



NYSERDA ORECRFP23-1

# Purchase of Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits



Submitted by Empire Offshore Wind LLC- January 25, 2024

## Section 8.3 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan



Powering New York. Together



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## 8. RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

### 8.3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

*Elements of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan are described in detail in Appendix E. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan must address any variance among Proposals. The Submission must include both Confidential and Public Versions of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The public version of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan should use language accessible to the public that demonstrates an understanding of New York's diverse stakeholders, unique coastal and marine resources, and local communities.*

*The Stakeholder Engagement Plan should describe all stakeholder engagement activities and commitments during the planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project and associated investments. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan must also address the Project's visibility from shore and mitigation measures to address affected communities. All letters of support for the Project should be attached to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with a cover page summarizing how many letters of support and from whom.*

#### 8.3.1. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Summary

*The Proposer must briefly present the Proposer's goals on prioritizing stakeholder outreach and engagement using a range of methods in order to better understand, incorporate, and respond to the diverse perspectives, needs, and concerns of stakeholders at every stage of the development process. NYSERDA will prioritize Projects in its bid evaluation process that are supported by comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plans. This plan should align with the goals set out in all plans related to the proposal, including but not limited to, the New York Jobs and Workforce Plan and Disadvantaged Community Impacts, EMP and FMP.*

Empire Wind recognizes that community engagement is a critical part of successful project development. Accordingly, Empire Wind places a high priority on stakeholder engagement and community outreach throughout the entire project, including development, construction, operation, and, ultimately, decommissioning. Since Empire Wind acquired its lease area, Empire Wind and its affiliates have been focused on fostering a collaborative relationship with stakeholders in New York to ensure that the Empire Wind project ("EW1" or "Project") is developed in a manner that accounts for, and is respectful of, local interests and priorities and that maximizes the benefits of offshore wind development for all New Yorkers. Empire Wind also is committed to ensuring that the significant benefits that will result from New York's commitment to renewable energy are shared broadly and equitably.

As a result of these efforts, Empire Wind and its affiliates already have made significant investments in building its presence in New York and investing in the community, including:

- Opening an office in Sunset Park near the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal ("SBMT").

- Awarding \$5 million in grants from its Offshore Wind Ecosystem fund at a ceremony hosted in Sunset Park to provide local economic benefits that support sustainable growth, workforce development, empowerment of underserved communities, and climate justice.
- [REDACTED]
- Working with ports and suppliers to site key facilities and jobs in Disadvantaged Communities, resulting in the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars and the creation of thousands of jobs in historically underserved populations.

This stakeholder plan reflects Empire Wind's continued commitment to robust, inclusive, and transparent stakeholder engagement at every phase within the Project lifecycle. As Empire Wind transitions to the construction phase of the Project, Empire Wind will continue to work to build its relationship with affected communities, solicit input from affected stakeholders, and make investments to ensure that New York's commitment to clean energy benefits all New Yorkers.

#### *Public Engagement Philosophy, Goals, and Approach*

Empire Wind's approach to public engagement is consistent with our guiding philosophy for developing offshore wind projects: to be a responsible, accountable, and engaged member of the communities in which we work and operate. That means that we engage with and respond to a diverse array of stakeholders early and often consistent with four foundational principles:

- **Open:** We promote transparency and embrace diversity and new perspectives.
- **Courageous:** We use foresight, identify opportunities, and manage risk.
- **Collaborative:** We engage with, respect, and earn the trust of our business partners and society.
- **Caring:** We seek zero harm to people, wildlife, or the environment, acting in a sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible manner.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see <https://www.offshorewindnyc.com>.

Our core mission is simple, but it informs every aspect of what we do as a responsible energy developer with strong commitments to the people and communities in and around where we work: to turn natural resources into energy for people and progress for society.

In terms of stakeholder engagement, our mission is to:

*communicate and realize all the benefits that offshore wind energy can provide, including benefit agreements for, workforce training, and access to supply chain for disadvantaged communities, diverse small minority and women-owned businesses, and other underserved communities, and improved health from reduced pollution by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.*

In terms of accountability:

*our mission underpins our commitment to being an active, responsible neighbor and member of the community that listens to community input and adjusts our development plans accordingly.*

Empire Wind's commitment to broad and ongoing stakeholder engagement is far more than a basic requirement to develop the Project; it is a crucial element to a successful project that meets the needs of all people and communities that are affected. We believe that thoughtful, interactive public participation that invites stakeholders and communities into the planning and decision-making process can reduce risk to the project by building support from the ground up. Beyond basic principles of fairness and inclusiveness, this Plan seeks to achieve five specific objectives:

- Identify and provide accurate, factual, timely, and relevant information to stakeholders.
- Build and maintain trustworthy and constructive stakeholder relationships.
- Provide a range of opportunities for meaningful public engagement and stakeholder consultations through each project phase.
- Incorporate stakeholder input into design, construction, and operation, when feasible.
- Deliver tangible and direct economic benefits equitably to local communities, with a specific focus on Disadvantaged Communities, Minority and/or Women-Owned Businesses (“MWBE”), and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses (“SDVOB”).

