



“MetOcean Campaign for the Proposed New York Wind Energy Area” Request for Information (RFI) 3396

Comments Due: December 15, 2016 by 5:00 PM Eastern Time*

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather feedback from offshore wind energy developers, consultants, financiers, scientists, regulators and other stakeholders on the draft MetOcean Plan (www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshore) developed by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). NYSERDA intends to implement the final MetOcean Plan in 2017 to support and facilitate the development of the New York Wind Energy Area (WEA) identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), south of Long Island’s Rockaway Peninsula, off the coast of New York.¹

Comments and feedback should be submitted via email to gregory.lampman@nyserda.ny.gov , with the Subject Line “RFI 3396 Comments”: Alternatively, comments and feedback may be submitted in writing to:

Gregory Lampman
RFI 3396 Comments
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

If you have technical questions concerning RFI 3396, contact Gregory Lampman at (518) 862-1090, ext. 3372 or by e-mail gregory.lampman@nyserda.ny.gov.

No communication intended to influence this RFI is permitted except by contacting Gregory Lampman (Designated Contact) at (518) 862-1090, ext. 3372 or by e-mail gregory.lampman@nyserda.ny.gov; or Greg Matzat (Secondary Contact) at (518) 862-1090, ext. 3091 or by e-mail greg.matzat@nyserda.ny.gov.

* Faxed responses will not be accepted. Responses will not be accepted at any other NYSERDA location other than the address above. If changes are made to this solicitation, notification will be posted on NYSERDA’s web site at www.nyserda.ny.gov.

¹ <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2016-Announcements/2016-06-02-New-York-State-to-Participate-in-Offshore-Wind-Lease-Auction>



INTRODUCTION

The 2015 New York State Energy Plan establishes a clean energy goal that 50% of New York's electricity needs be provided by renewable energy by 2030. To implement this goal, the New York State Public Service Commission established its Clean Energy Standard, charting a course that mandates the procurement of renewable energy by energy suppliers who are providing energy services to New York households and businesses. Meeting these commitments will require a significant increase in the amount of renewable energy resources in New York, as well as require innovative approaches to the energy markets to ensure these energy resources provide reliable and affordable service to energy consumers.

Offshore wind in the Atlantic Ocean can serve as a significant, clean source of power for the State. It also has the potential to serve as a new, local source of affordable power for the New York City Metropolitan Area and Long Island, where energy demand and prices are higher relative to other areas. However, like all energy resources, offshore wind must be developed thoughtfully and responsibly.

One of the early needs in development of an offshore wind energy project is a site assessment of wind speeds to estimate the available wind resource in the area and provide developers and their funders with the confidence in the financing of any potential wind farm. Other data to complement this can also be collected at the same time, including information on, wave heights, ocean currents and seabed conditions. Good quality data on such variables is crucial in the planning and development of offshore wind farms. Not only does quality data provide more assurance about the available resource and potential revenue for developers, but it also ensures that projects are sited in the most appropriate places for the benefit of the environment, engineering needs, and for the people of New York.

In order to gather bankable wind resource data time and cost-efficiently, NYSDERDA proposes to undertake a floating LiDAR campaign in the Wind Energy Area. It is NYSDERDA's understanding that, to date, there has not been a trial of this nature in the United States, making NYSDERDA's effort pioneering and ambitious. It is therefore in the global industry's interests for this trial to be carried out effectively and for useful and reliable data to be collected.

LiDAR technology is a relatively recent development in the offshore wind market for wind resource assessments. Financiers in the past have preferred the reliability and accuracy of fixed meteorological masts. However, through measurement campaigns, further analysis and research projects such as those run by Carbon Trust's Offshore Wind Accelerator, LiDAR is becoming an accepted and established way of predicting the wind resource of offshore wind farms. Financiers and banks' engineers are now routinely accepting many LiDAR device measurements when carrying out due diligence on projects, and developers are stimulating changes to many industry standards to accommodate LiDAR technologies. LiDAR technologies can offer more flexibility, at a lower cost, with shorter permitting and deployment timelines, and with a much lower environmental impact than conventional meteorological masts.

This RFI requests input on the draft MetOcean Plan (www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshore) developed by NYSDERDA. The MetOcean Plan outlines NYSDERDA's proposed approach to collecting MetOcean data for use by offshore wind energy developers to support environmental and resource assessments, project design and project financing. This MetOcean Plan is just one part of New York State's Offshore Wind Master Plan intended to reduce the time, cost, and uncertainty of the offshore wind energy development process, in a manner that fully considers environmental, maritime, and societal issues, resulting in a fully balanced evaluation and identification of potential offshore wind sites. The MetOcean Plan describes the approach to be used in the MetOcean Campaign. All data collected through the MetOcean Campaign will be made publically available, in a timely fashion.



