakeholders how feedback was addressed; and revise stakeholder 	Standard Component 1.2

communication methods and engagement strategies based on feedback received.

Present a list of existing guidance documents, publications, tools, and/or plans that will be followed to support the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Include links, if available, for all references.

Standard Component 1.3, Attach. 8.3-4

Provide an overview of the stakeholder identification and relationship management methods, including:

Standard Component 2.1

- The Proposer shall identify a working list of diverse stakeholders and describe methods to update the list. Stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, environmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishermen, navigational safety committees, economic and workforce development organizations, elected officials, federal and state government agencies, labor leaders and organizations, maritime professionals, port owners and operators, supply chain businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, MWBEs and SDVOBs, tourism operators, training and research institutions, academia, coastal residents and business owners, and local communities including environmental justice communities or proximate Disadvantaged Communities, including Tribal Nations, in accordance with criteria defined by the Climate Justice Working Group. The SEP must also address engagement with the U.S. steel industry.
- The Proposer shall include explanations as to why the stakeholders identified are important for overall Project success.
- The Proposer shall identify and list Disadvantaged Communities potentially impacted by the project using the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Map.
- The Proposer shall identify and list Tribal Nations potentially impacted by the Project.
- The Proposer shall identify what departments within their organization will own the relationships with the stakeholders and Tribal Nations listed.
- The Proposer shall hire community and tribal liaison officers. Proposers with community and/or tribal liaison officers on staff should provide, to the best extent possible, details as to why the liaison officer is a trustworthy messenger known by a significant portion of the community or Tribal Nation they represent. Proposers that have yet to hire liaisons shall indicate when they plan to do so and the communities and Tribal Nations which the liaison would represent.
- The Proposer shall describe planned efforts to establish a local presence in areas most affected by Project development. Examples could include establishment of permanent or temporary office space, reserving public spaces for regular engagement opportunities with Project staff, or regular participation in specific public meetings in affected communities

Provide a list of communication officers, their role, and name and contact information. The list should provide stakeholders with an understanding of who should be called for a particular issue or question. In addition to this list, Proposers should explain how stakeholders will access this list and how it will be kept current to reflect organic changes and turnovers in responsibilities throughout the Project life cycle.

Standard Component 2.2

This section should describe goals and desired outcomes developed through a collective understanding of shared interests for each stakeholder group identified in 2.1. Specifically,

Standard
Component 3.1

- The Proposer shall define the issues and/or information prioritized by each stakeholder group and Tribal Nation.
- The Proposer shall list goals set for benefiting Disadvantaged Communities consistent with the Climate Act's focus on building an inclusive, clean energy economy, including education, training, and hiring opportunities.
- The Proposer shall identify opportunities for participation and collaborative decision-making throughout the development process with community members, local elected officials, Tribal Nations, relevant businesses, institutions, environmental justice communities, Disadvantaged Communities, and non-profit organizations. Efforts may include, but are not limited to, MOUs and LOIs.
- The Proposer shall describe investment commitments, including Disadvantaged Community Commitment claims included in Section 6.05 of the Agreement to aid in the pursuit of said goals.

Proposers are encouraged to allow for flexibility and growth of goals over time while maintaining a clear organizational structure and approach, including success metrics for process and outputs.

The Proposer shall detail options for engagement activities with stakeholder groups and Tribal Nations.

Standard
Component 4.1

- The Proposer shall list engagement approaches and activities specific to stakeholder groups defined in Section 2.1, including examples of activities to date or planned activities to incorporate the perspectives of environmental justice, Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Nations.
- The Proposer shall describe success metrics for each type of engagement activity. Success metrics could include number or cadence of engagements and attendance by targeted participants, quantitative and qualitative effectiveness of public awareness campaigns, collaborative actions that come out of stakeholder engagements, stakeholder input incorporated into Project plans, verbal or written support for the Project, or other measures.
- The Proposer shall detail accessibility factors, especially for Disadvantaged Communities, including Tribal Nations, to be considered in planned activities and outreach. Factors could include convenience of meeting times, accessibility of locations or virtual platforms, childcare needs, language and interpretation needs, and variety of opportunities to participate and ways to provide input.
- The Proposer shall consider appropriate communication methods tailored to different stakeholder groups to maximize both general awareness and participation from those groups. The Proposer shall describe examples of possible communication strategies toward a desired outcome, such as promoting attendance at a public event or participation in a public survey.
- The Proposer shall describe a plan for providing consistent follow-up with the stakeholders they have engaged, especially members of Disadvantaged Communities, including Tribal Nations, to make clear how their input was considered, and/or provide continued learning opportunities.

- The Proposer shall participate in technical working groups related to environment, fisheries, maritime, jobs and supply chain, environmental justice, and other potential technical working groups to ensure industry coordination.

Describe proposed or existing partnerships with community organizations, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Standard
Component 4.2,
Attach. 8.3-1

- The Proposer shall provide details of the nature of these partnerships, desired outcomes, and any associated investments, hiring, training, or educational opportunities in local communities.
- The Proposer shall explain where partnerships may foster opportunities for local businesses to participate in and benefit from the growing offshore wind industry.

Detail the tracking of relationships, activities, and outcomes from engagements.

Standard
Component 5.1,
Attach. 8.3-2

- The Proposer shall describe how they plan to track progress toward shared goals with stakeholder groups, as identified in Section 3.1, including when and where the goal is supported or achieved through engagement activities.
- The Proposer shall detail how they plan to track relationships and engagements with stakeholders and provide a current example of such a tracker to demonstrate progress in stakeholder engagement efforts. NYSERDA is open to accepting the same report style as the BOEM OCS Lessees are required to submit for the agency's stipulated semi-annual progress report. Proposers are encouraged to use the templates provided in the Quarterly Report (Appendix H, Exhibit K).

This section should detail the tracking of general communications or marketing campaigns to raise awareness among communities proximal to activities related to Project development, construction, operation, and decommissioning.

Standard
Component 5.2,
Attach. 8.3-3

- The Proposer shall describe possible marketing methods that have been or will be employed to:
 - Communicate project development status or potential effects in local communities, and
 - Raise awareness of the project, project benefits, or workforce development opportunities, especially in Disadvantaged Communities.
- The Proposer shall detail how they plan to track marketing efforts or public awareness campaigns and provide a current example of such a tracker. Proposers are encouraged to use the template from the Quarterly Report (Appendix H, Exhibit K).

8.3.1 Summary



Community Offshore Wind will empower communities to thrive by developing a project that uplifts and benefits all New Yorkers.

We prioritize building strong, trust-based relationships with stakeholders by engaging early and often, establishing ourselves as an honest and transparent partner to New York State.



Our programs are thoughtfully informed by direct feedback throughout their full lifespan, enabling us to break down longstanding barriers to equity and create far stronger outcomes.

Local Roots

RWE and National Grid offer decades of experience and deep community ties in the Northeast. National Grid employs more than 11,000 people in New York, and generates significant investments in local development, job creation, and economic growth.



Tracking and Measuring Progress

We're committed to tracking progress



Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Every Step of the Project

We prioritize supporting Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBs), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOBs), Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), organized labor, Tribal Nations, fisheries, and local businesses.

OUR WORK SO FAR:

- Signature partnerships created to address community needs: swimming lessons, childcare, youth employment, and job training
- More than 1,500 hours of community service

WE WILL CONTINUE TO:

1. Listen to communities, and hear from our stakeholders what they need most
2. Identify gaps in resources where we can be impactful
3. Partner with local, trusted partners to provide funding and eliminate longstanding barriers
4. Track and share our outcomes transparently, and measure how we can increase our effectiveness

8.3.2 Stakeholder engagement plan (standard component)

Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Community Offshore Wind Version 1.0

Prepared pursuant to [contract number, date (TBD)]

with

**New York State Energy Research and Development
Authority**

Albany, NY

Prepared by

Community Offshore Wind, LLC

[Address]



September 2024

Record of revision

Revision date	Description of changes	Revision on pages
9 September 2024	Initial plan submission	All (first version of document)

Communication officers, contact information and links

Name/title	Role	Contact information
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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Links to Project information: www.communityoffshorewind.com

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1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan Summary

1.1 Overall principles and goals

Broad support for the clean energy transition throughout New York State (NYS) is key to accelerating the green energy economy and delivering the value and benefits associated with offshore wind projects to everyone involved. **To deliver on NYSERDA’s ambitious climate agenda, we need to develop clean energy in a way that can be supported by all New Yorkers.** At Community Offshore Wind, we recognize that our stakeholders are the key to successful and inclusive offshore wind development and that robust stakeholder, government, community, and ocean user engagement is an essential element for successful delivery of Community Offshore Wind’s proposed Project. As such, a critical part of our Project’s development is our stakeholder engagement strategy and efforts, centered around:

- **Strong stakeholder relationships** established through engagement early and often that has made Community Offshore Wind a trusted and preferred partner in New York
- **A robust stakeholder engagement plan** that identifies all key stakeholders and tailored strategies to incorporate feedback, maximize benefits, and minimize impacts
- **Acceleration of clean energy economic opportunities** through targeted local investment for all who wish to participate in the industry
- **Commitment to tracking and measuring progress on engagement** to ensure engagement is effective in reaching stakeholders and ensuring their voices are heard in our Project’s development

Community Offshore Wind ambitions

At the core of the Community Offshore Wind brand is a commitment to generate a net-positive impact for all Project stakeholders by **minimizing burdens, accelerating clean energy opportunities, and enabling and empowering New Yorkers.** This includes all communities whose homes, families, jobs, neighborhoods, constituents, environments, and jurisdictions are touched by our development. Our mission is to deliver local, clean energy for all in a way that is safe, reliable, and efficient. We invite New Yorkers to take part in our Project development to allow us to fully understand their priorities, concerns, and potential areas of conflict. This way, we can design our Project to minimize burdens and maximize benefits for everyone. We are committed to transparency with our stakeholders to nurture long-term trusting relationships.

We aim to provide New Yorkers with engagement that is effective, meaningful, consistent, comprehensive, coordinated, and reflective of the needs of the communities we impact. During design, planning and permitting, we will take a holistic approach to educate and engage with a clear commitment to implement any feedback. During construction, we will communicate potential impacts to host communities and work together to mitigate these impacts and create opportunities to deliver economic, health, and other community benefits. During operations, we will proactively keep stakeholders informed on job and supply chain opportunities as they arise. Finally, during decommissioning, we will repeat our inclusive design process to get broad feedback and commit to embrace innovative decommissioning practices. Community Offshore Wind sees stakeholder engagement as an ongoing process and as such, our Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is a living document that will be updated and adjusted as the Project progresses.

Our stakeholder engagement commitments

Early, active engagement is our guiding principle that will be integrated into every stakeholder interaction. Our Stakeholder Engagement Plan is built upon **key commitments to New York's stakeholders to:**

- Design to minimize burdens
- Accelerate clean energy economic opportunities
- Enable and empower communities

These commitments are fully aligned with NYSERDA's Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement, and we are confident they demonstrate that we take stakeholder engagement seriously. Moreover, through our commitment:

- **We will be inclusive in our Project development and decision-making.** To minimize burdens and maximize benefits, we are creating a direct link between stakeholder engagement, Project design and the development of economic benefits programs leveraging continuous feedback loops, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] We will continue to work with our host communities to identify funding opportunities based on their needs and wishes.
- **We will use a wide array of stakeholder activities and marketing efforts** to ensure we engage with all stakeholders in a way that suits their needs and preferences. These efforts are further described in SEP Section 4 below.
- **We are committed to tracking progress.** We will use [REDACTED] to ensure our stakeholder approach is meeting the needs and preferences of our stakeholders as further described in SEP Section 5.

1.2 Overall approach to incorporating data and stakeholder feedback

- Community Offshore Wind shall perform a stakeholder mapping exercise to obtain population, cultural, and economic statistics and information on communities or interest groups relevant to the Project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Community Offshore Wind shall seek input from stakeholders; receive and review feedback related to potential positive, neutral, or negative effects resulting from the Project;

[REDACTED]

incorporate stakeholder feedback into decision-making; report back to stakeholders how feedback was addressed; and revise stakeholder communication methods and engagement strategies based on feedback received. To be transparent and inclusive, Community Offshore Wind has established a continuous feedback loop of stakeholder, government, and ocean user input into the Project's development. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As our Project progresses, we commit to continuing to integrate input from stakeholders to advance Project development and minimize burdens.

[REDACTED]

1.3 Existing guidance and best practices that will be followed

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 Stakeholder identification and stakeholder list

2.1 Overview and stakeholder identification objectives

- **COSW has a clear ambition to identify all groups impacted by our Project, both positively and negatively**, to engage in a productive two-way dialogue to minimize burdens and maximize benefits. To identify and prioritize the key stakeholders for our Project, we combine best practices from RWE and National Grid into a methodology that identifies relevant stakeholder, government, and ocean user groups at statewide and local level. We believe it is important to give all a seat at the table but are especially mindful of ensuring we identify the right stakeholders, governments, and ocean users to represent groups that have been historically left out of the decision-making processes. Our three guiding principles for prioritizing our engagement and outreach are:
 - **We prioritize those that are most impacted by our Project:** we build a thorough understanding of the communities in our landfall, points of interconnection, and cable routing. Within these potential host communities, we identify organizations and individuals to represent affected communities best.
 - **We proactively include those who have been historically left behind (DACs, MWBEs, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses/SDVOBs):** we focus on relevant statewide groups and individuals who can help us understand community needs and priorities better and who can be advocates for our Project.
 - **We address potential conflicts of interest head-on:** we identify stakeholder groups (both local and at State level) that may have conflicting interests as well as co-users of the lease area to ensure the success of our Project and avoid conflict which has created delays in previous New York solicitations.
- Following these guiding principles, Community Offshore Wind has identified a working list of diverse stakeholders and why the stakeholders identified are important for overall project success. We will update this list as the Project progresses.
 - **Host communities:** Local communities surrounding our project may be directly impacted during construction and operation of our Project. This includes the impacts of bringing the transmission cable to shore, running underground transmission from the landfall to the point of interconnection (POI), and construction and operation of converter stations. [REDACTED]
 - **Disadvantaged communities:** Within these host communities, [REDACTED] have been identified as Disadvantaged Communities. In these communities, we are even more mindful of ensuring all voices are heard. Within each of these disadvantaged communities we have identified relevant community organizations and other stakeholders.

- **MWBE and SDVOB businesses:** We leverage the MWBE Certified Database maintained by Empire State Development (ESD) and the Directory of NYS Certified SDVOBs maintained by the Office of General Services (OGS) to identify relevant MWBE and SDVOB businesses. We actively invite small businesses and potential suppliers to also sign up on our supplier portal, found on the Community Offshore Wind website, to ensure we capture businesses that may not yet be included in state databases.
- **U.S. Iron and Steel businesses:** We have engaged with key suppliers of Iron and Steel and all Tier 1 manufacturers to foster collaboration between suppliers of major components and suppliers of Steel.
- **Commercial and recreational fisheries:** We are committed to productive co-use with important fisheries in our lease area, including Atlantic Sea scallop and surf clam fisheries and other local fisheries. Our engagement with fisheries is further described in Section 8.1: Fisheries Mitigation Plan.
- **Supply chain businesses:** We are engaged with key Tier 1 suppliers and their networks of sub-suppliers domestically and globally.
- **Port owners and operators:** Relevant ports include commercial fishing ports with landings from within the lease area [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Maritime industry:** We work with local pilot associations in waterways relevant for Project construction and operations and maintenance, maritime industries, local, and regional maritime trade associations.
- **Aviation industry:** We recognize the Federal Aviation Administration and the United States Department of Defense as key stakeholder to ensure safe co-use of the area.
- **Tourism operators:** We focus on tourism operators, alliances, and business associations in coastal areas and around our points of interconnection, whale watching companies, bird watchers, and other marine recreation companies active in the New York Bight.
- **Labor organizations and unions:** These include international unions, regional representatives, and their local affiliates throughout New York State, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Economic and workforce development organizations:** We will continue to build on relationships we have established to support our workforce development plan, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Our engagement with economic and workforce development organizations is further described in Section 11: New York Jobs and Workforce Plan.

- **Federal government organizations:** Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to, BOEM, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Coast Guard, Department of Defense, Federal Aviation Administration, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- **Tribes and Tribal Nations:** Community Offshore Wind recognizes Native American peoples as the original and continuing stewards of the lands and waters in which we work, and we recognize and respect the sovereignty of Tribes/Tribal Nations as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions. We are engaging with federally recognized Tribes listed under Lease Stipulation 5.3.3, and state recognized Tribes in New York and New Jersey. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **State government organizations:** Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the New York Department of State, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Public Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Public Service Commission, and NYSERDA.
- **Elected state and local officials:** We focus on elected federal, state, and local officials within the proposed Project area, including at the POI and along potential cable routes.
- **Training institutions and research universities:** We have engaged in offshore wind environmental and socioeconomic research. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our engagement with training institutions and research universities is further described in Section 8.1: Fisheries Mitigation Plan, Section 8.2: Environmental Mitigation Plan, and Section 11: New York Jobs and Workforce Plan.

[REDACTED]

- o **Environmental organizations:** Private, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have general or specific interests in the study of environmental impacts of offshore wind development, [REDACTED]
- Community Offshore Wind has identified the Disadvantaged Communities potentially impacted by the Project using the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Map, listed in the stakeholder list above.
- Community Offshore Wind has identified and listed Tribal Nations potentially impacted by the Project, listed in the stakeholder list above.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Further detail on communications officers is in SEP Section 2.2 below.
- Community Offshore Wind has planned efforts to establish a local presence in areas most affected by Project development. National Grid has operated in the Northeast for decades and employs more than 11,000 personnel in New York State, with office locations [REDACTED] Brooklyn Union Gas is the company’s oldest legacy franchise dating back to 1895. RWE also has a team of professionals with strong relationships throughout the Northeast through their onshore wind development. Community Offshore Wind’s Development and Strategic Engagement team includes members who are based in New York. [REDACTED]

2.2 Assigning team members in your organization as the primary relationship holder

- See Table 1 below for a list of Community Offshore Wind’s communications officers, their roles, and contact information.
- Stakeholders can access information on our team on our website at <https://communityoffshorewind.com/about>, and when engaging with stakeholders we share information on who they can contact.
- We shall update this information to be kept current to reflect organic changes in staff and in responsibilities throughout the Project life cycle.