Key to effective outreach and communication is the collecting and incorporating of data related to the communities where we operate, and feedback from stakeholders in those communities. Our team employs a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that enables us to identify and track the full range of potentially affected stakeholders and their views. This approach ensures that Empire Wind considers, addresses, and responds to all stakeholder inputs, and allows us to allocate resources where they can be most effective and where communities and stakeholders need them most. We are guided by the experience and relationships Empire Wind and its affiliates have established over the past several years, and build on that experience to expand our outreach to include additional stakeholders and inform all forms of engagement.

### *Stakeholder Mapping*

We utilize stakeholder analysis tools both to map the overall universe of engaged participants in our project and to identify gaps in engagement to ensure robust coverage of all stakeholders. Tools used in stakeholder mapping include:

- The Borealis Stakeholder Engagement Platform to understand stakeholders and structure and implement an effective engagement process.
- US Census Bureau Datasets and EJSCREEN
- Information about New York State Opportunity Zones, potential Environmental Justice Areas, and Disadvantaged Communities.

Stakeholder mapping is the systematic process we employ to identify, categorize, and understand the communities, businesses, organizations and government entities that come into contact with our project. Through mapping, we can track progress and adjust strategies to achieve the goals we have set for meaningful stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders for this project are organized and considered along three axes: interest/influence areas/risk types (why stakeholders are interested in the project), location/focus area (where they reside or conduct business or other activities), and organization type (how individuals or groups are affiliated or organized). Investment in tracking enables retention of institutional knowledge across projects and phases, allows for consistency and accountability with our stakeholders, and provides Empire Wind's stakeholder team with insights they can use to improve stakeholder engagement.

### *Project Benefits*

This plan describes a thoughtful approach to build project support, respectfully respond to community and stakeholder concerns, and develop community benefits on a collaborative basis. The stakeholder engagement plan encourages and champions community representation, putting disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities at the forefront of initiatives to maximize environmental benefits, spur economic development, and create jobs in New York.

Our stakeholder engagement strategy, as detailed in this plan, will collect input and respond to community and stakeholder concerns, and build understanding of project benefits. Reports on stakeholder activity and input will be shared and reviewed with engagement and technical teams, and with NYSERDA, both to update progress, affirm the commitment to engagement, and to identify opportunities for enhanced messaging and communication throughout and beyond the development process.

### *Existing Guidance and Best Practices*

The development of this plan was informed by industry best practices, the collective experience and lessons learned by the Empire Wind team, and stakeholder analysis and dialogue. We subscribe to the core values of the practice of public participation, as published by the International Association of Public Participation, which include:

- Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- Public participation ensures that the public's contribution will influence decisions.
- Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of potentially affected stakeholders.
- Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- Public participation provides participants with information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

We continually review guidance documents, publications, and public engagement plans for similar large scale infrastructure projects elsewhere to collect best practices and lessons learned, including NYSERDA Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement, NYSERDA Learning from the Experts webinar series, and the Journal of Deliberative Democracy. We also review public engagement plans for similar large scale infrastructure projects elsewhere to collect best practices and lessons learned, including, among other things, resources from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Environmental Protection and Federal Highway Administration, guides and procedures as defined by NYSERDA, and plans and reports issued by other regulatory bodies.

### **8.3.2. Stakeholder Identification and Stakeholder List**

*The Plan must describe the key considerations taken among different stakeholder groups. Plans should describe how each step of the stakeholder engagement process may be modified and tailored to the specific needs and accessibility of different stakeholder groups in New York both within and outside of the contractual requirement to participate in New York State's five (5) offshore wind Technical Working Groups (TWGs). Proposers should include explanations as to why the stakeholders identified are important for overall Project success, how the Project will consider each stakeholder group when giving Project development updates, communicating education or job opportunities, or undergoing activities in local communities. Stakeholder groups in New York 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 industry, port owners and operators, supply chain businesses including small-medium enterprises, MWBEs and SDVOBs, tourism operators, training and research institutions, academia, coastal residents and business owners, local communities including environmental justice communities or proximate Disadvantaged Communities in accordance with criteria defined by the Climate Justice Working Group. Stakeholder Engagement Plans must also address engagement with the U.S. steel industry. Separately, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan must include similar explanations related to ongoing or planned engagements with Tribal Nations with an interest in any area affected by the Project, both offshore and onshore.*

Empire Wind actively tailors its engagement strategy to accommodate the specific needs and communication style and preferences of different stakeholders. By creating and implementing different communication strategies for different stakeholder groups, both the distribution of information and the effectiveness of those distributed messages will be greater than relying on a “one-size-fits-all” approach to public outreach.