INFORMATION REQUESTED

NYSERDA wishes to gather informed feedback and input on the Draft MetOcean Plan, available at: www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshore. NYSERDA's intention is to use this information to improve and revise the Draft MetOcean Plan, and implement the final MetOcean Plan in 2017 to support and facilitate the development of the Wind Energy Area (WEA) identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) south of Long Island's Rockaway Peninsula, off of the Coast of New York. The Draft MetOcean Plan was also developed to leverage this initial focus, allowing it to be expanded to other areas in the New York Ocean Planning Area².

NYSERDA seeks informed feedback and comments, with justification and citations where appropriate, that improve the quality of the data collected through the MetOcean campaign, or that improves the efficiency or cost-effectiveness of other site assessment work. Specific questions and opportunities for feedback are described in the draft MetOcean Plan available at: www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshore. Respondents should understand that cost considerations played a role in development the draft MetOcean Plan. The options presented attempt to balance the cost of the MetOcean Campaign with the quality and types of the data collected.

Respondents should understand that any and all responses provided through this RFI will be considered in the final MetOcean Plan, but that not all feedback will necessary be incorporated. Decisions regarding what will be adopted in the final MetOcean Plan are at NYSERDA's discretion.

Respondents should provide clear distinction between proprietary and public information in their responses. Information submitted to NYSERDA that the respondent wishes to have treated as proprietary, and confidential trade secret information, should be identified and labeled "Confidential" or "Proprietary" on each page at the time of disclosure. NYSERDA does not intend to publish the respondents' individual responses. If responses are made available, any identifying information relating to the entity or individual providing the comments will be removed.

Through this RFI, NYSERDA seeks to leverage the combined knowledge of offshore wind energy developers, consultants, financiers, scientists, regulators and other stakeholders to develop a more informed and valuable MetOcean Campaign.

CONTENT OF RESPONSE

Responses to this RFI must be submitted in PDF format and via email to gregory.lampman@nyserda.ny.gov, with the Subject Line "RFI 3396 Comments": Alternatively, comments and feedback may be submitted in writing to:

Gregory Lampman
RFI 3396 Comments
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Responses should be directed toward the information specifically requested in the draft MetOcean Plan. On the first page of the response, the name of your organization, its location, a contact person, phone number, and email address must be provided.

²http://docs.dos.ny.gov/communitieswaterfronts/ocean_docs/NYSDOS_Offshore_Atlantic_Ocean_Study.pdf



Responses should not be excessively long or submitted in an elaborate format. Each page of the response should state the name of the respondent, the RFI number, and the page number.

A response to RFI 3396 does not bind, obligate, nor preclude the respondent to any current or future agreement of provision or procurement of services referenced.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Proprietary Information - Careful consideration should be given before confidential information is submitted to NYSERDA as part of your proposal. Review should include whether it is critical for evaluating a proposal, and whether general, non-confidential information, may be adequate for review purposes. The NYS Freedom of Information Law, Public Officers law, Article 6, provides for public access to information NYSERDA possesses. Public Officers Law, Section 87(2)(d) provides for exceptions to disclosure for records or portions thereof that "are trade secrets or are submitted to an agency by a commercial enterprise or derived from information obtained from a commercial enterprise and which if disclosed would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the subject enterprise." Information submitted to NYSERDA that the proposer wishes to have treated as proprietary, and confidential trade secret information, should be identified and labeled "Confidential" or "Proprietary" on each page at the time of disclosure. This information should include a written request to except it from disclosure, including a written statement of the reasons why the information should be excepted. See Public Officers Law, Section 89(5) and the procedures set forth in 21 NYCRR Part 501 <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/-/media/Files/About/Contact/NYSERDA-Regulations.ashx>. However, NYSERDA cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted.

Disclaimers - This RFI is not a contract offer, and does not commit NYSERDA to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. Respondents are encouraged to respond to this RFI; however, failure to submit a response will not impact a respondents' ability to respond to any future competitive solicitation process (if any) for projects. NYSERDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all information received, or to modify or cancel in part or in its entirety this RFI at any time. Respondents are advised that all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at their expense. There are no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this RFI. Respondents are responsible for making their own evaluation of information and data contained in this RFI and for preparing and submitting responses to this RFI.