Table 1 Communication officers

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

3 Stakeholder engagement goals

3.1 Defining goals and desired outcomes

- Meaningful engagement starts with fully understanding each stakeholder group’s needs, interests, concerns, and identifying common objectives. Through extensive engagement with stakeholders in New York State, we have built a firm baseline understanding of the key needs, interests, and priorities of each group. Building on these insights, we broke down our overall goal into specific engagement goals for each group. Table 2 below lists:
 - The issues and/or information prioritized by each stakeholder group and Tribal Nation
 - Goals and desired outcomes developed through a collective understanding of shared interest for each stakeholder group identified in SEP Section 2.1.
 - Goals set for benefiting Disadvantaged Communities consistent with the Climate Act’s focus on building an inclusive, clean energy economy, including education, training, and hiring opportunities

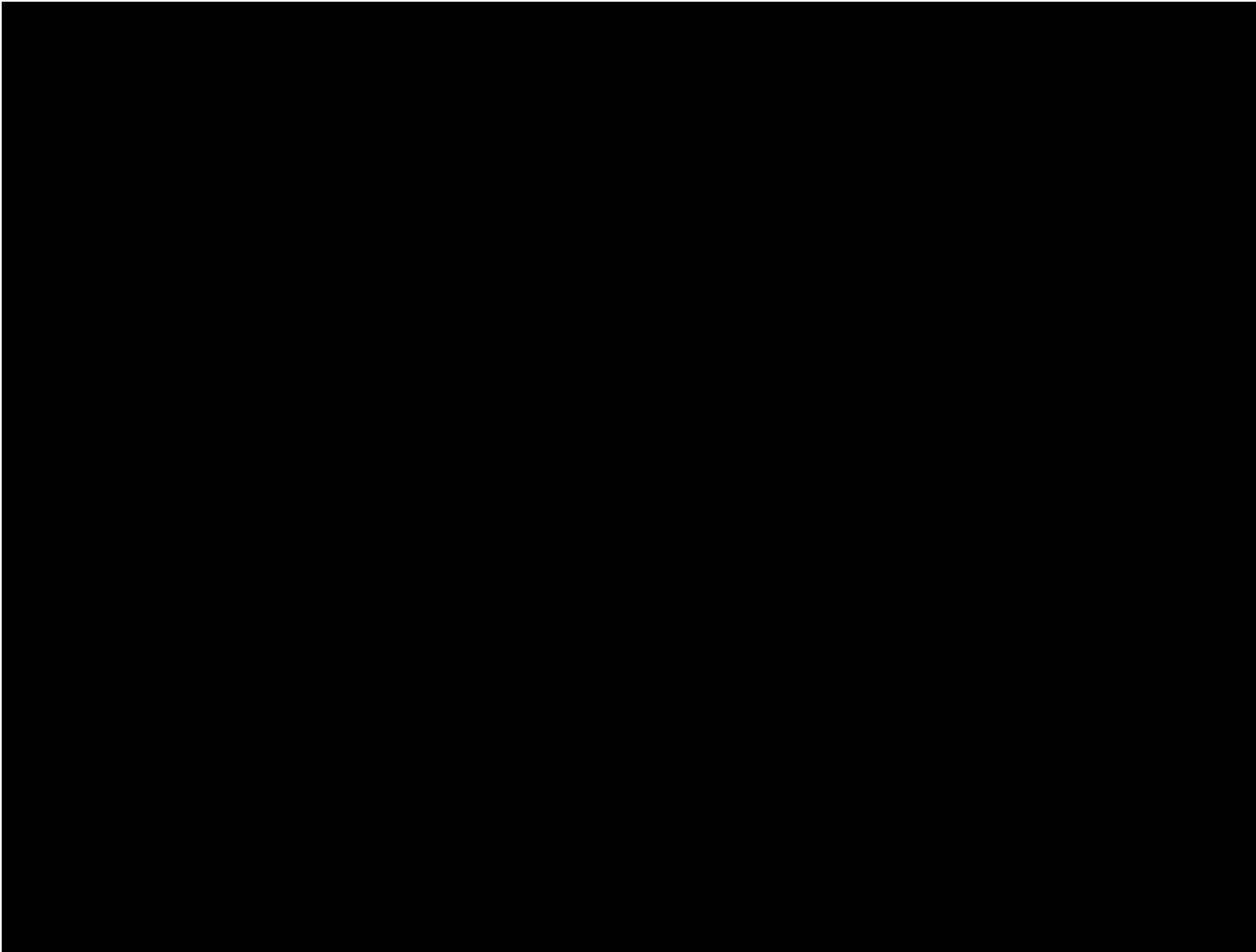
Table 2 Stakeholder concerns and engagement goals

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- Community Offshore Wind has and will continue to identify opportunities for participation and collaborative decision-making throughout the development process with community members, local elected officials, Tribal Nations, relevant businesses, institutions, environmental justice communities, Disadvantaged Communities, and non-profit organizations, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. See SEP Section 4 below for additional details on the ways we plan to enable collaboration decision-making with our stakeholders.
- Our investment commitments, including Disadvantaged Community Commitment claims, can be found in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Community Offshore Wind investment commitments



4 Stakeholder engagement activities and partnerships

4.1 Planned activities and outreach

- To be transparent and inclusive, Community Offshore Wind has established a continuous feedback loop of stakeholder, government, community, and ocean user input into the Project's development. Our feedback loop only works when we have high awareness and engagement of our stakeholders. To increase awareness and participation, we have designed a set of targeted engagement activities and partnerships.
- A list of engagement approaches and activities specific to stakeholder groups defined in SEP Section 2.1, including examples of activities to date or planned activities to incorporate the perspectives of environmental justice, Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Nations is found below. Additional examples of our engagements to date can be found in Attachment 8.3-2.

- **Host communities:** Residents, in particular host communities, are the foundations of our success. We have prioritized these local engagements since our first days as a New York Bight Leaseholder as evidenced by the community and stakeholder support that the Project has received to date. We continue to be committed to a transparent partnership that mitigates impacts of the Project on these communities. We do this through:

- **Proactive engagement** [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- **Host community events to create awareness of our joint venture and Project:** We are working with organizations in local communities to build awareness of the Project and excitement for the clean energy transition. Letters of support from organizations we have partnered with to organize community events can be found in Attachment 8.3-1. [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

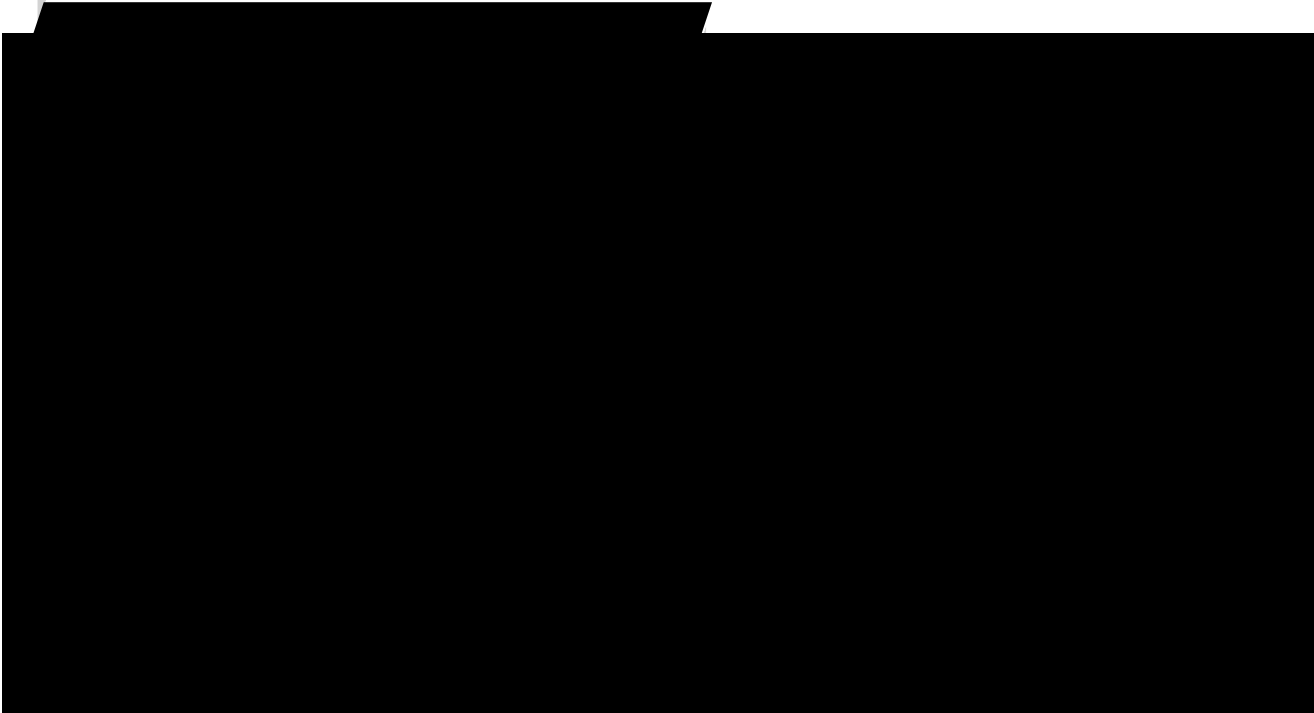
- [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

- **Disadvantaged Communities:** Community Offshore Wind is committed to providing Disadvantaged Communities with a seat at the table so they can have a more active voice in decisions directly impacting their livelihood. Our ongoing engagement and activities are tailored to directly benefit Disadvantaged Communities, while utilizing the opportunity to identify their concerns through NGOs and other representative organizations. Additionally, we are working to proactively remove barriers to participation, as outlined in the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Barriers and Opportunities Report. These accessibility measures are described in further detail later in this section.
- **Businesses:** We are actively engaged with local Economic Development Organizations, Chambers of Commerce, business advocacy organizations and businesses [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to better understand the needs of local businesses and what we can do to provide opportunities to these businesses.
 - **Bring opportunities to New York’s supply chain businesses:** Our Procurement and Supply Chain teams have met with dozens of suppliers to bring additional opportunities to New York State. Our website includes a dedicated “suppliers” section where small businesses can register to become part of our supplier network. The Procurement and Supply Chain teams are actively working with the full supply chain domestically and globally. We have also actively participated in the Jobs and Supply Chain Technical Working Groups and the Energy Storage Technical Working Group.
 - **Provide dedicated support for MWBE and SDVOB businesses:** Our commitments to MWBE and SDVOB businesses are based on our engagement with these firms and relevant advocacy organizations. Our commitments are further described in Section 10: Economic Benefits Plan. We communicate supplier opportunities to MWBE and SDVOB using the MWBE Certified Database maintained by ESD and the Directory of New York State Certified SDVOB maintained by OGS for goods with anticipated contract value of over \$250K, and for services with contract value expected over \$100K. We also encourage our major suppliers to utilize MWBE and SDVOB businesses.

[REDACTED]

- **Commercial and recreational fisheries:** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We are committed to building relationships and working closely with fishermen to ensure successful and sustainable outcomes. Our website includes a dedicated fisheries landing page where fisheries can get more information about the impacts and opportunities our Project may bring. This includes fisheries notices, our fisheries communication plan and a Frequently Asked Questions section. Fisheries can contact our team directly or sign up for opportunities for commercial fishing vessels to provide supporting services to our offshore operations. We have also developed a comprehensive Fisheries Mitigation Plan (see Section 8.1).
- **Labor organizations & unions and training institutions:** Our labor liaison will lead a robust communications, field, and media engagement plan with organized labor and workforce training institutions. This plan involves phases of outreach, education, negotiations, and execution to lead to long-term trusted partnerships, as detailed in Figure 1 below. Community Offshore Wind is developing partnerships with organized labor to ensure our Project development aligns the visions of offshore developers and labor unions and to jointly identify career pathways and address skills gaps, the just transition, and offshore-wind-specific certifications. We will communicate transparently with labor unions and coalitions to share details regarding the Project's direct and contracted jobs including titles, descriptions and skill sets needed in each phase of development while identifying skills gaps, necessary offshore wind specific certifications, and addressing the just transition of displaced and underemployed workers. We have developed a framework of workforce training programs and will work with organized labor to scale up pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other labor-management training programs; these are detailed further in Section 11: New York Jobs and Workforce Plan.



- **Research universities:** We are collaborating with research universities to identify knowledge gaps in environmental and fisheries research and monitoring and plan to work closely together to close any observed gaps. More details on our research and monitoring programs with universities can be found in Section 8.1: Fisheries Mitigation Plan and 8.2: Environmental Mitigation Plan.
- **Federal & state agencies and:** All Federal and State agencies within the proposed Project area are updated monthly. We also regularly coordinate with staff at federal and state government agencies virtually, in-person, and by email. As the Project develops, we will keep them informed and share feedback with the Project team to shape design elements. We expect our engagement activity to increase around major milestones.
- **Elected state & local officials:** Our Stakeholder Engagement team meets regularly with elected State and local officials. All officials within the proposed Project area will be updated monthly. The Stakeholder Engagement team has been meeting regularly with local elected officials within the state of New York, [REDACTED]
- **Tribes and Tribal nations:** To date, we have been actively engaging with Tribes and Tribal Nations [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Environmental organizations:** We are actively engaging with environmental NGOs, wildlife groups, aquariums, conservationists, and activists to understand concerns, find common objectives and opportunities for collaborative research and monitoring. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Cross-cutting engagement activities:** In addition to targeted events and partnerships, we use cross-cutting activities and engagement tools to build awareness and engagement in New York State. We will use the following activities across all stakeholder groups:
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
- We have developed success metrics for our engagement activities and outcomes [Redacted]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

- We have considered accessibility factors, especially for Disadvantaged Communities, including Tribal Nations, to be considered in planned activities and outreach. We are working to promote accessibility and proactively remove barriers to participation, as outlined in the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Barriers and Opportunities Report. We use several accessibility measures to increase participation:
 - [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- We have considered appropriate communication measures tailored to different stakeholder groups to maximize both general awareness and participation from those groups, as described in the list of engagement approaches above. In line with Lease Stipulation 3.1.2, we have developed communication plans for Fisheries, Tribal Nations, and agencies.
- Community Offshore Wind shall provide consistent follow-up with the stakeholders we have engaged, especially members of Disadvantaged Communities, to make clear how their input was considered, and/or provide learning opportunities to raise awareness of and gain support for the Project. Our early and often engagement approach is evidenced through our providing continuous project updates to community leaders and elected officials representing Disadvantaged Communities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.2 Planned partnerships

- See Table 5 for a list of Community Offshore Wind's proposed partnerships. Community Offshore Wind commits to keeping this list of partnerships current, updating, and reporting on any changes or additions to anticipated partnerships as they occur. For additional information on investments associated with our partnerships, see SEP Section 3.1 above.

Table 5 Community Offshore Wind partnerships

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

5 Tracking progress and communications

5.1 Tracking stakeholder engagement

- Community Offshore Wind shall track progress toward shared goals with stakeholder groups, as identified in SEP Section 3.1, including when and where the goal is supported or achieved through engagement activities. To do this, Community Offshore Wind is leveraging a set of key

metrics as well as best-in-class tools. [REDACTED]

- o **Quarterly progress reports:** Consistent with NYSERDA requirements, we will track attendance for virtual or in-person open houses, community meetings, and public information round tables. Our quarterly progress report will also include information on the stakeholder groups we have engaged with, activities included in the engagement, the goal and outcome of the engagement, overall sentiment of the stakeholder, and proposed next steps or goals for the upcoming quarter. We submit stakeholder reports as part of our quarterly progress report to BOEM.

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- Community Offshore Wind shall track relationships and engagements with stakeholders and provides a current example of such a tracker to demonstrate progress in stakeholder engagement efforts in Attachment 8.3-2. For fisheries engagement efforts, please see Attachment 8.1-1 in Section 8.1: Fisheries Mitigation Plan.

5.2 Tracking stakeholder marketing efforts

- Community Offshore Wind shall track general communications and marketing campaigns to raise awareness among communities proximal to activities related to Project development, construction, operation, and decommissioning.

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Community Offshore Wind shall employ marketing methods to communicate project development status or potential effects in local communities, and raise awareness of the project, project benefits, or workforce development opportunities, especially in Disadvantaged Communities.
- Community Offshore Wind will communicate all community investment efforts, Project development milestones, impacts on local communities, and hiring opportunities at minimum. These will be communicated via monthly newsletter, social channels, press releases, website, and stakeholder engagement meetings.
 - Community Offshore Wind will work with community-based non-profits to engage Disadvantaged Communities on opportunities from workforce and food assistance to coat donations. Our community investment activities are tied to assisting DACs and in collaboration with non-profit partners that help us reach this audience. Community Offshore Wind will also publicize our community investment and workforce opportunities via the channels listed above to increase visibility with specific instructions on how Disadvantaged Communities can learn more or receive assistance.
- Community Offshore Wind shall track marketing efforts and public awareness campaigns and provides a current example of such a tracker in Attachment 8.3-3.

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Attachment 8.3-1

Letters of support

Public Version



Table of Contents

Total letters of support: 40

1. Institute for Workforce Advancement
2. Brooklyn Workforce Innovations
3. Center for Economic Growth
4. Red Hook Initiative
5. Operation Splash
6. Alliance of New York State YMCAs
7. FuzeHub
8. Minority Millennials
9. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
10. National Wind Services
11. New York International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Construction Local Unions
12. WhyMaker
13. New York League of Conservation Voters
14. Waterfront Alliance
15. Citizens Campaign for the Environment
16. Central and South East Brooklyn CDC
17. Wildlife Conservation Society
18. Brooklyn Bridge Parents
19. Nassau BOCES
20. Workforce Development Institute
21. Stony Brook University (SBU)
22. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049
23. Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
24. New York City District Council of Carpenters
25. New York State Iron Workers District Council
26. Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation
27. SBU School of Professional Development's Center for Continuing Education
28. The Brownsville Community Justice Center
29. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
30. Good Shepherd Services
31. New York State Laborers' Union
32. The Consortium for Worker Education
33. Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
34. United Way of New York State and 2-1-1 New York Inc.
35. Utility Workers Union of America
36. International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 1
37. North Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters
38. Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
39. New York State Assemblymember Michaelle Solages
40. Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties



Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

August 14, 2024

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the Institute For Workforce Advancement (IWA), I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Rugile', is written over a light blue, wavy background line.

Philip Rugile
Executive Director | prugile@compositepro.org | 631-327-7268 | 576 Broad Hollow Rd., Melville, NY 11747



August 19, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Re: Community Offshore Wind NY 5

Dear Ms. Harris,

On behalf of Brooklyn Workforce Innovations, I am writing to enthusiastically support Community Offshore Wind's proposal in response to NYSERDA's fifth offshore wind solicitation, building on their existing contract to deliver offshore wind power for New Yorkers. As you know Community Offshore Wind is a dynamic joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures.

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI; www.bwiny.org) mission is to empower low-income New Yorkers by creating living-wage employment opportunities and access to career paths. Our programs counter prevailing market inequalities, especially those based on race or gender, and contribute to a broader movement for economic justice.