Our long-term engagement with stakeholders in New York and surrounding states has bolstered our understanding of what affected communities value and seek from and helped forge strong relationships between our projects and key stakeholder groups in the project area. Thus, Empire Wind has a robust stakeholder list and engagement plan that will continue to guide its work, and strong, successful, and established relationships with a broad range of project stakeholders.

Specific stakeholders have been, and we anticipate will continue to be, identified by information provided by members of the community, other stakeholders, guidance from local and state government contacts, review of New York State geographic information system records, tax records, research, and the extensive experience of our stakeholder engagement team in advancing similar projects. Specifically, Empire Wind has identified the following stakeholder categories relevant to the Project and assigned to the communications, permitting, and community affairs departments:

- Host communities
- Federal, State, and Local Governments and Public Officials
- Environmental Organizations
- Non-Governmental and Special Interest Groups
- Environmental Justice Groups
- Labor Organizations
- School, Civic, and Community Organizations
- Affected Property Owners
- Tribal Nations
- Port Owners and Operators
- Fisheries and Marine-Based Businesses
- Media
- Representatives of the U.S. iron and steel industry

Pre-bid outreach activity has included more than 550 meetings and public information sessions with groups in each of these categories to initiate conversations, present the project, and collect stakeholder and community input. A complete list of meetings is included in Attachment 8.E and a list of stakeholders is provided as Attachment 8.F. Further detail regarding engagement with these stakeholders is provided below.

Empire Wind’s team of government relations, communications, and community outreach professionals lead on-the-ground stakeholder engagement. Figure 1 lists contact information for key stakeholder contacts on the Empire Wind team.

Figure 1: Contact Details

Name	Role/Responsibilities	Contact Information
Harrison Feuer	Senior Director of Public Affairs	<a href="mailto:hfeu@equinor.com">hfeu@equinor.com</a> 917-495-4914
Ashley Ball	Director of Community Affairs, Empire Wind 1	<a href="mailto:aball@equinor.com">aball@equinor.com</a> 347-383-3002
Lauren Shane	Director of Communications	<a href="mailto:laush@equinor.com">laush@equinor.com</a> 917-392-4252
Marc Hanan	US Labor Relations Leader and Lead Negotiator	<a href="mailto:mhan@equinor.com">mhan@equinor.com</a> 929-766-4942

### 8.3.3. Stakeholder Engagement Goals

The New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan, the Offshore Wind Orders, and this RFP emphasize the value of stakeholder engagement in the development of offshore wind energy projects. Proposers must list their goals and desired outcomes developed through a collective understanding of shared interests for each stakeholder group identified in Section E.2. Proposers are encouraged to allow for flexibility and growth of goals over time while maintaining a clear organizational structure and approach including metrics for both process and outputs. NYSERDA strongly recommends Proposers review the Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement.

Engaging with community stakeholders demonstrates Empire Wind's values and puts words into action. Empire Wind prioritizes stakeholder engagement that is transparent, inclusive, and easily understood by all audiences consistent with the following objectives:

- Engage stakeholders and interested parties in an approach that is both inclusive and equitable, aligns with the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act, and reduces barriers to the participation of members of Disadvantaged Communities and other historically underserved groups.
- Encourage public involvement through development, construction, and operation.
- Address local interests and identify strategies to mitigate concerns raised by the public and their elected representatives, working toward actionable solutions that contribute to long-term social and economic development.
- Solicit feedback early and often from the public, elected officials, and affected agencies.
- Work to be open and transparent with the communities we serve.
- Prioritize accessibility, including offering convenient meeting times and accessible locations or virtual platforms, providing spaces where all are welcome, accommodating language and interpretation needs, and offering multiple opportunities to participate and provide input.

- Deliver outreach materials and project information to ensure stakeholders are well informed regarding project timelines, progress, and key decision dates, amplifying opportunities to participate in the process.
- Partner with local governments and community groups to ensure transparent and mutually beneficial project outcomes.

