



**NYSERDA**

**Department  
of State**

**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

September 29, 2017

Dr. Walter Cruickshank  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C., 20240

Re: New York State Offshore Wind

Dear Dr. Cruickshank:

We are writing today to continue New York State's strong partnership with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) by submitting an Area for Consideration for BOEM's Area Identification Process. Within the Area for Consideration, we urge BOEM to expeditiously identify at least four new Wind Energy Areas (WEA), each capable of supporting at least 800 megawatts, and to conduct lease auctions for these WEAs.

New York State has adopted one of the most ambitious energy targets in the country: a Clean Energy Standard that requires 50 percent of all electricity consumed in New York to come from renewable energy sources by 2030. To make progress towards this nation-leading initiative, New York has committed to installing 2,400 megawatts of offshore wind in the Atlantic Ocean, which will produce economic benefits well beyond the annual elimination of over 5 million tons of carbon emissions. Offshore wind is expected to support 160,000 U.S. jobs in construction, manufacturing, and operations over the next thirty years; to encourage significant investments in coastal communities and infrastructure; to create locally-produced, cost-effective energy generation; and to enable a diversified energy resource mix that will bolster grid security and resilience.

Given the extraordinary level of private investor interest in commercial offshore wind development in the Northeast, and after several years of fieldwork, analysis, and stakeholder outreach, New York State is proffering the enclosed Area for Consideration. In so doing, New York aims to provide data and information that will align with BOEM's standards for similar work, to advance the timeline for review and evaluation of potential new lease areas in New York, and to continue our strong collaboration with the federal government to realize the State's offshore wind commitment through an effective, competition-inducing process.

In developing the Area for Consideration, New York State has undertaken over twenty surveys and studies to collect significant new data sets and advance the understanding of conditions in the Offshore Study Area. In addition, the State led a stakeholder outreach process, engaging with hundreds of elected officials, over one thousand members of the public, the offshore wind industry, and a multitude of fishermen and other key stakeholder groups from around the region to ensure that those views would be represented in this process from the beginning. We have



**NYSERDA**

**Department  
of State**

**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

conducted this work in the anticipation that it will be useful to inform BOEM's decision-making with respect to future WEA identification and leasing. These analyses also support the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan (Master Plan), in which New York State will set forth its plan for the development of offshore wind and to maximize benefits in a manner that is responsible and cost-effective, and sensitive to economic, environmental, maritime, and social issues. The Master Plan will be released by the end of the year, and will develop and propose cost-effective models to purchase energy from offshore wind providers at the lowest cost to ratepayers, and create guidelines for developers to ensure offshore projects best serve the interests of the public and New York State.

As part of the Master Plan, New York State began with over 16,000 square miles of area called the Offshore Study Area. The Area for Consideration represents approximately ten percent of the original Offshore Study Area, refined through a rigorous process based on available data and guided by stakeholder feedback, aiming to maximize benefits and minimize conflicts to ocean users, including both people and wildlife, and was developed following rigorous interagency deliberation within New York State.

We look forward to continued collaboration with BOEM and are available to answer any immediate questions at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia Barton  
President and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Rossana Rosado  
Secretary of State, New York Department of State

Basil Seggos  
Commissioner, New York Department of Environmental Conservation