BWI helps those with significant barriers to employment access careers through skilled training, access to employer-recognized credentials, job placement, and career development support. BWI has developed training programs built on promising local sectors of the economy. We only train people for jobs that lead to living-wage employment. Our instructors are skilled and experienced in the industries they train for, and we maintain long-standing relationships with a wide network of businesses that hire our graduates. Our organization commends NYSERDA's continued leadership in helping spur economic development and advance innovative, safe energy solutions for the state.

BWI supports Community Offshore Wind's new proposal, and believes their partnership is the right partner for New York State as we continue to work toward the ambitious clean energy targets set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen

to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ash', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Aaron Shiffman
Executive Director



August 21, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG), I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York. The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Katie Newcombe

Katie Newcombe
Chief Economic Development Officer



Executive Director

Michael Partis

Board President

Brandon Holley

Chief Financial Officer,
Shoptrug

Board Vice President

Nanda Prabhakar

Executive Director
Spring Creek Recreational Fund

Board Secretary

Gregg Bishop

Executive Director,
Social Justice Fund,
Joe and Clara Tsai Foundation

Board Treasurer

George Suttles,

Executive Director,
Commonfund Institute

Directors

Maria Mottola

Nonprofit Consultant

Dr. Millicent Comrie

Physician,
Maimonides Medical Center

Rebecca Kirsznar Katz

Founder, New Deal Strategies

Michael Lee

Executive Director,

Janice McGuire

Nonprofit Consultant

Thomas L. McMahon

President and Founder,
TLM Associates

Amanda Sue Nichols

Lawyer and Philanthropist

Paxton Barnes

Jennifer Wheary

Alison Maschmeyer

Kevin Correia

*"One of the most vital ways we sustain ourselves
is by building communities of resistance,
places where we know we are not alone."
— Red Hook youth*

August 12, 2024

Doreen Harris, President & CEO

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

17 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Red Hook Initiative (RHI), I am happy to support their new proposal. RHI firmly believes that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York. They have proven to be committed to the communities they will serve throughout New York State. On Giving Tuesday for two consecutive years, they donated winter coats to RHI for distribution to families. They have also provided STEM-based field trips for our youth and supported our annual Spring into Community event. They are now looking to engage with our urban farm programs. All of which have greatly benefitted the Red Hook, Brooklyn community.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Yvonne M. Brathwaite

Chief Program and Policy Officer

August 14, 2024



President
Robert Weltner

Vice Presidents
Captain Skip Zawrotny
Gary Smith
Maureen Bowie

Treasurer
Mike Hindley

Recording Secretary
Beverly Viscònt

Corresponding Secretary
Pat Healy

Board of Directors
Joseph Pignataro
Bob Karcher
Dante Grover
James Jewett
Barbra Ludwig
Kim Weltner
...and 300 other members

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Operation Splash, we support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York. Community Offshore Wind has supported Operation Splash by sponsoring one of our clean up vessels and by providing field trips to Uniondale students to SPLASH headquarters in Freeport. Those trips help the students learn about their environment and how they have the power to preserve and protect it. They have also scheduled a day at the end of August to come out and help clean the bays. Their team has stayed in frequent communication by providing project updates and introductions to other developers.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design specific programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and we are certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,
Robert Weltner
President of Operation SPLASH

Operation SPLASH
202 Woodcleft Ave.
Freeport, NY 11520
5163784770
OperationSPLASH.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

August 15, 2024

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the Alliance of New York State YMCAs, I support their new proposal, and believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind realized during early discussions with their workforce partners and stakeholders, that swim is a requirement to work offshore. Swim safety and access is a matter of equity, public health, and community safety. Community Offshore Wind has therefore developed a program with the Alliance of New York State YMCAs by including an \$11 million MOU in their bid. This investment will be for NYS school age students in kindergarten through third grade in disadvantaged communities. The goal will be to serve 10,000 students. They have already funded three swim programs with the YMCA of Long Island, NYC, and Dodge Branch impacting 156 children as a pilot.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Stewart
Executive Director

ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
465 New Karner Road, Albany, New York 12205
P 518.462.8241 ymcanys.org



Community Offshore Wind – NY5 Template Letter of Support

2024.08.12

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of FuzeHub, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elena Garuc", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Elena Garuc
Executive Director, FuzeHub (NY MEP)



✉ info@minoritymillennials.org
🌐 www.MinorityMillennials.org
🏠 629 Broadway N. Amityville, NY 11701

August 16, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Minority Millennials, Inc., I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. Lloyd
Founder & President

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF NASSAU COUNTY
40 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550
(516) 560-6412

August 15, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that

Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Scott Banks", is written over the typed name.

N. Scott Banks

Attorney in Chief



August ,20 2024

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

RE: Support for Community Offshore Wind's proposal

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Operation Splash, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind began conversations with National Wind Services in 2022. An MOU was created that would provide students from underserved communities the opportunity to experience Maritime College first hand and learn about offshore wind, renewable energy, and the maritime industry. Although their project was cancelled, Community Offshore Wind still decided to fund a pilot program to support the students of the Harbor School in Brooklyn. We are planning an experiential learning field trip for the Harbor School students in the new year and are confident these students will be left with an impactful experience.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Marjaneh Issapour

Marjaneh Issapour, P.E.
CEO of National Wind Services Corp



Sincerely,

Marjaneh Issapour MSEE, P.E.
CEO and founder of National Wind Services Corp.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



Dennis C. Affinati, International Vice President
500 CHERRINGTON PARKWAY, SUITE 325
CORAOPOLIS, PA 15108
(412) 269-4963 • Fax (412) 269-4964

Kenneth W. Cooper, International President
Paul A. Noble, International Secretary-Treasurer

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Delaware

August 23, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the fourteen IBEW Construction Local Unions in New York, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development
Authority
Page 2

August 23, 2024

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Affinati", written in a cursive style.

Dennis C. Affinati
International Vice President

DCA:lr



WHYMAKER

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

WhyMaker LLC
405 Lexington Avenue, Floor 9
New York, NY 10174

August 26, 2024

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of WhyMaker, I support their new proposal, and believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for the continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

They have supported WhyMaker, by creating an engaging 'Operation like' board game that teaches students about the components of a wind turbine. They currently use the WhyMaker game and presentation in schools, to ensure that students and educators are learning about wind turbines in a fun and creative way.

This game was only a prototype, and we are in discussions about scaling the game throughout the state. If Community Offshore Wind wins the project, we are hopeful that through their education fund, we can deploy games to schools state-wide.

Community Offshore Wind has also spoken at our NYS Clean Energy for Educator's Institutes for the past two years in both Buffalo and in NYC. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They design their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help and they recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business.

I believe that Community Offshore Wind would be a great partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Respectfully,

Liz Gallo, CEO WhyMaker



August 26th, 2024

Doreen Harris, President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

RE: Community Offshore Wind

Dear President & CEO Harris,

On behalf of the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV), I am writing in reference to the proposed offshore wind energy project from Community Offshore Wind for the fifth offshore wind solicitation.

NYLCV is committed to a renewable energy future for New York. Offshore wind is one of our top priorities, as it is critical to meet New York's renewable energy goals, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and rebuild around a clean energy economy, which will provide union jobs and improve public health. The League proudly supports the State's goal of achieving 70% clean energy by 2030, and 100% clean energy by 2040, including at least 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035, a goal we believe needs to be raised to 20 gigawatts by 2050 to achieve 85% emissions reductions economy-wide.

We appreciate Community Offshore Wind's proactive efforts to engage with environmental and community organizations during the proposals development to understand our views on offshore wind and identify potential opportunities to advance environmental and related initiatives in the event their proposal is selected for award.

NYLCV is committed to fostering the creation and education of a green workforce to support disadvantaged communities and facilitate a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries, which is something we share with Community Offshore Wind. The offshore wind industry and its related supply chains offer significant opportunities for in-state port, servicing, and manufacturing jobs while furthering the decarbonization of New York's energy grid.

New York needs clean energy without delay or we will all pay a steep environmental price. Increasingly severe weather and poor air quality impacting New Yorkers is all too real, punctuated by the record-breaking air pollution we were forced to breathe from wildfire smog and the record temperatures worldwide. Now is the time for climate action. That means we need projects like Community Offshore Wind in operation to deliver clean energy to meet the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

We welcome the opportunity to continue the conversation and advance your efforts to develop well-sited offshore wind projects with minimal environmental impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie Tighe'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Tighe,
President, New York League of Conservation Voters



256 W. 36th Street
11th Floor
New York, NY 10018

212.935.9831
waterfrontalliance.org

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Julie Pullen, Ph.D.

Michael Stamatis

Chris Ward

Cortney Koenig Worrall
President and CEO

August 29, 2024

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Waterfront Alliance, I support their new proposal and believe that Community Offshore Wind is a strong partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind began engagement with the **Waterfront Alliance** in the Spring of 2022. They quickly became a sponsor of our annual conference and engaged with multiple attendees while at their Blue Expo table. They have been a City of Water Day sponsor for several years where they have tabled with information and giveaways. They are also an annual Heroes of the Harbor gala sponsor.

Community Offshore Wind is a Corporate Council member that provides valuable insight to our members regarding industry and policy at conferences and meetings. We look forward to continuing to work together on WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) Verification and a Waterfront Access program for individuals from overburdened communities if they are awarded a project.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is an excellent partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cortney".

Cortney Koenig Worrall
President and CEO





August 26, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203

Dear President Harris,

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is a 120,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers communities and advocates solutions to protect public health and our environment. CCE strongly supports advancing well-sited, environmentally responsible renewable energy projects and phasing out the use of antiquated fossil fuels throughout New York State. To combat climate change and reach New York State's energy goal of 70% renewable energy by 2030, offshore wind must play a critical role in our energy mix. We are writing to express our support for Community Offshore Wind's submission in response to New York's fifth offshore wind solicitation.

We are excited that New York's first offshore wind farm, South Fork Wind, is now supplying renewable energy to 70,000 Long Island homes. Sunrise Wind and Empire Wind 1 are in construction and are expected to come online in 2026. Together, they are slated to power over 1 million homes on Long Island and NYC. Although New York has become a national leader in offshore wind, we need to do more to advance more offshore wind to achieve our climate change objectives. It is crucial that we grow our offshore wind energy sector, we do so in a way that is environmentally responsible. It is also crucial that we do so with companies that are responsive and connected to the local community. We believe that Community Offshore Wind is such a company.

CCE supports Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture between RWE Renewables and National Grid, in their application for NYSERDA's fifth offshore wind procurement solicitation. Community Offshore Wind has partnered with Citizens Campaign for the Environment for two consecutive years to provide renewable energy education to the students of Uniondale on Long Island. This partnership has allowed CCE to create a unique program to educate high school students on the impacts from climate change and the role of renewable energy to address the climate crisis. The program educates students on local impacts to Long Island associated with climate change, identifies climate change solutions such as offshore wind, and

alerts the students to the many job opportunities that are becoming available. In the first year of this highly successful program, CCE staff gave climate change and offshore wind presentations to approximately 35 teachers in an after-school presentation and 45 individual classes for students that totaled over 1100 students. The project included a field trip to the Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center in spring of 2023 and another in 2024. We plan to continue this partnership and grow the program in the upcoming school year.

Community Wind has also provided presentations and updates on their project to Wind Works and at several community and stakeholder events hosted by CCE. The developers have a great track record of fruitful and meaningful community outreach to stakeholders, environmental groups, and the public. This is the type of public outreach and local community engagement that we will need from developers to successfully transition to renewables and meet our climate mandates. We look forward to collaborating with the Community Offshore Wind team on future community outreach and educational opportunities for the public if they are selected.

I express my support for Community Offshore Wind's proposal to NYSERDA to provide clean energy from offshore wind to the state of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Esposito". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Adrienne Esposito
Executive Director



Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the **Central and South East Brooklyn CDC**, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Rona Taylor
Executive Director



John F. Calvelli
Executive Vice President
Public Affairs

September 3, 2024

Ms. Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Mrs. Harris,

At the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), our mission is to save wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. This work starts at our wildlife parks across New York City which include the Bronx Zoo, the Central Park Zoo, the Queens Zoo, the Prospect Park Zoo, and New York Aquarium (NYA) in Brooklyn's Coney Island. As neighbors in the New York Bight with expertise in wildlife, communities, and sustainability initiatives, we believe that offshore wind development, if done with these priorities in mind, has the potential for a range of positive outcomes and can set a new paradigm for responsible energy development.

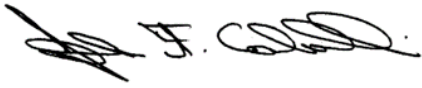
At the request of Community Offshore Wind (COSW), we are pleased to submit this letter acknowledging the company's support of WCS in the form of a \$25,000 sponsorship to launch the New York Aquarium Beach Club, running from August 2023 to May 2024. In addition to this funding from Community Offshore Wind, WCS has a decades-long relationship with its parent company, National Grid. National Grid has supported our educational programs based at our zoos and NYA, as well as the critical restoration of the Aquarium after it was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

With COSW's support, the New York Aquarium Beach Club provided a series of opportunities for Brooklyn families from historically under-resourced neighborhoods to join WCS Educators in meaningful explorations of nature at the Aquarium, on the beach, and along the Coney Island Creek. Reaching about 500 individuals, the program helped families learn about the wonders and biodiversity of local marine environments, how to safely explore these spaces, and how they can become conservation advocates. In addition to the Educator-led programming, participants received free access to the NYA and its 4-D theater show; WCS's digital Family Science Learning Resources; and invitations to Coney Island community conservation events.

WCS is a highly regarded leader in wildlife conservation, environmental education, and promoting workforce development. In addition to our work with Community Offshore Wind and National Grid, we have new and longstanding relationships with a range of industry collaborators and government agencies. As the offshore wind industry grows in the New York area, we plan to bolster our investment in our local marine conservation and local community efforts, particularly to work toward equity and economic justice while advancing responsible offshore wind and protecting marine wildlife and habitats. We intend to continue to apply for grants with industry partners like COSW, supporting our local marine

conservation initiatives, community engagement, and award-winning STEM workforce development programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Calvelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and "C".

John F. Calvelli

Executive Vice President for Public Affairs
Wildlife Conservation Society
Chair, AZA Government Affairs Committee

2300 Southern Boulevard Bronx, NY 10460 • 718.220.7139 • jcalvelli@wcs.org

WE STAND FOR WILDLIFESM • WWW.WCS.ORG
BRONX ZOO • NEW YORK AQUARIUM • CENTRAL PARK ZOO • QUEENS ZOO • PROSPECT PARK



2024.08.12

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Operation Splash, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind coming to our Brooklyn Bridge Parents table with mission-aligned support is invaluable. They've co-hosted and sponsored multiple of our family-filled community events that reach over 2,000 families in Brooklyn. They've also gone above and beyond in supporting the community by sponsoring 20 students from Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood to join a soccer team through the Brooklyn Futbol Foundation.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Katharina Goetz

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Goetz", is written over the printed name and extends across the page.

Founder Brooklyn Bridge Parents

<https://brooklynbridgeparents.com/>

**DEPARTMENT OF
REGIONAL SCHOOLS
AND INSTRUCTIONAL
PROGRAMS**
Dr. Peter J. Dalton
Workforce Development
Administrator

August 27, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Nassau BOCES, I support their latest proposal and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind combines the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs its investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family, and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Peter J. Dalton



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

96 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210

August 29th, 2024

Doreen Harris, President & CEO
New York State Energy Research & Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

RE: Support for Community Offshore Wind's NY5 Proposal Submission

Dear Ms. Harris,

We have been pleased to be able to meet with the Community Offshore Wind (COSW) team to discuss of workforce development and inclusive supply chain development in the renewable energy industry. We appreciate the importance COSW places on workforce development and their engagement with diverse suppliers, labor unions, and community stakeholders as part of the proposal development process. We welcome the opportunity to work with them in the event their proposal for New York's fifth offshore wind solicitation is selected for award.

The Workforce Development Institute (WDI) is a statewide non-profit that works to increase opportunities for all New Yorkers to succeed in the workforce while earning family-sustaining wages. We use a range of tools including regional partner networks, workforce expertise, research, and flexible funding to facilitate projects that help labor unions, manufacturers, employers, educational institutions, and other workforce partners think and act differently regarding hiring, training, educating, and retaining an inclusive and productive workforce.

For more than a decade, WDI has been involved with New York's offshore wind energy industry. We have helped our partners better understand the industry and supported projects that seek to capitalize on offshore wind's workforce and economic development opportunities. Our support for offshore wind energy has been consistently driven by a dual recognition that 1) the climate crisis represents perhaps the biggest threat to New York's workforce and 2) its current and proposed solutions offer a generational opportunity to bring high-quality, family-sustaining careers to the state while advancing diversity and inclusivity in our economy. WDI looks forward to widening participation in the industry across the supply chain and the workforce.

Sincerely,

Amy Desjardins, Executive Director

August 29, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear President and CEO Harris:

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of Stony Brook University (SBU), I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

As Long Island's only major SUNY research university, SBU serves as the region's hub for innovation and industry partnerships. SBU's Economic Development enterprise, which has recently been incorporated into the Office of the Vice President for Research, collaborates with the region's industry leadership and provides support to companies, entrepreneurs and start-ups, leveraging the expertise of more than 900 researchers and investigators at one of SUNY's four Campus Centers and nearby Brookhaven National Laboratory. SBU provides support and space for incubation and guidance for business success throughout the region. This focus is closely aligned with the University's strategic goals of expanding research, fostering entrepreneurship, expanding technology commercialization and industry partnerships, and powering the prosperity of Long Island and New York State. In the last decade, SBU performed more than 4,000 projects that helped almost a thousand Long Island companies create nearly 20,000 jobs and generate more than a billion dollars in business activity.

The alignment of Economic Development with SBU's Research enterprise leverages the world-class expertise of university researchers, unique state-of-the-art facilities and an unmatched history of collaboration to create an environment of possibilities and excitement about the future of Long Island's economy, and the opportunity for industry to get the best cutting-edge ideas by tapping into the brains of the brightest minds.

SBU is deeply committed to advancing the accelerating offshore wind industry. Through a combined effort of our schools, colleges, centers, and industry partnerships, we are harnessing our research and educational expertise to solve the most pressing problems created by climate change. Our rapidly expanding programs and workforce development initiatives reflect our interdisciplinary expertise. We've expanded our undergraduate and graduate curriculum to encompass research, knowledge and applied skills in the social, business, engineering and marine aspects of this new industry and its effect on our coastline and our communities.

In the event the Community Offshore Wind proposal is funded, and Stony Brook University is sought as a partner, The Research Foundation for The State University of New York will serve as the fiscal administrator of the award and depository for funds in support of the award, entering into an appropriate agreement, on behalf of SBU, with their organization.

Sincerely,



David C Hamilton
Director, Ecosystems Growth & Impact



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1049

100 Corporate Drive • Holtsville, NY 11742 • Telephone: (631) 234-1800 • Facsimile: (631) 234-1034

Patrick Guidice
Business Manager

James Cooper
President

Anthony Scotto
Recording Secretary



August 29, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049, representing over 4,000 members on Long Island, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers.