### *Stakeholder Categories*

The following subsections provide an overview of Empire Wind's approach to engaging with stakeholders that have an interest in the Project. The success of Empire Wind's strategy is reflected in the strong support for the Project, as documented through the letters of support provided by dozens of organizations provided as Attachment 8.G and significant press coverage, excerpted in Attachment 8.H. Additional letters of support from suppliers are provided in Attachment 8.I.

### *Host Communities*

Members of the communities in which the Project is located have been engaged in a collaborative partnership to build positive relationships and ensure input and feedback will continue to be collected and considered from affected communities as the Project advances through development, construction, operation, and decommissioning. As Empire Wind moves forward with construction of the Project, it will continue to engage with host communities to identify local needs, investment opportunities, and mitigate concerns. They will identify concerns related to construction and operational impacts, visual impacts, and property values, and will seek information on benefits accruing to local job and supply chain development, in addition to funding for local initiatives.



### *Federal, State and Local Government And Public Officials*

Empire Wind is committed to ensuring that elected leadership and policymakers at the local, county, state, and federal levels are informed about the progress of the project so they can advocate on behalf of and respond to the questions and concerns of their constituents. Empire Wind has developed relationships with key elected leaders and their staff to ensure that they know they can contact specific company representatives with any questions as they arise. Empire Wind is engaged with elected officials and policymakers and regularly seeks their input to

understand their constituents' concerns and interests. Outreach to elected officials and policymakers is in progress and will continue through consistent communication via in-person and virtual briefings, email and/or telephone updates, and sharing informational materials that can be distributed to constituents. In addition to relationships with officials who represent the project service area, Empire Wind is developing strategic relationships with representatives beyond the project service area who are supportive of renewable energy and recognize the regional significance of offshore wind projects.

### ***Environmental Organizations, NGOs, and Special Interest Groups***

A variety of environmental organizations, non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and special interest groups are stakeholders in the Project area, each with a specific area of focus. Such groups are often able to identify specific concerns, resources, opportunities, and interests in such areas as wildlife preservation, maritime and fisheries, and acceleration of the clean energy transition, among others. Empire Wind has engaged with environmental organizations, NGOs, and special interest groups to ensure that their perspectives are heard, keep them apprised of the Project, and notify them of public meetings. For instance, in November 2023, Empire Wind hosted an event in partnership with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ("BOEM"), Uprose, and other stakeholder groups to promote understanding of the Project and to foster engagement with environmental justice populations, underserved communities, and Tribal Nations. This meeting was then followed by a group tour of Sunset Park and SBMT.

### ***Environmental Justice Groups***

Environmental Justice groups and Disadvantaged Communities require specific information related to demonstrated equity in frontline communities, economic opportunities for disadvantaged populations, and to project benefits related to health concerns, such as the historical burden of fossil fuel production. In October 2023, Empire Wind partnered with Beacon Wind, NYSERDA and the Waterfront Alliance on a virtual roundtable. The event gave local environment groups an update of Equinor's New York City offshore wind projects and a presentation from NYSERDA, followed by a 30-minute discussion on conservation efforts around New York City's waterways, wildlife, clean energy, and other climate and resilience issues and a Q&A. Empire Wind will continue to encourage participation by potential environmental justice groups and individuals living in environmental justice communities, including low-income, minority, and non-English-speaking or English as a Second Language populations.

### ***Labor Organizations***

Empire Wind recognizes the importance of labor organizations and has actively engaged with these organizations through the development process. With the hiring of Marc Hanan, US REN Labor Relations Leader and Lead Negotiator, the volume of engagement has increased both at the local, state, and national levels. Our collaborative approach has included a partnership with our contractors/suppliers and labor organizations to ensure clarity and transparency about the

plans for construction of the Project and supply chain facilities.



### *School, Civic and Community Organizations*

The “eyes and ears” of the local area, civic, community, and business groups will play an important role in stakeholder engagement and will be kept current about the Project. Members of these groups are interested in a range of topics, including economic development and job creation. They also are interested in the preservation of local characteristics, viewsheds, respect for local values, and opportunities for STEM programs for youth, along with vocational training and preparation for the workforce. In addition to scheduling meetings specific to this project, and distributing project progress via email updates, newsletters, and web postings, Empire Wind will also attend relevant meetings held by these groups to better understand local needs and interests