Currently, IBEW Local 1049 has approximately 1,800 unionized employees that work for National Grid's natural gas and power plant operations and distribution network as well as skilled craft workers employes as contractors. As such, we will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development. This project aligns perfectly with our mission and goals, and we are excited about the prospect of collaboration and contributing our specialized skills and expertise.

Community Offshore Wind understands the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and committed to building an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Guidice".

Pat Guidice
Business Manager
IBEW Local 1049

August 20, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce supports their new proposal and supports Community Offshore Wind's commitment to clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business. Community Offshore Wind has demonstrated their commitment to New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy,

Sincerely,



Randy Peers
President and CEO

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

JOSEPH A. GEIGER
Executive Secretary - Treasurer

PAUL CAPURSO
President /Asst EST

DAVID CARABALLOSO
Vice President /Asst EST



395 HUDSON STREET - 9TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

PHONE: (212) 366-7500

FAX: (212) 675-3118

www.nycdistrictcouncil.com

August 19, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the New York City District Council of Carpenters, representing over 20,000 members with distinct crafts, including shop and industrial carpenters, dockbuilders, millwrights, timbermen, high rise concrete, floorcoverers, and more, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

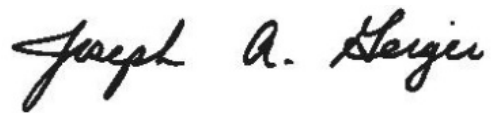
Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The NYC Carpenters will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 212-366-7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Geiger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Joseph A. Geiger
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

NEW YORK STATE IRON WORKERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Peter Myers
President
227 E 56th Street, Suite 300A
New York, NY 10022
Phone: 212-302-1868
Fax: 212-302-1914
Email: pmyers@iwintl.org



Garry Simmons
Assistant to the President
105 Homestead Court
Rotterdam NY 12306
Phone: 518-248-1242
Fax: 518-874-1725
Email: gsimmons@iwintl.org

LOCAL NO. 6
BUFFALO, NY

LOCAL NO. 9
NIAGARA FALLS, NY

LOCAL NO. 12
ALBANY, NY

LOCAL NO. 33
ROCHESTER, NY

LOCAL NO. 40
NEW YORK, NY

LOCAL NO. 46
NEW YORK, NY

LOCAL NO. 60
SYRACUSE, NY

LOCAL NO. 197
NEW YORK, NY

LOCAL NO. 361
BROOKLYN, NY

LOCAL NO. 417
NEWBURGH, NY

LOCAL NO. 440
UTICA, NY

LOCAL NO. 580
NEW YORK, NY

September 3, 2024

Doreen Harris

President & CEO

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

17 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the NYS Iron Workers District Council, representing over 10,000 members in New York, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

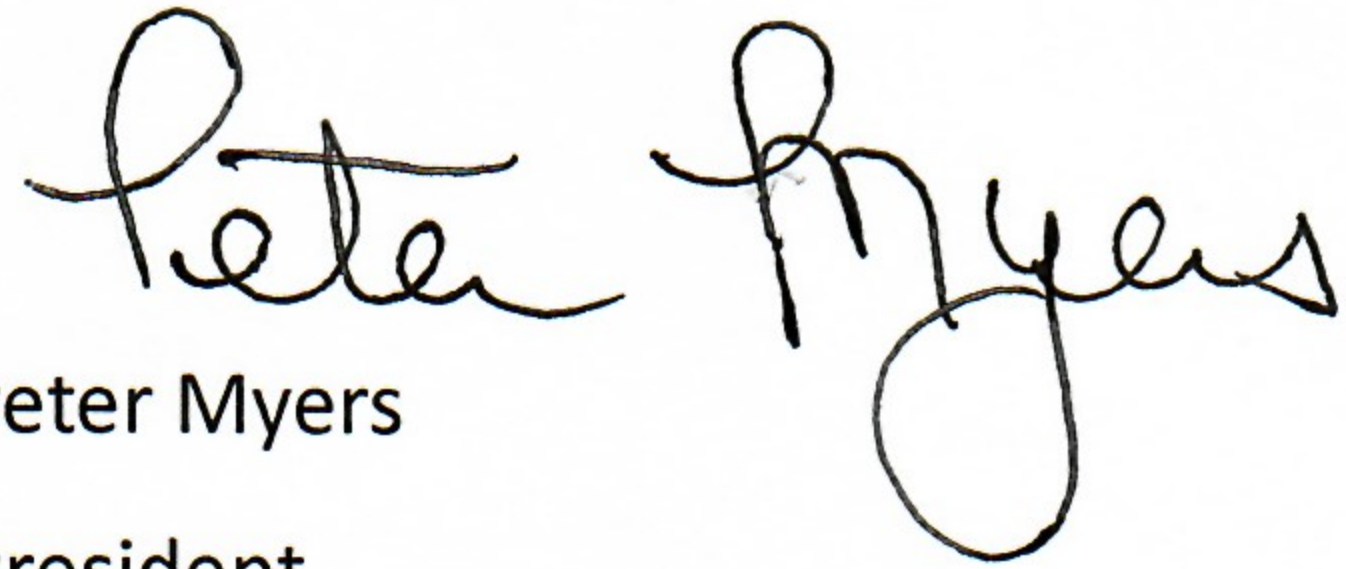
Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply

chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The NYS Iron Workers will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and "M".

Peter Myers

President

New York State Iron Workers District Council



Southwest Brooklyn
Industrial Development
Corporation

**Community Offshore Wind – NY5 Template Letter of Support
2024.08.29**

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. As the Executive Director of the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, a local economic development corporation and membership organization whose mission is to create equal opportunity for the people, businesses, and community of Southwest Brooklyn, I support their new proposal. On behalf of SBIDC, Community Offshore Wind is an excellent partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind combines the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York. This unique blend of global and local knowledge positions them as a strong contender for the proposed project.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Jesse Tinen Solomon
Executive Director, SBIDC



Community Offshore Wind – NY5 Letter of Support

August 26, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture between RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses.

On behalf of The School of Professional Development's Center for Continuing Education at Stony Brook University (SBU), I express our strong support for their proposal. I firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued efforts to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind combines the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York. The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, designing investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers, businesses, and families they seek to support. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design tailored programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

The School of Professional Development at Stony Brook University (SBU) offers a range of continuing, professional, and online education programs, along with non-credit career development, corporate training, and community outreach initiatives. Our mission is to deliver high-quality, research-informed programs that bridge theory and practice, enhancing career success. We strive to innovate academic program design through best practices and advanced educational technologies, promoting excellence in education. Additionally, we aim to broaden access for non-traditional students and corporations, providing a world-class resource for professional advancement, credentialing, and organizational growth—all with the ultimate goal of building a stronger and more dynamic region.

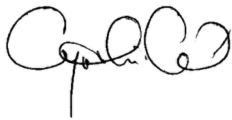
SBU is deeply committed to a clean energy future. Through the combined efforts of our schools, colleges, centers, and industry partnerships, we are rapidly expanding academic programs and workforce development initiatives that reflect our interdisciplinary expertise in addressing immediate educational needs. Our expanded undergraduate and graduate curricula include research, knowledge, and applied skills in the social, business, engineering, and marine aspects of this rapidly growing industry. These efforts also extend to professional education and outreach programs within the K-12 community. SBU is

co-managing the Offshore Wind Training Institute (OWTI), in partnership with Farmingdale State College. This \$8 million grant fund supports SUNY-based programs that prepare students and professionals for careers in the offshore wind industry. These programs address critical needs such as identifying workforce gaps and engaging with SUNY institutions to promote offshore wind opportunities.

Community Offshore Wind recognizes the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family, and business, aligning with current initiatives. I am confident that Community Offshore Wind is the ideal partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy but also to create a thriving, equitable, and resilient clean energy economy.

In the event the proposal is awarded, and Stony Brook University (SBU) is sought as a partner, The Research Foundation for The State University of New York will serve as the fiscal administrator of the award and depository for funds in support of the award, entering into an appropriate agreement, on behalf of SBU, with the applying organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Colón', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cynthia Colón
Director, Strategic Initiatives
School of Professional Development
Cynthia.Colon@stonybrook.edu
631-216-7519



520 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

p. 646 386 3100

f. 212 397 0985

innovatingjustice.org

Courtney Bryan, Executive Director

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of The Brownsville Community Justice Center, a demonstration site of the Center for Justice Innovation, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities, and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ionna", written over a white background.

Ionna Jimenez, Director

**Activating ideas.
Strengthening communities.**



Sunset Park
882 3rd Ave
Suite 10-10NE
Unit 18
Brooklyn, NY 11232
P: 718-369-0303
F: 718-369-1518

Bushwick
25 Thornton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206
P: 718-387-1600
F: 718-387-5005

Jamaica
168-25 Jamaica Avenue
Suite 202
Jamaica, NY 11432
P: 718-526-2984
F: 212-202-6456

Innovation Lab
87 35th Street
2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11232
P: 718-801-8970

info@obtjobs.org
www.obtjobs.org

September 3, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses.

On behalf of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and inequity through education, job training, and employment, I support their new proposal. I firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued efforts to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Ortiz
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow



We see what can be.

September 3, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-6399

Dear President Harris:

On behalf of Good Shepherd Services' staff and the 33,000 children, youth and families we support across New York City, I am writing to support the Community Offshore Wind's proposal to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses as part of New York's fifth competitive offshore wind solicitation.

The Community Offshore Wind is a joint venture of RWE and National Grid to develop offshore wind projects in the Northeast U.S. With this partnership, National Grid and RWE have jointly acquired an offshore seabed lease with the goal of developing, constructing and operating U.S. offshore wind projects. This partnership supports both companies' efforts to advance a clean energy future and achieve net zero in the coming decades.

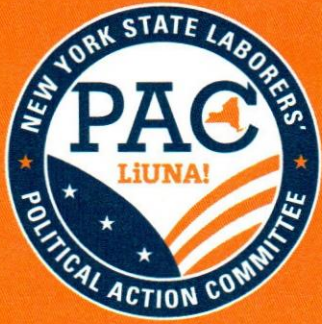
The Community Offshore Wind has demonstrated a commitment to engaging community as part of their work and has partnered with our Miccio Cornerstone Community Center in Red Hook, Brooklyn which has sparked growing interest in how residents can become a part of our clean energy future. The Community Offshore Wind has also donated school supplies, winter coats and have also supported STEM related field trips so that students can learn about engineering and science in an engaging way.

Again, we support the Community Offshore Wind proposal. Please be in touch with me at (212) 243-7070 should you need additional information about our partnership with the Community Offshore Wind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Yanche".

Michelle Yanche
Executive Director / Chief Executive Director



L. Todd Diorio
Chairman

Angelo Angelone
Member

Anthony Ascencao
Member

Samuel Capitano
Member

Kris Kohler
Member

Keith Loscalzo
Member

Michael McGuire
Member

Michael Prohaska
Member

Dominic Valdner
Member

Vincent Albanese
Executive Director

New York State Laborers'
Political Action Committee
18 Corporate Woods Blvd.
Albany, New York 12211
Tel: (518) 449-1715
Fax: (518) 449-1621
www.nysliuna.org

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the New York State Laborers' Union representing over 40,000 members in New York, we support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind would be a great partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The NYS Laborers' will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker. While we support any of the solicitations that include firm labor commitments, it should be noted that Community Offshore Wind is an honest, experienced and committed partner in this space and we would be lucky to continue our work with them should they be selected.

Sincerely,

Vincent Albanese
Executive Director





Consortium For Worker Education

305 Seventh Avenue, Third Floor, New York, NY 10001
212.647.1900 | Fax 212.647.1915 | www.cwe.org

September 3, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of The Consortium for Worker Education, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenda Williams', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Glenda Williams
Deputy Executive Director
Workforce Partnerships



LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

September 3, 2024

Ms. Doreen Harris, President and CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbus Circle
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Ms. Harris

On behalf of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO we are writing to express our support for Community Offshore Wind (COSW), a joint venture between RWE Renewables and National Grid, in response to NYSERDA's fifth offshore wind solicitation. Community Offshore Wind is committed to delivering clean energy safely, reliably, and efficiently while creating good union jobs.

Our movement firmly believes in an all of the above energy approach that help's New York lead on climate change responsibly. Working people are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and bear the brunt of every natural disaster. During every severe weather event that has impacted our region, working people respond in order to power our homes, rebuild our communities, and deliver public services. They do it all while dealing with the devastation inflicted on their own homes. We are aligned and applaud your commitment to advancing this industry.

The joint venture partners of COSW have experience delivering large infrastructure and clean energy projects, as well as a deep understanding of the people who call Long Island home. National Grid serves over 20 million people throughout the Northeast, including millions on Long Island. RWE is one of the world's leading companies in offshore wind. Their collective experience in generation, transmission, and offshore wind coupled with their local footprint makes them well positioned to address the just transition of displaced workers. This makes them an ideal partner to help New York achieve a real just transition.

Furthermore, the Community Offshore Wind team has secured a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NYS Building & Construction Trades Council for a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on the construction of the project as well as the construction of related manufacturing facilities as needed. We are in the process of pursuing a Labor Peace Agreement (LPA) covering

operations, maintenance, and manufacturing to ensure workers are able to exercise their rights under the National Labor Relations Act free from employer interference. While no agreement has been reached, talks are ongoing.

Finally, the Community Offshore Wind project would sit on the largest parcel in the New York Bight. It has the potential to host 3 GW of capacity, enough to power over one million homes. This would be a significant step in helping New York State meet the goals laid out by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Sincerely,



John R. Durso
President



Ryan Stanton
Executive Director



United Way
of New York State

Chair
Darley Willis

Vice Chair
Mary Sullivan

Vice Chair
June Blanc

Treasurer
Dallas Sutton

August 20, 2024

NYSERDA President and CEO Doreen M. Harris
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of United Way of New York State and 2-1-1 New York Inc., I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind prioritizes the needs of communities and identified childcare as a barrier for those entering the workforce early on. The United Way and Community Offshore Wind have partnered on a ground-breaking \$10M initiative to create a more equitable offshore wind workforce in local communities and remove barriers for workers who want to enter the offshore wind workforce and pre-apprenticeship union programs but need affordable childcare resources. The program will not only benefit families that need childcare resources but provide a stabilizing revenue stream to childcare providers who are already serving the most economically disadvantaged children.

The joint venture is a proven partner to New York communities and designs their investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

800 Troy-Schenectady Road, 1st Floor
Latham, NY 12110-2424
Phone: 518-608-6456
Fax: 518-608-6464
www.uwnys.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED™ 

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,



Darley Willis

Darley Willis, Board Chair
United Way of New York State

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

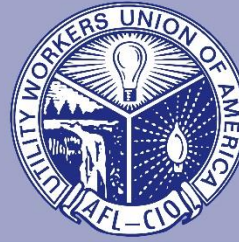
JAMES SLEVIN
PRESIDENT

PATRICK M. DILLON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL COLEMAN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

CRAIG PINKHAM
VICE PRESIDENT

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.



1300 L STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202-899-2851
202-899-2852 FAX
www.uwua.net



September 5, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. Representing 45,000 hard-working men and women of the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) across the United States in the electric, gas, and water utility sectors I write to support their new proposal. The UWUA enthusiastically looks forward to continuing our partnership with Community Offshore Wind for our ongoing work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

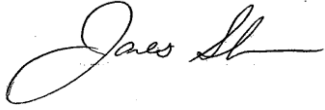
Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is strong. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, which integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management training programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating high-road labor standards in its regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The UWUA will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

UWUA has demonstrated success through our Power for America (P4A) training program for the emerging renewables sector by building an onshore wind apprenticeship program in Michigan. In the future, the UWUA looks forward to collaborating, attending, and creating awareness of COSW, the good union jobs expected from its development, and the offshore wind applications to integrate into our existing training programs.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

I express my support for Community Offshore Wind's Proposal to NYSERDA to provide clean energy from offshore wind to the state of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James T. Slevin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James T. Slevin, National President
Utility Workers Union of America



Local One

International Union of Elevator Constructors
Of New York and New Jersey – (AFL-CIO)
47-24 27th Street, Long Island City, New York 11101
Phone: (718) 767-7004 FAX: (718) 383-0068



September 5, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 1, representing over 3,000 members in New York City, Westchester, Rockland, New Jersey, and Long Island, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

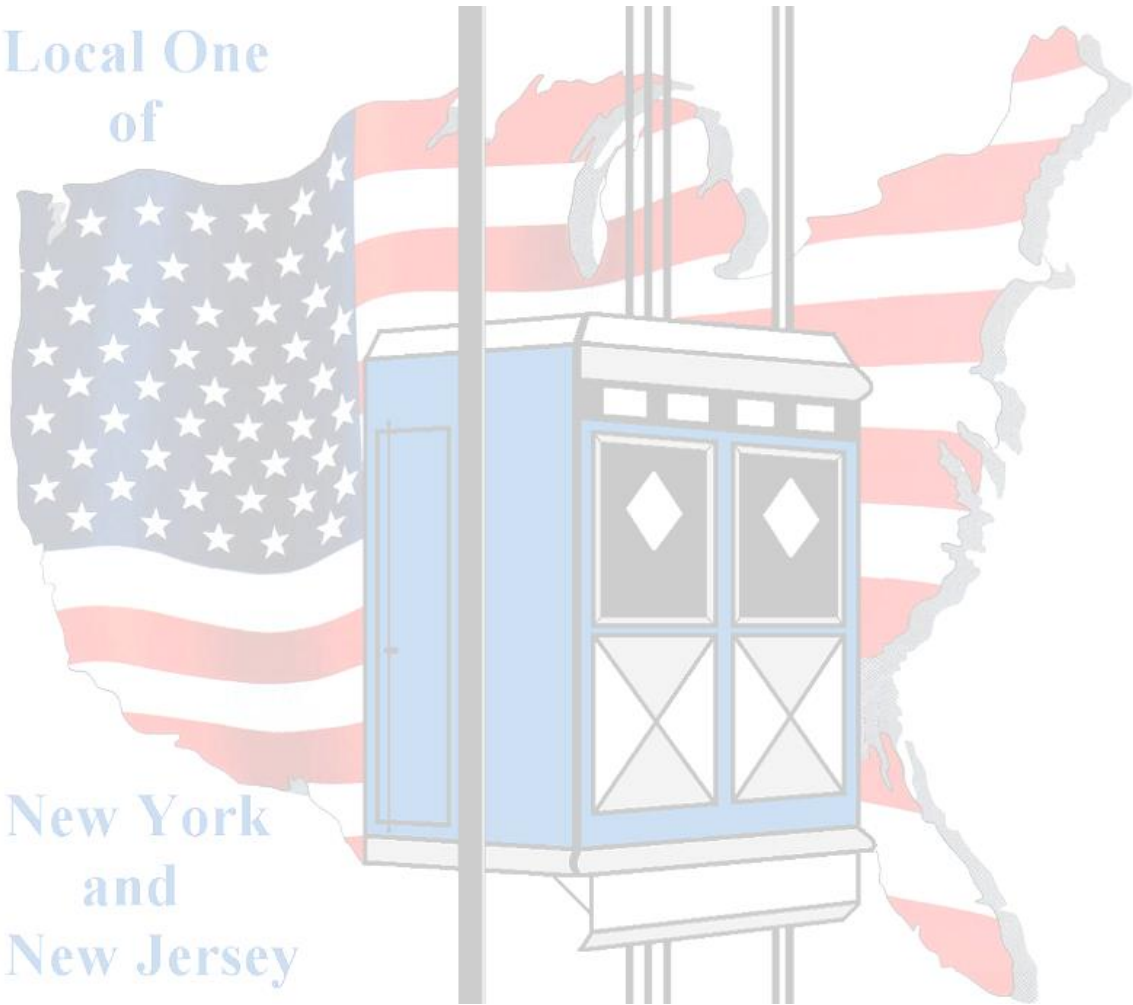
Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. IUEC Local 1 will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Lenny Legotte
President / Business Manager

Local One
of



New York
and
New Jersey

NORTH ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Joseph Byrne
Executive Secretary Treasurer



William Banfield
Assistant to the Executive Secretary Treasurer

September 6, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the North Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, representing over 30,000 carpenters, pile drivers, shop and millmen, millwrights, and floor coverers in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont in New York, I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

Community Offshore Wind's labor engagement is unmatched. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities. The project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. The team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers. The North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good union jobs expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

William Banfield

William Banfield
Assistant Executive Secretary Treasurer



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ANTONIO REYNOSO

Brooklyn Borough President

Doreen M. Harris, President
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203

September 6, 2024

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. I support their new proposal, and firmly believe that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner for our continued work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

This joint venture has proven valuable to New York communities and designs its investment programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they seek to help. They take the time to listen to stakeholders, identify specific and persistent barriers to equity and opportunity, and design bespoke programs that generate real and tangible results for our communities.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business. I am confident that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Reynoso".

Antonio Reynoso
Brooklyn Borough President

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:
33 North Central Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580
516-599-2972

ALBANY OFFICE:
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NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
MICHAELLE C. SOLAGES
22nd District

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIR
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, & Asian
Legislative Caucus
COMMITTEES
Health Libraries and Education
Technology
Racing and Wagering
Social Services

September 9, 2024

NYSERDA
Doreen Harris, President, CEO
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture between RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to deliver clean energy from new offshore wind projects to power New York's homes and businesses. I support their proposal, confident that Community Offshore Wind is the right partner to help us achieve the ambitious climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

This partnership combines the global offshore wind expertise of RWE with National Grid Ventures' proven track record of delivering large-scale energy infrastructure for New Yorkers. Their approach to community investment stands out, as they design programs based on direct feedback from the workers and families they aim to support. By listening to stakeholders and addressing barriers to equity and opportunity, they create initiatives that deliver real benefits.

Community Offshore Wind also recognizes the critical role offshore wind plays in strengthening our energy independence, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and increasing resilience against energy market fluctuations. They understand the importance of a just and equitable energy transition, ensuring that every worker, family, and business in New York shares in the benefits. They are the ideal partner as we work to build not just a renewable energy grid, but a thriving, inclusive, and resilient clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michaelle Solages".

Honorable Michaelle C. Solages
New York State Assemblymember
Twenty-second Assembly District



Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Matthew Aracich, President
Michael Bourgal, Secretary Treasurer

George Truicko, Vice President
William Hill, Recording Secretary

John Cush, Sergeant at Arms

Trustees: Janet Powers, Timothy McCarthy, Brian Nigro

September 6, 2024

Doreen Harris
President & CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

RE: Support for Community Offshore Wind Proposal

Dear President & CEO Harris,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE and National Grid Ventures, is submitting a proposal to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to bring clean energy from new offshore wind capacity to power New York homes and businesses. On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, representing over 65,000 members on Long Island, I write in support of Community Offshore Wind's new proposal, and believe that they will continue our work to meet the nation-leading climate and clean energy goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Community Offshore Wind brings together the expertise of a global leader in offshore wind with the local experience of a company that has already delivered large-scale energy infrastructure projects for New York.

I can express my belief with certainty that Community Offshore Wind's Labor engagement is consistent and reliable. The team continues to lead by example in building trust between organized labor unions, community-based organizations, and the offshore wind industry to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to under resourced communities.

The team behind this project is pursuing high-road labor agreements, integrates pre-apprenticeship, registered apprenticeship, and labor-management programs as key

pillars of its workforce development strategy, and regularly communicates industry updates. Their team is focused on creating a high-road regional supply chain by working with union and MWBE/SDVOB suppliers.

The Nassau and Suffolk Building Trades will continue to collaborate, strategize, and facilitate awareness of Community Offshore Wind and the good, union careers expected from its development.

They recognize the critical importance of a just, equitable energy transition that benefits every New York worker, family and business and I am certain that Community Offshore Wind is the perfect partner for New York as we work not only to build an electrical system powered by renewable energy, but a thriving, equitable and resilient clean energy economy that provides opportunities at every level.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Aracich", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Aracich,
President,
BCTC of N/S Counties

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Attachment 8.3-2

Stakeholder engagement tracker

Public Version



8.3-2 Stakeholder engagement tracker

This document contains confidential information and is therefore excluded from this public version.

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Attachment 8.3-3

Marketing tracker

Public Version



8.3-3 Marketing tracker

This document contains confidential information and is therefore excluded from this public version.

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Attachment 8.3-4

Fisheries communication plan

Public Version



COMMUNITY OFFSHORE WIND

Fisheries Communications Plan

Document Number: 004500694-02



Document Number: 004500694-02

Revision Summary				
Rev	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By
1.0	08/22/2022	Deirdre Boelke, Michelle Duval	Rick Robins	Daniel Sieger
2.0	03/30/2023	Deirdre Boelke, Michelle Duval	Rick Robins	Daniel Sieger

Description of Revisions				
Rev	Date	Section	Pages	Description
1.0	08/22/2022	All	All	Original document
2.0	03/30/2023	Section 1.1	1	Updated offshore distances to lease
		Section 1.2	3-6	Updated Fisheries Team contact information and bios
		Section 1.3	6-7	Updated best practices used in development of plan

Abbreviations

ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
EA	Environmental Assessment
CFF	Coonamessett Farm Foundation
FL	Fisheries Liaison
FR	Fisheries Representative
FTR	Fisheries Technical Representative
F-TWG	Fisheries Technical Working Group (NYSERDA)
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
MARCO	Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
NEAMAP	NorthEast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program
NEFMC	New England Fishery Management Council
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NROC	Northeast Regional Ocean Council
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSERDA	New York State Environmental Research and Development Authority
OCLSA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
RODA	Responsible Offshore Development Alliance
ROSA	Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
RWSC	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind
SMAST	School for Marine Science & Technology (UMass Dartmouth)
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
WEA	Wind Energy Area

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1 Introduction

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE Renewables and National Grid Ventures, proposes to develop the Community Offshore Wind Project (the Project), under Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (Lease Area OCS-A 0539; Lease Area). Lease Area OCS-A 0539 encompasses approximately 125,964 acres and is located approximately 56 nautical miles (NM) or 104 kilometers (km) south of New York and 32NM (59 km) east of New Jersey (see Figure 1). Water depths range from 30 to 52 meters (16 to 28 fathoms).

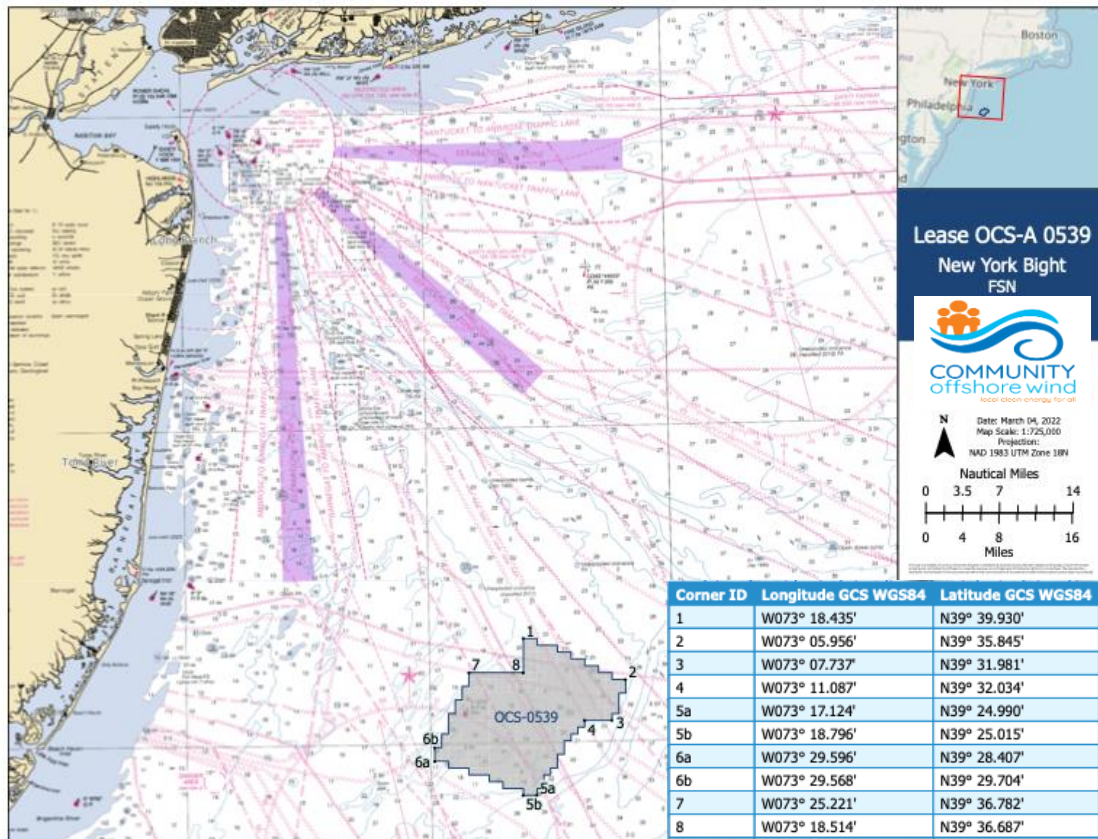


Figure 1. Location of OCS-A 0539 in relation to major navigational routes into the harbor of New York, New York. Coordinates of primary boundaries of Lease Area included in table.

As part of the Project development, Community Offshore Wind is committed to a holistic, adaptive, and integrative approach to fisheries communication and outreach, in partnership with fisheries participants and other stakeholders, including fishing organizations, fishing communities, fisheries agencies, and the general public. The Fisheries Communications Plan (Plan) is foundational to sustainable and successful Project outcomes, and is the primary tool through which the Project team will build collaborative relationships with fisheries participants and stakeholders and affected communities to inform impact avoidance throughout the lifecycle of the Project. The company’s fisheries communications team will guide the development, use, and adaptation of the Plan to reflect feedback and curate knowledge from the fishing community, and promote a shared understanding of current and historic fisheries resources and uses.

This Plan is intended to be a living document that is inclusive of all fisheries participants and stakeholders and is responsive to diverse perspectives and needs. Community Offshore Wind recognizes that effective engagement is built one relationship at a time, and that a successful process often involves difficult conversations. We value open and honest communication and are committed to an “early and often” approach to outreach.

1.1 Fisheries Communication Principles and Objectives

The following principles guide the development, implementation, and future modifications of the Plan, and reflect the core values and philosophy of Community Offshore Wind.:

- **Safety:** Promote the safety of fishermen, communities, project crews, and marine life, from Project design through implementation.
- **Respect:** Build trust through respect for the local knowledge, expertise, and concerns of the fishing community.
- **Understanding:** Develop a detailed understanding of the fisheries resources and uses in the area to inform the successful development of the project.
- **Transparency:** Promote transparency through timely two-way communication that allows for sharing clear feedback and is responsive to fisheries participants and stakeholder communication preferences.
- **Efficiency:** Ensure communication and outreach activities are internally and externally coordinated to achieve efficient communications at the appropriate cadence for all fisheries stakeholder groups.
- **Equity:** Ensure engagement efforts are comprehensive across fisheries participants, stakeholders, and communities, including underserved and non-traditional constituents.
- **Adaptability:** Respond to changing fisheries participant and stakeholder needs and circumstances as an opportunity to adapt and improve communication methods and strategies.
- **Collaboration:** Build a shared, sustainable future for area fisheries and offshore wind through collaboration and inclusivity that ultimately lessens the impacts of climate change.

The goal of Community Offshore Wind is to proactively ensure that all fishing community stakeholders are informed of the Project, and aware of the many opportunities for communication and input throughout the project lifecycle. In addition, our goal is to ensure that the Project team develops a comprehensive understanding of the individual fisheries in the Lease Area, and their social and economic significance to onshore communities within the region. The fisheries team is committed to sharing this knowledge across Community Offshore Wind’s workstreams to best serve the needs of fisheries participants and communities. Together, we are striving to achieve net positive biodiversity outcomes above and below the water line. This Plan includes time and resources for the Fisheries Team to develop and present educational materials across the Community Offshore Wind Project workstreams about relevant fisheries and other ocean user groups in and around the Lease Area and potential export cable routes. The more the Project team understands and appreciates the importance of regional fisheries, the more successful the overall Project will be. The objectives of the Plan in support of these goals are:

- Develop a detailed technical understanding of the current and historical fisheries operating and transiting within and around the Lease Area, and curate the knowledge and expertise of local fishermen and other experts to achieve this.
- Foster a proactive approach to promoting safety and deconflicting the operations of survey and construction crews and fishermen within the Lease Area that is based on the local knowledge of fishing communities and representatives.

- Collaborate with fisheries participants and stakeholders to apply their collective knowledge and understanding of fisheries resources and habitats to avoid and minimize impacts to the extent practicable throughout the Project life cycle.
- Recognize and balance the Project's need for detailed local knowledge with the burden of engagement for fisheries participants and stakeholders through the use of thoughtful and efficient communication methods, and a commitment to coordinate outreach activities with other developers.
- Engage fishermen and stakeholders in identifying opportunities for cooperative monitoring and research that will contribute to the mutual understanding and successful shared use of the area.
- Develop comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder engagement strategies that are sensitive to the needs of both underserved communities and non-traditional stakeholders, and foster effective two-way communication.

1.2 Fisheries Team

Community Offshore Wind has assembled a fisheries team with experience that spans decades of direct experience in state, interstate, and federal fisheries management, cooperative fisheries research, commercial fisheries development, seafood processing, and commercial and recreational fisheries. The team benefits from strong advisory support from its fisheries technical advisors/fisheries representatives who have extensive experience in their respective fisheries in the project area and broader region. Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Team includes:

Name/Title	Role/Responsibilities	Contact Information
Deirdre Boelke Fisheries Liaison	Primary Fisheries Contact, Responsibilities below	DeirdreB@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 978-518-0638
Michelle Duval Fisheries Liaison	Responsibilities below	MichelleD@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 919-601-3798
Rick Robins Marine Affairs Manager	Responsibilities below	RickR@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 757-876-3778
Brady Lybarger Commercial Mobile Fishing Gear Representative (FTA/FR)	Responsibilities below	jettyhunter@mac.com Cell: 609-602-1417
Chris Rainone Commercial Fixed Fishing Gear Representative (FTA/FR)	Responsibilities below	annicemarie@gmail.com Cell: 609-442-8633
TBD Recreational Fishing Representative	Responsibilities below	

Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Liaison (Primary Contact), has over 20 years of staff experience with the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). She worked on most fishery management plans during her tenure with the Council, including plan coordinator for the Atlantic sea scallop and Atlantic herring fishery management plans. She was the staff lead for the Council's Atlantic sea scallop Research Set Aside program, which coordinated cooperative research to support the management of the fishery. She also staffed the coastwide climate change scenario planning initiative and other regional and national fishery management policy projects. Deirdre is currently a representative on the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council, the New York State Environmental Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), and Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Habitat and Ecosystem Subcommittee.

Michelle Duval, Fisheries Liaison, has extensive experience in state and federal fisheries management, serving for 10 years with North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, representing the agency to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which she also chaired. She currently serves on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) as Chair of the Research Set Aside and Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committees, and is the Council's representative to the ROSA Advisory Council. Michelle also serves on the NEFMC's Sea Scallop, Habitat, and Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committees.

As Fisheries Liaisons (Liaisons), Deirdre and Michelle will represent the Project to the fishing community and serve as a primary point of contact for fisheries participants and stakeholders. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Engage directly with fisheries stakeholders, and with the project's Fisheries Technical Advisors and Representatives, to develop and curate the local knowledge to successfully avoid fisheries impacts.
- Effectively convey industry and stakeholder concerns to project management team to proactively and collaboratively identify solutions.
- Develop a flexible two-way communications network between the fishing industry and the project that is responsive to stakeholder needs and provides timely feedback.
- Coordinate communications between the Project and state and federal fisheries managers and agencies.

Rick Robins, Marine Affairs Manager, has a background in commercial fisheries development, seafood processing and export market development, and state and federal fisheries management. He served as an Associate Member of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, chaired the MAFMC, and served as a fisheries liaison for offshore wind energy development. He engaged the Council with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) in its marine spatial planning process and with BOEM in the development of best practices for fisheries. He served on the Collaborative Fisheries Planning Team to develop the Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia's Offshore Wind Energy Area report (OCS Study BOEM 2016-040). Rick is currently a representative on the ROSA Advisory Council, F-TWG, and RWSC Habitat and Ecosystem Subcommittee. As Marine Affairs Manager, it is Rick's role to plan and coordinate the company's marine operations and interactions with the maritime industries. Responsibilities include:

- Lead and coordinate marine affairs to support the development of the company's wind energy development projects.
- Lead engagement with all relevant maritime stakeholders, including, but not limited to: commercial and recreational fisheries, commercial shipping, owner/operators of subsea infrastructure, ports and harbors operators, the US Department of Defense, the US Coast Guard

(USCG), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

- Lead development of offshore wind projects' marine affairs strategies and maritime stakeholder engagement plans.
- Provide internal coordination on all marine affairs issues and considerations to support project development.

Fisheries Technical Advisor (FTA): The role of Fisheries Technical Advisors is to provide technical expertise regarding the operations and characteristics of fisheries working in and/or transiting through the Lease Area so that potential negative fisheries impacts can be avoided, minimized, and thoughtfully considered throughout the Project lifecycle. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide information regarding vessel movements and configuration and fishing of mobile and fixed gears in the Lease Area.
- Describe the seasonality and distribution of fisheries over time within the Lease Area.
- Provide recommendations regarding fisheries constituent identification and interaction.