### *Affected Property Owners*

Empire Wind specifically addresses affected landowners, including those holding properties crossed by the Project, adjacent landowners, and landowners within the viewshed of the Project. Throughout the planning, development, and construction of the Project, Empire Wind has carefully identified affected landowners to ensure that they receive project information, are provided the opportunity to provide input on the project, including through one-on-one meetings, and identify issues of concern, such as property value, viewshed impacts, safety, and traffic. Although no portion of the Project will be physically located on Long Island, Empire Wind has engaged in extensive outreach and stakeholders on Long Island given its location within the viewshed for the Project. Further details regarding engagement with stakeholders in the viewshed of the Project is provided in both the visibility study and permitting plan being provided with this proposal. As we meet new landowners and abutters in the Project area, we will add key

contacts to the Empire Energizer mailing list, where they will find out the latest news and receive periodic invitations to events that the Project hosts. Additionally, Empire Wind is required to deposit funds with the Department of Public Service (“DPS”) to provide intervenor funding for affected property owners. Empire Wind will communicate the availability of intervenor funding through official channels and directly to property owners.

### *Tribal Nations*

We acknowledge and respect that state and municipal boundaries do not bind Tribal Nations' lands and that underwater lands were not ceded to the United States. Consequently, it is challenging to present an all-inclusive list of tribes that may be interested in the Empire Wind project area, especially when it involves Traditional Cultural Properties and ancient submerged landforms. However, BOEM included the following tribes in the Section 106 process: Delaware Tribe of Indians; Delaware Nation; Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation; Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Shinnecock Indian Nation; Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians; Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

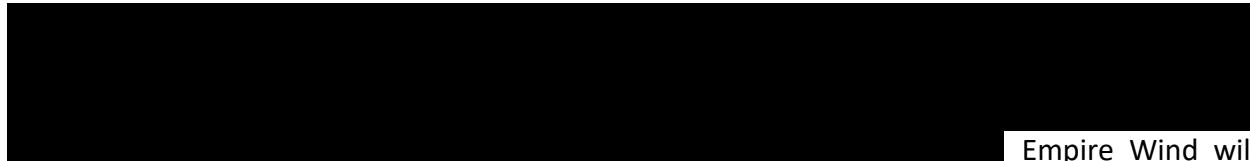
Suffolk County, located in the Long Island region of New York and Empire Wind’s project area, is home to two Tribal communities. The Poospatuck Reservation, one of the oldest reservations in the United States, is situated in Mastic within eastern Suffolk County. The Unkechaug Indians reside in the Poospatuck Reservation. The Shinnecock Nation holds jurisdiction over tribal lands on the Shinnecock Neck peninsula, covering approximately 900 acres that protrude into the Shinnecock Bay. The Nation also has land in Westwoods in Hampton Bays, which covers about 100 acres along Peconic Bay. Engaging with the Shinnecock Nation and the Poospatuck Reservation around New York’s emerging offshore wind industry requires a thoughtful and culturally sensitive approach.

Tribal Nations have specific goals and concerns related to the protection of lands and respect for tribal values, along with economic benefits associated with climate protection, workforce development, and supply chain expansion. Equinor is committed to soliciting input from Tribal Nation representatives on the concerns and needs of their members, including their specific interests and questions about the land to be developed near any of our offshore wind projects. With construction to commence in the near-term, Equinor is working to bring on a Tribal Liaison to lead this critically important work in 2024.

Initially, this work will focus on increasing our understanding of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and Unkechaug Indians while developing our relationships with all the tribes listed above. While building a relationship and forming mutual respect takes time, Empire Wind is committed to earning the trust of New York’s original inhabitants. We will attend tribal events, invite Tribal Nations to participate in official project activities, and offer to share information about Empire Wind at crucial junctures as the Project evolves. We will be open to feedback and suggestions from the tribes to ensure a successful partnership where Tribal Nations feel respected, empowered, and included.

### *Port Owners and Operators*

Port owners and operators will have specific interests and concerns related to the Project, including the ability to support increased capacity driven by the development of the Project. Empire Wind is committed to working with this essential stakeholder in providing support on transforming infrastructure to meet the expanded staging and assembly needs of offshore wind.



Empire Wind will

continue to meet with port owners and operators throughout project development, briefing them on project progress, and identifying collaborative initiatives to maximize the advantages of the new offshore wind industry.

### *Media*

Traditional media and digital media outlets are both stakeholders and an important means of communicating information to the overall community. Media outlets in the Project area will be kept apprised with regular releases, advisories, notice of public events, periodic briefings, and will be supported by expert resources available for interview and inquiry. Media for this Project will include print, broadcast, and digital local publications, and will also extend to regional, statewide, and national media covering the offshore wind industry. Additional media will include film clips and community information that is disseminated via our social media channels to inform the public about project updates as well as educate and engage the public on specific parts of the process and construction.