Fisheries Representative (FR): Fisheries Representatives serve the interests of the fisheries for which they have knowledge and expertise and are trusted focal points for fishing industry contact and communication regarding the Project. FRs typically also serve as FTAs to provide technical expertise to the Project team. Responsibilities of FRs include, but are not limited to:

- Identify and cultivate industry concerns and proactively share those with the Project team to facilitate shared use and fisheries impact avoidance.
- Work with the Liaisons to improve and adapt the Plan and ensure it is responsive to fisheries participant and stakeholder feedback.
- Disseminate Project information to industry to promote awareness and facilitate effective outreach and engagement.

Community Offshore Wind Plans to add FTAs/FRs across a range of fisheries active in the project area and is currently recruiting for these positions. Two FTAs/FRs joined the team in summer 2022, and we plan to hire at least one more FTA/FR with expertise in recreational fishing and support services in the coming months.

Brady Lybarger is a commercial Fisheries Technical Advisor and Fisheries Representative from the sea scallop fishery. He is based in Cape May, New Jersey and has participated in the commercial scallop fishery since 1999. He has been a scallop advisory panel member for the NEFMC for about ten years, and has participated in several Scallop Research Set Aside projects. Brady is also an avid recreational fisherman and participates in the commercial hook and line fishery, currently targeting tuna, swordfish and tilefish. He also owns a direct-to-consumer seafood business in Cape May, NJ that offers fresh seafood such as scallops, shrimp, and tuna directly to consumers since 2020.

Chris Rainone is a commercial Fisheries Technical Advisor and Fisheries Representative from the monkfish industry. Chris has fished for the past twenty years out of Barnegat Light, New Jersey. Before commercial fishing Chris worked his way through Stockton University as a commercial crabber and upon graduation he pursued a career on the ocean. Today he is the owner operator of a gillnet vessel that primarily targets monkfish, dogfish and other species. Throughout his vocation Chris has been actively involved in fisheries management to help sustain, protect, and increase the United States seafood supply. For the past ten years Chris has served on the NEFMC/MAFMC monkfish advisory panel and has been

working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Research Program in the collection of important fisheries data.

The goal of Community Offshore Wind's fisheries team is to ensure the objectives of the Plan are achieved through effective implementation of outreach and engagement strategies that are targeted to the specific needs and preferences of various fisheries stakeholders. In particular, the fisheries team has extensive experience working with regional Fishery Management Councils responsible for developing federal fishery management advice. The Council process is a stakeholder driven, fully public and transparent process that uses local knowledge to develop science-based plans that balance many objectives. The team intends to use many of these same principles to design a successful Project in close collaboration with stakeholders. The roles and responsibilities of team members are similar, but complementary, as described above. Overall, this fisheries team has extensive professional experience across a wide range of fisheries and is highly approachable. Each member has direct experience working with fishery stakeholders throughout the region. They already have strong relationships with fishing communities along the east coast built on trust and communications. The Plan will be updated to include contact information as additional individuals are onboarded.

1.3 Best Practices

As noted in Section 1.1, this Plan is intended to be adaptive to changing conditions and fisheries participants' and stakeholder needs and is expected to improve over time as their feedback is incorporated and as the Project matures. Community Offshore Wind is committed to open, honest, and frequent engagement with the fishing community to ensure inclusion of stakeholder input regarding project design, construction, and operation. We will work with fishing representatives to establish appropriate and accessible feedback mechanisms so that communities can see and understand our dedication to transparency and collaboration.

Development of the Plan was informed by guidance and recommended best practices that include, but are not limited to, the following resources:

- BOEM Decision Memorandum, NY Bight Final Sale Notice.¹
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. OCS Study BOEM 2014-654.²
- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. January 2014.³
- Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement (v1 10/21). NYSERDA.⁴
- Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM. 2020.⁵

¹ <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight-final-sale-notice-decision-memorandum>

² <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/renewable-energy-program/Fishing-BMP-Final-Report-July-2014.pdf>

³ <https://www.sff.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FLOWW-Best-Practice-Guidance-for-Offshore-Renewables-Developments-Jan-2014.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Offshore-Wind/LSR-OSW-engageguide.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/Social%20%26amp%3B%20Econ%20Fishing%20Guidelines.pdf>

- Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan (COP), Attachment A. Version 4.0, 2020.⁶
- Central California Joint Fisheries/Cable Liaison Committee Final Agreement Between Cable Companies and Fishermen as Amended (v. 140519).⁷
- Oregon Fishermen’s Cable Committee Procedures (v. 2.6.17)⁸
- International Cable Protection Committee Government Best Practices for Protecting and Promoting Submarine Telecommunications Cables (v. 1.1).⁹
- Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap: Draft Initial Recommendations. March 1, 2022.¹⁰
- BOEM Request for Information: Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development. Nov. 22, 2021.¹¹
- BOEM Draft Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf. June 22, 2022.¹²
- NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy – Northeast U.S. Region. December 2022.¹³
- ROSA Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines. March 2021.¹⁴
- Identifying Information Needs and Approaches to Assessing Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind Farm Development in the Northeast Region. BOEM. 2015.¹⁵
- Options for Cooperation Between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries: A Review of Relevant Tools and Best Practices. SeaPlan. 2014.¹⁶
- MAFMC Best Management Practices Workshop. 2014.¹⁷
- New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan. NYSEDA. 2018.¹⁸

Importantly, the communication and engagement strategies the team proposes to use have been reviewed with several members of the commercial and recreational fishing industries as well as other stakeholders. The team is grateful for this early feedback, and will continue to refine these strategies with stakeholder input over the life of the Project.

1.4 Authorities, Regulations, and Lease Conditions

Several statutory authorities and regulations intersect the Plan, directly or indirectly. This includes requirements under subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) that BOEM ensure

⁶ <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/COP%20Guidelines.pdf>

⁷ http://www.cencalcablefishery.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/22655546/140519_final_agreement_as_amended.pdf

⁸ <http://www.ofcc.com/Procedures2.6.17.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.iscpc.org/documents/?id=3733>

¹⁰ <https://www.maineoffshorewind.org/working-group-recommendations/environment-wildlife/>

¹¹ <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/boem-2021-0083-0001>

¹² <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/draft-fisheries-mitigation-guidance>

¹³ <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/47925>

¹⁴ <https://www.rosascience.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ROSA-Offshore-Wind-Project-Monitoring-Framework-and-Guidelines.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/environmental-stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Renewable-Energy/OCS-Study-BOEM-2015-037.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://osf.io/preprints/marxiv/sfu9e/>

¹⁷ https://www.mafmc.org/s/MAFMC_Offshore-Wind-Workshop_Final-Report-4nan.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Publications/Research/Biomass-Solar-Wind/Master-Plan/Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan.pdf>

any activities provide for protection of the environment and prevent interference with reasonable uses of the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including fishing. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*) also requires that BOEM evaluate the social and economic impacts of any potential project, and BOEM's own regulations require that it coordinate with other federal agencies to avoid conflicts among users and maximize the economic and ecological benefits of potential projects (30 CFR 585.102(a)(5)).

This Plan is intended to develop the necessary information for the Project to meet these requirements and additional regulatory provisions within 30 CFR Part 585 Subpart F (e.g., communications with stakeholders, agencies, and other potentially affected parties; social and economic conditions of commercial and recreational fisheries; and measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, and monitor environmental impacts).

Community Offshore Wind is also subject to a number of Lease-specific terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in Appendix C of the Lease agreement. The design and implementation of this Plan is intended to meet the conditions included in Section 3 (Reporting), specifically 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.4, and 3.1.3.

2 Project Background

2.1 Community Offshore Wind Lease Area

On March 21, 2021, BOEM announced its intent to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) for activities associated with site assessment (e.g., installation of meteorological buoys) and characterization (e.g., biological, geophysical, archaeological, etc. surveys) of the New York Bight Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), including cable corridors and project easements. A draft EA was released for public comment on August 10, 2021, and a final EA was issued on December 16, 2021, that concluded site assessment and characterization activities would have no significant impact on the environment in any of the wind energy areas.

On June 14, 2021, BOEM published a Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for eight potential lease areas. The Final Sale Notice (FSN) was published on January 12, 2022, proposing the auction of six final lease areas. The Community Offshore Wind Lease Area was substantially modified by BOEM between the PSN and FSN to deconflict and address high value commercial fisheries, recreational fishing hot spots, and benthic habitats in the region. Specifically, BOEM removed from consideration a portion of adjacent lease OCS-A 0540 and all of OCS-A 0543 (adjacent to OCS-A 0540), as these areas had the highest landings and revenue from the surfclam fishery and significant overlap with habitats identified through New Jersey's Prime Fishing Areas dataset. As a result, BOEM expanded Lease OCS-A 0539 westward and removed OCS-A 0540 due to its reduced viability as a stand-alone lease¹⁹.

BOEM also adjusted the eastern border of Lease OCS-A 0539 to establish a 2.5 NM buffer between the Lease and the nearby scallop fishery access area in response to fishing industry requests, identification of important fish habitats, and the occurrence of active scallop fishing activity adjacent to the access area²⁰. Additionally, 11,637 acres of the Lease Area are subject to a no surface occupancy Lease stipulation (i.e., a permanent prohibition on placement of objects on the ocean surface) along the northern, southern,

¹⁹ [New York Bight Final Sale Notice Decision Memorandum](#), p. 10

²⁰ [New York Bight Final Sale Notice Decision Memorandum](#), p. 9-10

and eastern borders of the lease. The no-occupancy areas on the northern and southern borders contribute to the 2.44 nautical mile transit corridors between adjacent lease areas in response to fishing community and Department of Defense requests, and in consideration of vessel traffic patterns BOEM's proactive establishment of corridors at the northern and southern boundaries of Lease OCS-A 0539 provides additional accommodation of commercial and recreational fisheries transits through the Hudson South lease areas.

This Plan has been developed at the outset of the site assessment and characterization component of the Community Offshore Wind Project, which will inform the development of a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for the Lease, and will be adjusted in response to fisheries participant and stakeholder feedback. The COP will be subject to regulatory review, as required by law, that will provide additional opportunities for public input prior to construction and implementation. As the Project matures into the construction and operation phases, the Plan will also evolve to reflect the communication and engagement needs specific to these Project stages.

2.2 RWE Renewables and National Grid

Community Offshore Wind is a joint venture of RWE Renewables and National Grid and is dedicated to providing clean energy, good local jobs, and building a network of trust in the communities it serves. RWE is a global leader in the development of offshore wind facilities, with 20 successful projects in the past two decades, while National Grid brings expertise in renewable energy delivery systems in the northeast and internationally. Both organizations have ambitious objectives for achieving net zero emissions in the coming decades through innovations such as testing recyclable turbine blades and piloting green hydrogen, while generating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

RWE and National Grid share a common goal of advancing an equitable clean energy future through the core principles of promoting health, safety, and care for the environment and community throughout the lifecycle of the Project. This includes a commitment to continuous improvement and evolution by truly listening to stakeholders, integrating that feedback directly into the development and design of the Project, and becoming a standard-bearer for accountability and transparency.

3 Fisheries Characterization

Both commercial and recreational fisheries operate within the Lease Area, and as noted in Section 2.1, BOEM implemented modifications to reduce interactions with high value commercial fisheries and fish habitats. While data limitations may preclude precise spatial identification of specific fisheries working in or transiting the Lease, one of the objectives of this Plan is to curate the detailed knowledge necessary to fill in data gaps in collaboration with fisheries participants and stakeholders.

3.1 Stakeholder Identification

Information used to identify categories of fisheries stakeholders includes available commercial, recreational, and habitat data sets from the MARCO Data Portal, Northeast Ocean Data Portal, aggregated commercial Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as well as proactive outreach to individual commercial and recreational fishery participants. Additional fisheries stakeholders will be identified by the Liaisons in coordination with FRs and FTAs. The Liaisons will work with these stakeholders as well as state and federal fisheries managers to fill data gaps and ensure existing data are appropriately interpreted so that fisheries impacts can be avoided to the extent practicable.

In addition to commercial and recreational fisheries participants and stakeholders, Community Offshore Wind understands the significance and value of other coastal and marine recreational activities, including whale watching, surfing, paddleboarding, SCUBA diving, kayaking, sailing, and birdwatching, among others. The regional ocean planning bodies in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (the Northeast Regional Ocean Council [NROC] and MARCO, respectively), in collaboration with the states and recreational user groups, have coordinated the collection of data and information to identify important use areas, patterns, and demographics. The Project's outreach activities will include these recreational ocean user groups, and the Plan will be updated to reflect their communication needs and preferences that are not included in other Project stakeholder engagement plans. While some engagement efforts may overlap due to the intersection of multiple interests, these will be coordinated among the Project team.

Community Offshore Wind recognizes the importance of equity and inclusivity in stakeholder identification and engagement, particularly for underserved communities, who face challenges that often prevent full participation in public processes. Consistent with the principles described in the NMFS Draft Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy²¹, the Plan seeks to improve Project awareness and identification of underserved communities so that outreach activities can be tailored to address their specific barriers to engagement. This includes underserved components of traditional fisheries stakeholder designations, e.g., commercial, recreational, for-hire, and private anglers, as well as other ocean users. The intent is to build an engagement network and approaches that are comprehensive across fisheries and ocean user groups, and promote participation by non-traditional stakeholders and others who may not typically be involved in these processes.

3.2 Current and Historical Fisheries Operations

3.2.1 Commercial Fisheries

According to federal VTR data, which includes spatial reporting requirements, commercial fisheries operating in the Lease Area are primarily Atlantic sea scallop and surfclam, but also include summer flounder, monkfish, and inconsistent harvest of black sea bass and skates. These fisheries are harvested with a variety of gear types. Dredges are used almost exclusively in the sea scallop fishery, while surfclams are harvested solely with hydraulic dredges. Summer flounder and black sea bass are pursued with bottom trawls, although pot gear is also occasionally used for black sea bass. Monkfish harvest in the area is primarily subject to targeted use of anchored gillnets on a seasonal basis. Examination of VTR data from the MARCO Data Portal indicate that dredges are the predominate gear type used in the Project area, but also show limited bottom trawl, pot, and gillnet gear. Important commercial ports with harvest from within the Lease Area include Atlantic City, Barnegat Light, Point Pleasant, and Cape May, New Jersey. Other ports with commercial harvest include Long Beach, and Montauk, New York; New Bedford, Massachusetts; and ports in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

Limited information exists regarding commercial fisheries that may be transiting the area. While spatial reporting is a requirement of the VTR program, these data are coarse and not intended for fine-scale representation of where fisheries operate. Vessels participating in specific commercial fisheries are subject to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements, including those in the sea scallop, surfclam, and monkfish fisheries. Examination of VMS data in the MARCO Data Portal indicates most surfclam harvest has occurred in the western two-thirds of the Lease Area, while most sea scallop harvest has occurred in the eastern third. VMS data also suggest possible transit and/or historical trips from mid-

²¹ https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-05/2022-05-NOAAFisheries-EEJ_508.pdf

water trawl fisheries such as those for Atlantic mackerel and squid, as well as Northeast Multispecies (groundfish). It is important to note that VMS regulations generally require vessels to maintain VMS units in operational mode at all times, even when participating in a non-VMS fishery. Automatic Identification System (AIS) data may provide additional information regarding commercial vessel transit and use of the Lease Area, but the detailed local knowledge of fishermen is critical to identifying and properly characterizing these data. Project leadership has proactively met with stakeholders in Shinnecock, New York, Greenport, NY, Barnegat Light, Belford, and Cape May, New Jersey, and other regional ports to begin this dialogue. Fishery information will be updated as local fisheries knowledge is developed in collaboration with fishery participants.

Effective April 1, 2022, NMFS implemented the Atlantic Sea Scallop 2022-2023 fishing year regulations, which include the New York Bight Scallop Rotational Closed Area. The closed area encompasses the eastern half of the Lease Area (as well as the entirety of OCS-A 0538 and the southern half of OCS-A 0537), and was established to protect several scallop year classes that are anticipated to support future fishing activities. The Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) 2021 dredge survey indicated the presence of 1-2 year old scallops in the northeastern portion of the Lease Area. Based on normal growth rates, these scallops would be expected to be available to the fishery within 2-4 years.

3.2.2 Recreational Fisheries

Information on recreational fisheries operating in and transiting through the Lease Area is also limited. Similar to commercial fisheries, for-hire vessels operating in federally-managed fisheries are subject to VTR requirements and information from the MARCO data portal indicates occasional for-hire fishing (charter and party boats) activity within the Lease Area, though higher amounts of activity inshore of and beyond the Lease Area were observed. Seasonally-important recreational fisheries for both private anglers and for-hire fleets have included summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, and bluefish, as well as pelagic species such as dolphinfish (mahi mahi) and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) such as bluefin and yellowfin tunas. Blueline and golden tilefishes (deepwater bottom species) have also increased in popularity over the years, although they are targeted over bottom contours seaward of the Lease Area. It is likely that important ports for the for-hire and private boat fleets that may be transiting and/or operating within the area include Barnegat Light, Point Pleasant, Cape May, Little Egg Inlet, Ocean City, New Jersey, and additional ports in New York.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) maintains an Artificial Reef Program, although the majority of reefs are within 2NM to 8NM of shore; only one reef is located 23NM from shore and is well to the southwest of the Lease Area. As noted in Section 2.1, the New Jersey Prime Fishing Areas dataset was used to deconflict the Lease Area with recreational fishing hot spots and activities. While none of the Prime Fishing Areas overlap the Lease Area, three sites are adjacent to it: 1) Fingers is an irregular lump adjacent to the southwestern (inshore) boundary of the Lease that is surrounded by sandy, shelly bottom; 2) Triple Wrecks South is a sandy slough so named for the wrecks on it, and abuts the northeastern corner of the Lease, extending to the north-northeast and south-southwest of the Lease Area; 3) The CORVALLIS, an isolated wreck adjacent to the northern boundary of the Lease Area and the southern boundary of lease OCS-A 0538. Curated local knowledge will also be critical to identifying information gaps for recreational fisheries, locations of any known structures or other important oceanographic features within the Lease and surrounding area, and appropriately interpreting existing data so that impacts can be thoughtfully considered and avoided. The fisheries team will compile the available data on any known hangs within the project area. No named shipwrecks are located within the Lease Area.

3.2.3 Other Ocean Uses

Data from the Northeast Coastal and Marine Recreational Use Characterization Study conducted by NROC²² and recreational ocean use workshops conducted by the mid-Atlantic states are available via the NROC and MARCO Data Portals, and provide a footprint of the range and general density of shore-based, coastal, and ocean uses from Virginia through Maine. As noted previously, these include whale and dolphin-watching, shore-based wildlife viewing, diving, recreational boating, sailing, surfing, and kayaking. The information currently in the data portals does not display overlap of any of these activities within the Lease Area, but indicates several activities occur to the east and south along the continental shelf break, and to the north along the Hudson Canyon and vicinity. The data layers show many of these activities have occurred inshore of the Lease Area and in higher densities, and could be impacted by future cable routes.

Many coastal and ocean recreational users and operators belong to organizations and/or clubs promoting resource conservation and enjoyment of these recreational pursuits. The fisheries team will coordinate our outreach to these groups with the efforts of other Project team members to reduce stakeholder engagement burden, increase efficiency, and ensure we are providing accessible opportunities for two-way communication and feedback. Our objective is to ensure recreational users are able to participate throughout the Project development process.

3.3 Fisheries Habitats

The Lease Area overlaps Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) for various life stages of most species managed by the MAFMC, with the exception of golden and blueline tilefish. It is also designated EFH for different life stages of several groundfish species managed by the NEFMC, as well as monkfish, skates, and sea scallops. EFH designations for multiple HMS species occur in the area, primarily sharks but also bluefin and skipjack Tunas. According to information in the MARCO Data Portal, benthic habitats within the Lease Area include mostly moderate to high flat gravel and sand, with some sandy depressions.

3.4 Fisheries Management

The fisheries occurring and potentially transiting the Lease Area are managed by a suite of federal and state agencies and partners, including the NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), MAFMC (e.g., summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, surfclam), NEFMC (sea scallop, monkfish [jointly with MAFMC]), the ASMFC, NMFS HMS Division (tunas, billfishes, sharks), NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), and NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Each entity is responsible for the stewardship of fisheries resources through the conduct and/or oversight of biological and habitat surveys, fishery-dependent data collection and analyses, and policy implementation. These efforts contribute to a fisheries management framework that is coordinated to varying degrees across state and federal jurisdictions. Each organization has constituent outreach, communication, and public engagement processes that are important to the success of both individual and collective management initiatives.

This Plan recognizes the knowledge and expertise of agencies and partners and seeks to integrate their input and experience in stakeholder mapping to promote sustainable shared use of the Project Area. While the project area is most closely located to New Jersey and New York, the fisheries communications

²² http://archive.neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Recreation-Study_Final-Report.pdf

team is also committed to understanding the relationship of other state's fleets to the area. Given the regional nature and economic importance of the fisheries operating in and/or transiting through the Lease, the fisheries communications team will engage state agencies from North Carolina through Maine. Project leadership has proactively reached out to states and federal partners to begin this dialogue and develop relationships with industry stakeholders. This Plan has identified communication with fishery managers as a potential opportunity for collaboration among developers. The team recognizes that multiple state and federal agencies have already invested large amounts of resources and time to support development of wind energy to date, and this is an area where efficiency can be explored. The team will also ensure that engagement with marine fisheries agencies is coordinated with the Project's Agency Communications Plan to reduce duplication of effort.

4 Offshore Project Operations

Offshore survey activities will occur in the Lease Area and potential export cable corridors as part of site assessment and characterization activities. One of the primary objectives of any survey campaign will be proactive coordination with commercial and recreational fleets to develop comprehensive awareness of the seasonality and pattern of fisheries activities so that impacts are avoided and deconflicted, particularly during peak fishing seasons. The goal of the Plan is to consider each survey campaign as an opportunity to improve two-way communications and feedback mechanisms between the Project and fisheries stakeholders as part of an adaptive communications framework. As the project matures from site assessment to construction and operations, this section of the Plan will be updated accordingly.

4.1 Survey Operations and Site Assessment

Site characterization and assessment will involve high-resolution geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic activities, such as depth sounding with multi-beam echo sounders to determine bathymetry, seafloor imaging with sidescan sonar, sub-bottom profilers to determine stratigraphy below the seabed, magnetometers to map ferrous returns, collection of sediment cores, and collection of benthic sediment samples to aid in habitat characterization. These activities are likely to involve multiple vessels depending on location and water depth, particularly once specific export cable corridors have been identified.

As a component of the Project's proactive approach to fisheries impact avoidance, a pre-survey risk assessment will be conducted in advance of each survey campaign to identify spatial and temporal overlap with commercial and recreational fishing activities. The assessment will be conducted in coordination with FRs and fishery participants to appropriately characterize peak and seasonal activity, and will include mitigation measures designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any specific fisheries risks identified. Such measures will be collaboratively developed and could include a protocol for calibration of sonar gear to identify appropriate features for this activity and specifically avoid popular fishing structures, as well as use of scout vessels. Onboard fisheries liaisons (OFLs) may also be employed depending on the survey methods used and the potential for interaction with fishing activities and/or gear. The fisheries communication team has been actively involved in the initial survey planning phase of this Project to ensure fishery and ecosystem issues are integrated in the design and execution of all survey operations.

4.2 Survey Team Communications

The Liaisons will work with the survey team during each pre-survey risk assessment (Section 4.1) to provide forecasts of expected commercial and recreational fisheries activities, state and federal resource surveys, recreational fishing tournaments (e.g., HMS), and known fixed-gear placements to facilitate

impact avoidance. The Liaisons will conduct daily briefings with survey vessels to provide the survey teams with updated information regarding fisheries operating in or transiting through the survey area prior to initiation of each day's activities, and will receive feedback from the survey team daily. The Liaisons will serve as the primary contact for both industry and the survey team to identify and resolve any issues that occur during survey operations, and will develop notices of survey operations for distribution to commercial and recreational fishery participants and stakeholders via communication methods and outlets identified for each sector (see sections 5.2 and 5.3), as well as USCG Notices to Mariners. All notices will be distributed to the fishing industry as early as practicable and no later than two weeks in advance of any scheduled survey or site assessment activity. The Liaisons will also work with the FRs to ground-truth and update information conveyed to survey teams. Survey vessels will monitor VHF channel 16 at all times during survey operations for communication with fishing vessels in the area on a bridge-to-bridge basis.

Given the importance of timely and accurate two-way feedback during survey preparation and operations, the communications team is exploring innovative digital technologies, to communicate survey activity, receive stakeholder input, and facilitate avoidance of fisheries impacts. If successful, these could reduce the burden of engagement on fishing communities, while also promoting safe co-occurrence of fishing and survey operations. The team is committed to continued pursuit of approaches that support efficient and innovative communications for the benefit of fishing participants and stakeholders.

4.3 Gear Loss and Interactions

While every effort will be made to avoid and deconflict fisheries impacts prior to each survey campaign, the Project has established a gear loss claim procedure for loss or damage to fishing gear due to survey activities (please see Appendix 3). The procedure establishes the reporting process for fishermen who experience a gear loss or damage associated with the project's offshore operations, and confirm the Project's commitment to processing claims for lost/damaged fishing gear in a timely manner. A Survey Fishing Gear Incident Form and procedures will be used by contracted survey vessels to report any gear interactions, and a Gear Loss/Damage Claim Form is available to fishermen who experience a gear loss or damage event associated with any vessels contracted to the Project and will be posted on the Project website. The Liaisons will be the point of contact for fishermen to assist them with this process. As per the lease stipulations, an annual summary of claims will be provided to BOEM.

Community Offshore Wind acknowledges the concerns expressed by fishermen regarding the potential differences in gear loss/damage claim processes across different Projects. We are committed to working with other leaseholders to develop procedures that will minimize stakeholder burden and increase transparency and consistency.

5 Fisheries Communication Strategies

The communication strategies outlined below are built on the Project's core communication principles to meet the Plan objectives described in Section 1.1. These approaches are intended to be specific and adaptable to the needs of each stakeholder group and promote effective, two-way engagement that contributes to the safe, successful, and sustainable shared use of the Lease Area. This Plan anticipates using a combination of engagement methods including one-on-one interviews, small group meetings in fishing communities, larger workshops that potentially include other developers and multiple stakeholder types, etc. to identify key concerns and provide avenues for stakeholders to contribute their observations and requests. Each component outlined in the following sections should function as an interconnected node in a broader communications network to advance shared understanding between the Project and

fisheries stakeholders that is based on the curated local knowledge of the fishing community. As the network and strategies evolve throughout the Project lifetime, the Plan will be updated accordingly, and revised versions will be posted on the Community Offshore Wind website. As noted previously, the fisheries team proactively engaged some members of the commercial and recreational fishing communities to discuss the suitability of various communications nodes and approaches.

The Project is also committed to understanding the differing communication preferences within and among stakeholder groups. A successful Project outcome requires addressing these needs in a manner that is sensitive to cultural and language differences, as well as accessibility to information sources. The Liaisons will coordinate with FRs to identify specific approaches that meet unique stakeholder needs and promote inclusivity.

Community Offshore Wind recognizes the high stakeholder engagement burden given the number of active leases in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. The Project is committed to building initiatives with other developers to streamline this burden, while acknowledging the inherent tension this creates among competing entities. For example, the team has discussed it may be more efficient for multiple developers to host topic-based workshops so stakeholders could provide input on a particular issue, compared to area-specific feedback. This team is aware of the time constraints many fishery stakeholders have and efficiency is a core objective of this plan.

5.1 Commercial Fisheries Communications

The Liaisons will work closely with the FRs and industry to develop the most appropriate methods (e.g., paper, text, email, public listserves, social media, websites) to reach the greatest number of stakeholders, being mindful of the cadence and mode of information delivery. Approaches will be tailored to each fishery and/or communication node, although some overlap is expected. The Liaisons will also develop and maintain a list of contacts for various commercial fishing constituencies (e.g., fish houses/dealers/processors, commercial associations, key fishery participants, etc.).

5.1.1 Fisheries Operating in and Transiting Lease

As described in Section 3.2.1, the primary commercial fisheries operating in the Lease Area are dredge fisheries, but some bottom and mid-water trawl, gillnet, and pot effort has also historically occurred in and/or transited through this area. The Liaisons will work with the FRs, FTAs, local industry, state and federal marine fisheries agencies, and regional fishery management councils to identify stakeholders with current and historical knowledge who may be available for direct communication. Engagement with industry members who can interpret and fill information gaps is critical to a shared understanding and impact avoidance. For example, our marine affairs team proactively engaged industry with Project engineers to promote technical understanding of dredge gear configuration and operation. Such exchanges can also inform development of appropriate communication strategies for different phases of the Project.

In recognition of stakeholder burden, the Liaisons will work with the FRs to coordinate in-person engagements with individuals and groups. Anticipated communication methods during survey activities include, but are not limited to: USCG Notices to Mariners; local notices to fishermen via appropriate state agency communication lists; text and/or email messages to individuals operating in the same fishery/gear type; social media and postings on the Project website; and distribution/posting of paper notices of survey operations at appropriate locations.

5.1.2 Commercial Fisheries Associations/Representatives

Commercial fisheries associations and representatives serve a valuable role for commercial stakeholders as trusted sources of information regarding management issues under consideration and upcoming regulatory changes at both the state and federal level. Most, if not all, send out regular communications to their memberships, hold leadership (i.e., board of directors) meetings, and may host or participate in community engagement events. The Liaisons will work with the FR to identify a list of appropriate organizations for outreach regarding the Project. The Liaisons will endeavor to provide general Project information and fishery notices regarding survey activities to associations and representatives for distribution to their membership, attend association meetings to listen to and provide feedback regarding industry concerns (as appropriate and requested), and be available as a resource. The Liaisons will work with other leaseholder liaisons to coordinate communication and engagement efforts to reduce the burden on organizations to respond to multiple requests. As appropriate, the Project may also host a booth at trade shows where representatives of commercial fishing organizations may be in attendance to provide information that organizations may distribute to their members.

5.1.3 Shoreside Infrastructure/Communities

Shoreside infrastructure such as docks, fish houses/dealer/processor facilities, and vessel repair shops can be important communication sites for busy commercial stakeholders entering or leaving port. The Liaisons will work with the FRs to identify shoreside infrastructure hubs for posting of fishery notices, via electronic or traditional media as desired and appropriate, regarding upcoming survey activities. The Liaisons will also engage directly with shoreside infrastructure owners to establish communication and serve as a resource for industry concerns and questions.

5.2 Recreational Fisheries Communications

Recreational fishermen receive information using similar modalities as commercial fishermen (i.e., social media, websites, other electronic platforms, paper) as well as similar types of information sources (e.g., USCG Notices to Mariners, organizations and clubs, marinas, boat ramps). The Liaisons will work with FRs to identify and tailor the mode and frequency of communications as appropriate for each recreational stakeholder constituency to promote avoidance of recreational fisheries impacts throughout the life cycle of the Project.

5.2.1 Fisheries Operating in and Transiting Lease

The majority of offshore recreational fishing effort operating out of New Jersey and New York is from private anglers fishing for summer flounder, black sea bass, and bluefish, as well as striped bass, sharks, tunas, and other HMS species. However, spatial data on recreational fisheries are limited and the team plans to work directly with recreational captains and angling organizations to develop a detailed understanding of recreational effort, including for HMS species, within and around the Lease Area. This will include efforts by the fisheries team to understand fisheries transits through the project area. It is likely that targeted, deepwater trips (such as for bluefin and golden tilefish), which may be combined with trips for HMS species, will transit the Lease Area on the way to fishing grounds seaward of the Lease. In 2021, there were over 4,000 HMS Angling Permits homeported in New Jersey (second only to Florida) and just under 2,800 homeported in New York, indicating high interest in these fisheries²³. The Liaisons

²³ [2021 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report \(SAFE\) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species](#), p. 69

will work with the FRs, state and federal agencies, regional fishery management councils and partners, as well as local fishing clubs, to identify anglers with historic experience in and near the Lease Area. Whenever possible, engagement with local fishermen to curate their knowledge and determine communication preferences will be coordinated with other leaseholders to minimize engagement burden. The fisheries team is committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of recreational fishery outreach through collaboration with other leaseholders.

5.2.2 For-Hire Fisheries

For-hire fisheries (charter boats and headboats) are socially, culturally, and economically important to surrounding shoreside communities, and the Liaisons will develop outreach protocols suited to this unique sector. The for-hire trips most likely to be transiting and/or operating in the lease area are HMS trips; as of October 2021, there were just over 400 HMS Charter/Headboat Permit homeported in New Jersey (second to Florida), and about 370 homeported in New York²⁴. The Liaisons will coordinate with the FRs and state and federal agencies to identify marinas that serve as hubs for the charter and headboat fleets, and will engage marina operators as important constituents in communication efforts. As noted above, outreach and communication methods will likely include written/posted materials regarding survey activities, as well as electronic and social media, but the mode and frequency will be tailored according to feedback from marina operators.

5.2.3 Recreational Tournaments

Recreational fishing tournaments occur seasonally, generally spring through fall, and tournaments focused on HMS species are most likely to incur transit through the lease area. The Liaisons will work with for-hire captains, recreational fishing organizations, and agencies to develop a list of tournaments in the area, and will post written survey information at tournament locations, as well as communicate to tournament organizers the timing and extent of survey operations. For tournament fleets that may transit the project area, tournaments will be provided in advance with communications materials describing any offshore survey operations or related activities to promote awareness and safety. The project will also offer to send a representative to tournament captain's meetings as appropriate to notify the captains of any offshore operations.

5.2.4 Recreational Fisheries Organizations/Representatives

A number of recreational fishing organizations exist in the region and serve important roles as communication and information dissemination nodes for private anglers and for-hire fleets. Some serve both constituencies while others focus specifically on one stakeholder group, but most communicate regularly with their memberships via electronic communications, social media, and/or printed newsletters. Many organizations participate in the fisheries management process, and some host fishing tournaments or sponsor community events. The Liaisons will develop a list of recreational fishing organizations to engage in dialogue regarding survey activities, member concerns and feedback, and determine the appropriate modes and frequency of communication in coordination with organization leadership.

²⁴ [2021 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report \(SAFE\) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species](#), p. 68

5.2.5 Shoreside Infrastructure/Communities

Marinas, boat ramps, and tackle shops are components of shoreside infrastructure that are also important communication conduits for the recreational fishing community. The Liaisons will work with state agency staff, FRs, and recreational fishing organizations to identify high use infrastructure for posting of survey information. Tackle shops or sporting goods stores may also serve as community hubs, and some occasionally sponsor or host lectures or information sessions for clients/constituents. The Liaisons will explore the possibility of adding these as engagement nodes and coordinating with other leaseholders in outreach activities tailored for these groups.

5.3 State and Federal Management Entities and Agencies

State and federal fisheries agencies and regional management entities participate in the stewardship of fisheries occurring in and transiting through the Lease Area, and conduct or coordinate several fishery-independent surveys within the Lease Area and/or within potential export cable corridors. These surveys provide critically important information for regional fisheries assessment and management, and data to inform the Project and Plan goal of fisheries impact avoidance. The Liaisons will work with state and federal agency staff to develop a list of resource surveys, and with survey coordinators to avoid scheduling conflicts between resource and project survey operations. The intent of these activities is to ensure the concerns as well as expertise of agencies and management entities are incorporated throughout the project lifecycle.

This Plan acknowledges that a similar communication burden exists for agencies as for stakeholders given the pace of offshore leasing activities, and is committed to working with other developers to coordinate and streamline these efforts whenever possible. As noted previously, the fisheries team will also coordinate efforts with the Project's Agency Communications Plan. The objective is to develop an appropriate frequency and method of communication with state and federal agencies, fisheries management entities, and other partners that will promote future collaborative opportunities (see Section 6) and support agency climate resiliency initiatives.

5.3.1 Federal Agencies

The Plan will coordinate engagement with GARFO, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), and the NMFS HMS Division to ensure that Project survey activities are appropriately communicated and scheduled to avoid impacts to important agency biological surveys, such as: the NEFSC Spring and Fall Bottom Trawl Surveys; Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) Survey; Ecosystem Monitoring Surveys; North Atlantic Right Whale Aerial Surveys; Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Aerial Surveys; Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Seabird Ship-based Surveys; Seal Aerial Abundance Surveys; Coastal Shark Bottom Longline Surveys; and the Cooperative Atlantic States Shark Popping and Longline/Gillnet Survey. The Liaisons will also work with federal agencies and the managers of industry collaborative resource surveys (e.g., School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) scallop surveys, NOAA/surflam industry resource surveys) to align Project survey schedules with these activities. The Plan recognizes the impacts that construction and operations of offshore wind facilities will have on these critical surveys. An objective of this engagement is to explore opportunities to develop future project monitoring activities that are compatible with existing surveys and can contribute to the management of fisheries resources, consistent with the Draft NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy.