### *Fisheries and Marine-Based Businesses*

Fisheries and marine-based businesses use the waters traversed by the Project's submarine export cable route, and these businesses and their affiliated trade groups have important knowledge of the area as well as concerns about Project construction and operation. Empire Wind will continue to conduct outreach to fisheries groups and businesses, invite their participation in public information meetings, and provide opportunities to sign up for email updates, newsletters, and website postings. Their interests will include such topics as preservation of access to lease areas, fisheries mitigation measures, and minimal disruption to fishing grounds. Communications and outreach with the commercial and recreational fishing industries will continue to be guided by a Fisheries Mitigation Plan, which will be updated during Project development.

### *Representatives of the U.S. iron and steel industry*

Empire Wind and its contractors continue to engage with representatives of the U.S. iron and steel industry to identify opportunities to use the development of offshore wind resources to promote production of U.S. iron and steel. Empire Wind has engaged in outreach with domestic

suppliers of iron and steel to help identify opportunities to support the Project, facilitate dialogue with suppliers and contractors, and promote the growth of the industry. Empire Wind will continue to make efforts to employ U.S. iron and steel in the construction of the Project when consistent with the existing Project timeline and costs.

#### 8.3.4. Stakeholder Engagement Activities and Partnership

*Plans must detail options for engagement activities and potential partnerships with community members, local elected officials, state and federal agencies, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Plans must address thoughtful engagement approaches specific to different stakeholder groups for all phases of the Project and consider appropriate communication methodology corresponding to the different stakeholder groups to maximize both general awareness and participation from those groups. Success metrics for engagement activities should be listed along with overall goals and outcomes from potential partnerships. 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. NYSERDA expects selected Projects to notify the State of planned engagement activities and to track the methods used to ensure stakeholders receive accurate and timely notice of stakeholder engagement and Project development events. Plans must detail how accessibility factors - including 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 - are to be considered, especially for Disadvantaged Communities. Engagement activities and partnerships specific to business and workforce stakeholders should also be considered in the New York Jobs and Workforce Plan.*

#### *Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Channels*

To ensure stakeholders are informed, involved, and engaged in project development, Empire Wind has identified the following communications methods, which will be incorporated throughout project development to provide access to information, ensure opportunities to have questions answered, and to solicit and collect feedback. Additional methods may be developed and incorporated based on feedback from stakeholders. Information about how Empire Wind will monitor the success and impact of its engagement is included in Section 8.3.5 below.

#### *Website*

Empire Wind will utilize its existing website, EmpireWind.com, as a communication and resource hub providing project updates, news, upcoming and past events, fact sheets, informational videos, and key permitting documents. The website serves as a key repository for information that the public can easily access to learn more about the project. The website will continue to develop to meet the needs of stakeholders and the Project, with new content and features added to support Project phases. Content will include Project information, addresses of local document

repositories, outreach event schedule and key milestones, FAQs, E-blast and newsletter opt-in, advertisements for upcoming public outreach events, comments and complaints platform.

### **Meetings and Outreach Events**

Empire Wind will continue to host a variety of workshops, open houses, and information sessions to provide multiple opportunities to facilitate dialogue in the community, distribute project information, and solicit feedback. Such events will be focused on collecting input from the public, and ensuring ample opportunity for participants to ask questions, and share comments. Empire Wind will continue to host such events consistent with the following considerations:

- Public meeting locations and times will be selected for accessibility and convenience to enable the widest participation.
- Elected officials will be notified and invited to participate as well as asked to assist with promotion via their network of constituents.
- Public meetings and events will be promoted via advertising, media advisories, direct mail, and social posts.
- Meeting materials will be translated as needed, and American Sign Language interpreters will be available during live meetings.
- Hybrid events, with both in-person and virtual options, will be utilized to reach stakeholders with information and participatory limitations.

### **Public/Legal Notices and Advertisements**

Legal notices will be prepared and published in compliance with all applicable regulations. Meetings and events will be advertised in a variety of ways, including the following:

- Display advertisements, including legal notices, will be placed in the local newspaper of record, as well as in daily and weekly newspapers to promote attendance at public meetings, workshops, and other outreach events.
- Notifications of meetings will include direct first-class mail communication to property owners whose properties abut the project area.
- E-blasts will be developed and used to announce meetings and opportunities to participate in the process.

### **Document Repositories**

In addition to providing access to official project documents on the project website, and via link to official sites, Empire Wind will provide copies of milestone documents at repositories in the project area.

### **Media**

A wide range of media channels, including print, broadcast, cable, and social media outlets serving the project area will be kept apprised with regular press releases related to project

milestones, briefings as needed, and distribution of fact sheets and other materials. The media will be invited to attend public information meetings, and sign up for email updates and newsletters, and view website postings. Empire Wind will engage with local, state, and national media outlets to promote understanding of the progress of the Project.