5.3.2 State Agencies

Although the Lease Area is closest to New York and New Jersey, the Liaisons will coordinate engagement with state marine fisheries agencies from North Carolina through Maine due to the regional nature of the fisheries operating in and transiting through the Lease. Project leadership proactively contacted NJDEP and NYSDEC, as well as the NYSERDA, and other state agencies, to begin building these important relationships. Since then, the fisheries team has conducted targeted outreach with fisheries division staff from several state agencies to explore and discuss the proposed communication strategies. Further engagement with the NYSERDA Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), of which RWE is a member, and the NJDEP Offshore Wind (OSW) Working Group is anticipated. The Liaisons will provide an overview of the Plan to state agency staff for feedback and suggestions, and to determine the appropriate communication methods, outlets, and tempo for agency engagement. The Liaisons will also explore leveraging agency communication portals with staff to expand stakeholder engagement and awareness of the Project, and to promote inclusion of all interested and affected constituencies. As noted, objectives of the Plan include coordination of Project survey operations so as to avoid impacts to state biological resource surveys, and incorporation of agency expertise.

5.3.3 Regional Fishery Management Entities

The regional fishery management councils and the ASMFC are important stewards of marine fisheries resources, working in partnership with each other and NMFS to develop and implement regulations that promote sustainable future fishing opportunities. The MAFMC and NEFMC have extensive communication and stakeholder engagement networks, and the Liaisons will work with both councils to provide project updates as appropriate (e.g., an introductory presentation to the MAFMC at its August 2022 meeting) and to determine acceptable methods and frequency of communications. This may include working with staff to provide survey notices and fact sheets for the Joint NEFMC/MAFMC Offshore Wind webpage and/or for distribution via email and social media postings. Similarly, the ASMFC is responsible for fishery management plans in state waters along the entire east coast. Therefore, they too have an extensive stakeholder network including commercial, recreational, and other interested parties. The team will also explore coordination of information “open houses” with other developers to provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback in conjunction with Council and/or Commission meetings.

5.4 Other Partners

Multiple organizations are active participants in the conversations surrounding development of offshore wind in the U.S., including the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), ROSA, the RWSC, academic institutions, and several environmental nongovernmental organizations. Community Offshore Wind recognizes the contributions and continuing efforts of RODA, ROSA, RWSC, scientists, and others to improving the dialogue between fishing communities and the offshore wind industry, developing recommendations regarding impact fees and mitigation, hosting workshops and other collaborations, and conducting research and monitoring to promote a shared understanding of the state of the science and future scientific needs. The Project’s fisheries communications team is committed to participating in and contributing to these efforts and future initiatives, and providing efficient and productive settings for early engagement and dialogue.

5.5 Communications Tracking

The Plan includes a stakeholder management system to record efforts across all Project communications plans and track stakeholder concerns and requests. Every engagement opportunity will be documented by engagement type, stakeholder category, relevance and specific input provided. The team will detail

how that input has been communicated and integrated into the overall planning of the Project. This will improve transparency and illustrate the variety of engagement strategies planned. This information will be included in the semi-annual progress reports, which are a BOEM lease condition, and will be posted on the Project website. Reports will note when and how each concern has been addressed or integrated into the design, development, or operation of the project.

6 Collaborative Opportunities

A major focus of the Plan is to engage fishing communities in the development of collaborative opportunities for monitoring and research, as well as safety and training enhancements, that are informed by their local knowledge of historic and current fishing activities and resources. The objective is a robust research, monitoring, enhancement, and data sharing program that addresses relevant needs identified by fishing community stakeholders, state and federal agencies, and other partners. Coordination with other developers will be explored whenever feasible to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of these efforts.

6.1 Monitoring

Pre-, during, and post-construction monitoring is an important component of avoiding and addressing fisheries impacts, providing for the continuity of existing data streams, and piloting the application of new technologies and survey designs. Community Offshore Wind envisions a collaborative monitoring program that is adaptive to fisheries management, stakeholder, and Project needs, and provides opportunities for coordination across leaseholders. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential collaborative monitoring initiatives:

- Provide opportunities for commercial and for-hire vessels to participate in pre- and post-construction resource, mapping, and benthic surveys.
- Piloting integration/transition from NOAA vessels to industry vessels in fishery independent survey areas impacted by turbine construction.
- Development and testing of consistent monitoring methods and survey designs in coordination with other leaseholders to facilitate integration with long-term resource surveys.
- Join ROSA Advisory Council, pending membership approval, and participate in the organization's efforts to advance collaborative and consistent regional approaches to monitoring.
- Support and participate in the development of the American Clean Power Recreational Fisheries Engagement initiative, and explore opportunities for recreational participation in innovative monitoring approaches.
- Support for socio-economic monitoring of fishing communities to document Project impacts and benefits.

6.2 Research

State and federal agencies, regional fishery management bodies, and other partners have contributed significant resources to identifying research needs regarding impacts of offshore wind development on fisheries resources and management. Community Offshore Wind is committed to active participation and coordination with other leaseholders in addressing and supporting these needs, recognizing the strain that rapid expansion of offshore wind has placed on the region's research community. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential opportunities that will be expanded as the Project's fisheries communications team engages in existing conversations on development of research needs:

- Engagement with academic institutions and research collaboratives (e.g., VIMS, Rutgers, SMAST, CFF, State University of New York (SUNY), Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCMFIS), etc.) regarding research needs for fisheries occurring in the Lease Area.
- Explore potential sponsorship/support opportunities for workshops and research activities focused on scallop and/or surf clam resources.
- Coordinate with regional fishery management councils, NMFS, ROSA, RWSC, and academic partners to identify and develop collaborative research projects for affected species that are suitable for commercial and headboat platforms.
- Provide support for exploratory research to improve compatibility and/or efficiency of dredge gear within offshore wind arrays.
- Support research to address potential impacts of wind energy areas on federal surveys and resource assessments (e.g., collaborate on relevant resource assessment modeling efforts, potential calibration of various survey techniques, etc.)
- Support habitat research relevant to species occurring within lease area.
- Explore potential research opportunities for private anglers through the American Clean Power Association's Recreational Fisheries Engagement initiative.
- Support for internship opportunities.

6.3 Information and Data Sharing

A tremendous amount of data and information will be generated during site characterization and assessment, construction and post-construction monitoring, and collaborative opportunities described above. The project is committed to providing timely access to fisheries data and information to the extent practicable to improve management of ocean resources. Anticipated activities to support this objective include:

- Explore utility of project data to ecosystem and other resource assessments.
- Collaborate with researchers and/or educators to distill research and monitoring results into formats suitable for general public audiences (e.g., ArcGIS Story Maps) and students.
- Provide public access to research and monitoring data within the bounds of federal confidentiality requirements necessary to protect individual fishing entities.
- Develop a data sharing/confidentiality policy that clearly outlines the Project's expectations of contracted entities (e.g., academic researchers) with respect to pre-, during, and post-construction data collection funded by the Project.

6.4 Safety and Training

Safety of fishermen, communities, and Project crews is a core principle of the Plan that is aligned with the overall philosophy of avoidance of fisheries impacts whenever possible. The Project is committed to promoting the safe and sustainable coexistence of fishing activities and offshore wind through initiatives such as:

- Engage local fishermen to serve as scout vessels during survey operations and as guard vessels during project construction.
- Incorporate the ability for fishermen to provide real-time updates regarding changes in fishing operations via innovative digital approaches (see Section 4. 2).
- Provide marine simulator training for commercial and recreational vessels to experience navigation through different potential project design configurations under a variety of weather conditions.

- Support the American Clean Power Association's Recreational Fishing Industry Engagement initiative as a venue to identify and address the unique safety concerns of for-hire and private anglers.
- Provide support for vessel radar upgrades and/or testing of new equipment for commercial and for-hire fishing vessels.
- Collaborate with NOAA, the USCG, and chart plotting companies to develop an efficient process for providing updated chart information at appropriate timeframes, based on site assessment activities and continuing throughout project construction and operation.

7 Conflict Prevention and Resolution

The philosophy of Community Offshore Wind is that integration of curated, local fisheries knowledge into the Project design will prevent conflicts by avoiding fisheries impacts to the greatest extent practicable. The intent of the FCP is for Liaisons to work with FRs and fishing communities to develop this knowledge, collaboratively identify potential impacts from the Project, and where those impacts cannot be avoided, engage in a bottom-up process to develop approaches to minimize, rehabilitate, and mitigate those impacts. Approaches to prevent conflicts that might arise include but are not limited to the following:

- Engage fishing communities early in discussions of options for export and inter-array cable layouts, as well as installation/burial techniques, that minimize impacts to fishing activities and habitats.
- Coordinate with fishing communities and adjacent developers to identify options that could avoid or reduce impacts on fishing activities.
- Engage fishing communities to develop seasonal and geographic awareness of fisheries operations so they can be considered in the scheduling of site assessment and construction activities.

Our fisheries team will focus on constructive, proactive engagement with the fishing industry in order to avoid and minimize project conflicts with marine fisheries. In recognition that it may not be possible to avoid all conflicts, the Project will implement a stepwise approach to address disputes. This process will begin with the fisheries team working to address differences within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., 30 days), followed by an intermediate step allowing for external consultations as needed, and a final step of engaging of a professional facilitator to assist in the identification of potential solutions or resolutions. The intent is to provide members of the fishing community a clear process to address disagreements, as well as opportunities to notify the Project of previously unknown conflicts and concerns via multiple tools (e.g., website, mobile app, contact with FRs and Liaisons), and suggestions for resolution. We are committed to successful, long-term coexistence with the fisheries, and will be proactive in our efforts to identify and work through any potential conflicts.

8 Coordination Across Leases

Coordination with other developers is a theme that is integrated throughout the Plan, and the Project is committed to advancing these efforts. Project leadership currently participates in the American Clean Power Fisheries Subcommittee, as well as the NYSERDA F-TWG and E-TWG to collaborate on issues of common interest among leaseholders, including:

- Collaborating with other leaseholders to develop consistent monitoring practices that are informed by state and federal resource needs, and fisheries stakeholder concerns.

- Development of consistent protocols for compensation for gear loss and damage as well as potential lost fishing income.
- Coordinated stakeholder engagement efforts (e.g., joint topic workshops, port hours, curating local knowledge, identifying communication preferences and opportunities to improve communications efficiency and reduce the burden on fishermen, etc.)
- Agency communication and engagement.

9 Indicators and Metrics

This plan will include specific metrics and indicators to measure the success and efficacy of the Plan. The team will collaborate with stakeholders to seek early feedback on candidate qualitative and quantitative metrics. Once defined these performance metrics will be described in future versions of the Plan and updates included in progress reports. This is an important step in identifying clear ways to evaluate and continuously improve the Plan. Some candidate metrics include:

- Target meeting frequencies for state and federal agencies and their offshore wind working groups, as well as fisheries management entities, to convey updates on project status and solicit feedback.
- Number of interviews with participants and representatives of various fisheries sectors.
- Number of open houses and/or port meetings hosted (in-person and virtual) to develop collaborative research and monitoring opportunities.
- Achievement of team development goals (e.g., number of FRs representing different fisheries and sectors)
- Number of fishery and/or sector specific fact sheets developed.

Appendix 1 – Fisheries Team Contact Information

Name/Contact Information	Title
Deirdre Boelke (Primary Contact) RWE Renewables Americas, LLC 100 Federal St. Boston, MA 02110 DeirdreB@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 978-518-0638	Fisheries Liaison
Michelle Duval Mellivora Consulting 841 Parkside Ave West Chester, PA 19382 MichelleD@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 919-601-3798	Fisheries Liaison
Rick Robins RWE Renewables Americas, LLC 100 Federal St. Boston, MA 02110 RickR@communityoffshorewind.com Cell: 757-876-3778	Marine Affairs Manager

Appendix 2 – Example Engagement Tracking Template

The following is an example of a potential stakeholder engagement tracking template and the types of information the fisheries team anticipates collecting to describe and document how input from fisheries participants and stakeholders is being integrated into the Project, and how feedback is being provided. As noted in Section 5.5, a Project-wide stakeholder management system is being developed to comprehensively track all stakeholder input and feedback mechanisms across all required Project communications plans.

Date of Engagement	Engagement Type	Fisheries Team member(s)	Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Name(s)	Organization (if applicable)	Location	Phone	Email	Summary of Issues Discussed	Project-Specific Input Provided	Actions in Response to Feedback

Appendix 3 – Gear Loss Claim Form



Fishing Gear Avoidance and Claims Process

Community Offshore Wind, LLC and our contractors are committed to avoiding interactions with commercial fishing gear. Our fisheries team—including our Fisheries Liaisons in coordination with our Fisheries Technical Advisors/Fisheries Representatives—conduct risk assessments in consultation with the local fishing industry to assess the spatial and seasonal distribution of fixed fishing gear in the project area. Effective communication and close coordination are key to avoiding negative fisheries interactions and our team is committed to proactive communication through fisheries notices, notices to mariners, and direct outreach to local fishermen to notify the fleet of the project’s offshore operations. Our survey operations also use onboard fisheries liaisons and scout vessels, as indicated by the risk assessments, in order to reduce the risk of interacting with fixed fishing gear.

In the event of an interaction with commercial fishing gear, Community Offshore Wind, LLC has a gear loss claims procedure in place to provide a process for fishermen to file a claim for their gear damage or loss.

Claim Filing Process

If a fisherman believes or has information that they experienced gear damage or loss as a result of Community Offshore Wind’s operations, they should review and complete the Gear Loss Claim Application, together with the appropriate supporting documentation.

The completed application and supporting documentation must be submitted by email to our Fisheries Liaison, DeirdreB@communityoffshorewind.com with an electronic copy to our Marine Affairs Manager at RickR@communityoffshorewind.com.

To have a claim reviewed, applicants must:

1. Contact Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Liaison, as soon as safely possible following the gear damage or loss event. She should be contacted by phone at 978.518.0638. If she is unavailable by phone, contact Rick Robins, Marine Affairs Manager, at 757.876.3778.
2. Provide a complete, signed application form and supporting documents within 30 days of the gear damage or loss incident.
3. Review and include all documents required in the application Check List.

Process for claim review:

- Gear damage or loss claim applications will be reviewed by the Community Offshore Wind Fisheries Liaison and a representative of Community Offshore Wind.

- Applicants will be notified of the result of the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of a complete application.
- If the claim is found to be valid, a check will be provided to the Applicant.
- If the claim is denied, a written explanation will be provided to the Applicant.
- Applicants who disagree with the decision may file a written notice of appeal with Community Offshore Wind, LLC, and Community Offshore Wind, LLC may engage or consult with a third party or external reviewers to review the application on appeal. The decision on appeal will be final and not subject to any further right of appeal.
- Applicants may not file multiple claims for gear loss in the same area. Prevention methods should be followed by all parties.
- Community Offshore Wind, LLC reserves the right to request additional information to support review of claim.

Gear Loss Claim Application Form

Date of application: _____

Name of applicant: _____

Entity type: (LLC, corporation, individual proprietor) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Vessel name: _____

Home port: _____

Vessel documentation number: _____

Federal fishing permit number: _____

State fisheries landing permit: _____

Gear type: _____

Description of incident causing gear damage or loss, and extent of the gear damage or loss, believed attributable to offshore operations associated with the project:

Date of gear loss incident (specify actual/observed or estimated): _____

Time of day and weather conditions (if known): _____

Location of gear damage or loss (lat/lon or TDs—specify): _____

Spatial record of gear damage location (chart plotter, logbook, other—specify, and please provide image, copy):

Gear description and markings: _____

Description of offshore wind vessels and any other vessels in area of gear damage/loss (specify source—observation, AIS, etc.) :

When was gear last set or hauled: _____

Was any gear retrieved, how much, and condition: _____

How much gear (pots, traps, high flyers, etc.) was damaged or lost in this specific incident?

Claim amount requested for damaged or lost gear: _____

Provide detailed invoice for original gear, if available, and invoice for gear repair or replacement.

Provide completed W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>).

Provide any available photos of undamaged and damaged gear.

Additional documentation is required if Applicant is claiming lost fishing time and this section only needs to be completed if Applicant is claiming lost fishing time:

Date of gear damage/loss: _____

Date of gear repair/replacement: _____

Amount of claim for lost fishing time: _____

Description of lost fishing time and revenue: _____

Description of fish landing history for the 30-day period prior to gear damage/loss, and vessel trip report (VTR) records or state landing records if fishery is not subject to VTR requirements:

Provide documentation of gear tag replacement application/receipt, state and federal if applicable.

By submitting this Application, Applicant authorizes Community Offshore Wind, LLC to make whatever reasonable inquiries and investigations it deems necessary to verify my application and request for compensation.

Applicant understands that submitting this Application does not guaranty payment. Applicant further acknowledges and agrees that if this claim is accepted and paid in its entirety, that acceptance of such payment constitutes full, final, and complete payment for this particular claim and that neither Community Offshore Wind, LLC nor any of its affiliates shall have any further outstanding or ongoing obligation with respect to this specific claim and Applicant shall not, directly or indirectly, assert any claim, or commence, join in, prosecute, participate in, or fund any part of, any suit or other proceeding of any kind against Community Offshore Wind, LLC or its affiliates, based upon this specific claim. If a claim is denied in part, Applicant may accept payment for the undisputed part without waiving Applicant's right to appeal the disputed part of the claim. Applicant recognizes that submission of this Application does not affect Applicant's rights concerning matters other than those specifically identified in this specific Application.

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge the information in this Application is true and correct.

Signature _____

Date _____

Application Check-list

- Completed and signed application
 - Completed and signed W-9 form
 - Image or copy of documentation (chart plotter, logbook, etc.) of location of gear damage incident
 - Provide any available photos of undamaged and damaged gear
 - Invoices for original gear and replacement gear
 - Any additional information Applicant wishes to have considered in support of application
-

Additional information required for any claims of lost fishing time

- VTRs and state landings reports, as appropriate to the fishery, for the 30-day period prior to the incident
- Documentation of tag replacement applications and receipts, if applicable

Our fisheries liaisons are here to help—please let the liaison know if you have any questions and please return this form and attachments by delivering an electronic copy via email to Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Liaison for Community Offshore Wind, LLC at DeirdreB@communityoffshorewind.com , with a copy to Rick Robins, Marine Affairs Manager, at RickR@communityoffshorewind.com.

Please note that the payment cannot be processed without a signature and completed W-9 form. If applications are deemed to be incomplete, they will be returned to the applicant within 15 business days to complete the application.

NYSERDA 2024 OFFSHORE WIND
SOLICITATION ORECRFP24 -1

Attachment 8.3-5

Community funds and programs

Public Version





A joint venture of
RWE nationalgrid

Community Offshore Wind will create accessible and equitable economic opportunity for New York’s workers and families.

As we focus on establishing a world-class offshore wind workforce in New York, we’re leading the way by designing funding opportunities that ensure the benefits of the clean energy transition are felt by everyone.



We are not just building an industry — we are building careers, a stronger economy, and pathways to upward mobility for communities. By investing in comprehensive training, breaking down longstanding barriers, promoting inclusive education, and forging strong partnerships, we are creating a foundation for a thriving offshore wind industry that leaves no one behind.

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