### **Social Media**

Empire Wind will utilize social media platforms to share information and collect input from stakeholders. Social media posts, photos, and videos will feature information on project status and milestones. Examples include the Empire Wind Facebook Page, Equinor's LinkedIn Page, a Nextdoor Profile, a Twitter/X account, and an Equinor Renewables Americas playlist on YouTube.

### **Outreach Materials**

Project brochures, flyers, videos and fact sheets will be developed to provide an overview of the Project and topics of interest. Print materials will be translated into multiple languages, written in plain English, and will be available on the project website and distributed at in-person events as well as high traffic areas, such as libraries, cultural centers, and senior centers. Materials may include, brochures, FAQs, technical memoranda, factsheets, maps, posters, displays, and videos.

### **Stakeholder Hotline and Monitored E-Mail In-Box**

A toll-free local hotline 833-699-1965 and regularly monitored e-mail in-box [empirewind@equinor.com](mailto:empirewind@equinor.com) have been established for the project to allow individuals to contact Empire Wind for information, ask specific questions, or share concerns and comments. The number will be included on all communication materials. Calls placed to the hotline are recorded, documented and logged in Equinor's stakeholder database, and directed to appropriate subject matter experts for appropriate resolution.

### **Newsletter**

A project newsletter, The Empire Energizer, is published online and in print, and is being sent monthly to communicate project progress and opportunities to participate throughout Project development. The newsletter serves as a communication tool to keep municipal and other government leaders informed, engage community partners, and educate the public. In addition to direct distribution, the project newsletter will be featured in social media, and posted on the project website, with an opt-in to subscribe to the distribution list.

### **Pop-Ups and Participation at Events**

Informal "pop-up" booths, display tables, or exhibits will be scheduled during existing or previously planned, local events and activities, such as farmers markets and fairs to create opportunities to bring Project information to the public, supplementing formal public information meetings and public hearings. These activities will be posted to the website and on social media.

- Project “Workshops” (an outdoor public education event that can be used if state or local regulations prohibit indoor meetings) will be conducted along development areas for informal discussions with stakeholders.
- Displays will be developed for use in tabling at local events to bring project information to local residents.
- Intercept polls may be conducted at events to collect input and ideas from attendees.

### *Planned and Active Partnerships and Initiatives*

As described above, Empire Wind already has launched a range of initiatives and partnerships with stakeholders, including academic institutions, community development organizations, and city and state agencies. The following subsections provide further detail regarding other ongoing initiatives and partnerships. Additional detail also is provided in the Jobs and Workforce Plan being submitted with this proposal.

### **Community Advisory Committees**

Empire Wind has developed a unique public engagement strategy for implementation in each of its project areas in New York State involving Community Advisory Committees (“CAC”). Empire Wind has formed an Empire Wind CAC of approximately 20 community members and organization representatives that provide valuable input and perspective on the Project. CACs provide an important link to the community, with members sharing input from the organizations they represent and helping disseminate information about the project. CACs will act as a soundboard on issues relevant to project development, including the environment, land use, traffic, climate impact, environmental justice, and other community concerns. The groups will meet with the EW1 project team periodically to supplement public outreach activity conducted across the project development area.

### **Regional Workforce and Supply Chain Development Initiative**

Recognizing the opportunity and need for innovative approaches to workforce and supply chain development in New York State, EW1 has developed a unique approach to collaboration with supply chain, labor, and workforce organizations in the regions most affected by the Project. The Equinor strategy involves a structured, region collaboration with top community foundations and non-governmental supply chain and labor organizations to allocate funding focused on enabling supply chain capacity building and workforce development in the Offshore Wind industry. The project launched with capacity-building events under the banner of the Equinor Offshore Wind Supply Chain Expo. The Expo took place in the Capital Region, Long Island, and New York City.

### **Offshore Wind Learning Center**

Empire Wind also is in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center in partnership with NYCEDC as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-

12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and unaffiliated adults interested in entering the industry. It will serve as a central hub for educational outreach in New York City, as well as informational videos and interactive exhibits about port activities at SBMT and offshore wind operations.

The Learning Center will be located in Industry City in Sunset Park and will be hosted and maintained by Empire Wind and its affiliates for at least 10 years. It will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port easily accessible and will provide free access to community meeting spaces. It will directly support impacted New Yorkers from Disadvantaged Communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities. The Learning Center Design Committee is led by the Empire Wind team and comprised of community stakeholders, including the Central Brooklyn EDC, NYC Public Schools, and NYCEDC. The Design Committee collaborates on design elements and educational aspects of the OSW Learning Center, focusing on community engagement, innovation, and environmental impact.

### [\*\*GENext Initiative\*\*](#)

With the goal of providing workers with the training and support necessary to participate in the green energy economy and creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce with broad representation of all New Yorkers, EW1 and its affiliates announced the GENext strategy in May 2023. GENext is a comprehensive cradle-to-career approach to developing regional partnerships supporting offshore wind education, workforce development, and robust supply chains. It addresses K-12 education (STEM), post-secondary education and training, supply chain and capacity building.

### [\*\*Equinor Acoustic Marine Monitoring Project\*\*](#)

EW1 reached a historic agreement with the New York Wildlife Conservation Society and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to monitor whales through 2028. This unique partnership will ensure the collection of important data off the southern coast of Long Island to protect wildlife in the New York Bight. Data will be collected during the pre-construction, construction, and post-construction phases of EW1's wind projects, and data will be shared publicly by websites and a kiosk at the Bronx Zoo.

### [\*\*Equinor Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund\*\*](#)

In a stakeholder engagement collaboration with the NYC Economic Development Corporation and Sunset Park Task Force, Brooklyn, EW1 completed the development and distribution of a \$5 million clean energy community investment fund to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City. The fund awarded eight grants to qualified applicants supporting workforce development in environmental justice communities in New York City. Further detail on specific initiatives funded

by the Ecosystem Fund is provided in the Jobs and Workforce Plan being submitted with this proposal.

### 8.3.5. Tracking Progress and Communications

*Selected Proposers will be required to report on stakeholder engagement activities and efforts throughout Project development, construction, operation, and decommissioning. Proposers should detail how they intend to track and measure the success of the goals defined in F.3-4. Proposers are encouraged to include as much detail and granularity as possible on how the effectiveness of goals will be measured.*

*An important part of tracking should include incorporating feedback from stakeholder engagement into communications with various stakeholder groups and ensuring accessibility for a diverse set of persons. This could include various mediums for communication and engagement, marketing and awareness raising campaigns, making efforts to provide translations, holding interactive engagements at flexible times, etc. Proposers are expected to advertise and schedule engagements such that attendance is maximized for the stakeholder groups targeted. NYSERDA will require attendance tracking for virtual or in-person open houses, community meetings, and public information round tables.*

#### *Tracking Stakeholder Engagement and Progress*

Empire Wind uses the Borealis stakeholder management system to track stakeholder engagement, inform and enhance outreach activities, understand the development of stakeholder awareness and engagement, and address the informational needs of individuals, groups, and organizations. This system enables the outreach team to record, monitor, and report detailed records of all stakeholder interaction, providing a real-time picture of the ever-evolving stakeholder landscape. The system provides built-in features that store and analyze stakeholder communication, sentiment, and relationships over time, driving the methods and strategies we utilize to engage with existing stakeholders, grow existing relationships and build new ones.

Empire Wind's public engagement team believes that public engagement proceeds in stages. In our experience, successful audience engagement requires movement through a process that begins with awareness and evolves to understanding, interest, and ultimately ownership/adoption and/or advocacy of a project or idea. This stakeholder plan is predicated on knowledge that stakeholders come to a project at different times and with different levels of awareness. Leveraging these distinct steps enables us to build and measure clear objectives and performance indicators, which we chart, monitor, analyze, and report in the stakeholder tracking software.

#### *Measurement and Metrics*

Measuring community engagement is essential in tracking the quality and effectiveness of engagement activities, improving processes, and demonstrating how stakeholder feedback is collected and used to inform project planning and decision-making. Empire Wind has identified

a set of Key Performance Indicators (“KPI”) it will use to assess the effectiveness of engagement. Figure 2 lists KPIs that will be used by the Project.

**Figure 2: Key Performance Indicators**

Name	Role/Responsibilities
<b>Communications/engagements by type for general community activities</b>	Which mode of communication is used by our team over a specific timeframe and who is hosting the engagement. Email, phone call, online meeting hosted by Equinor, online meeting hosted by external group, in person meeting hosted by Equinor, in person hosted by external, external conference, public external meeting, invitation only event hosted by Equinor, invitation only event hosted by external.
<b>Invited / Accepted invitation and present at engagement</b>	Tracking how many stakeholders invited to events versus the number of stakeholders attended, and who they are, enables us to understand what events stakeholders prefer coming to and what we need to do to improve outreach and attendance at events to ensure the communities we serve understand the project’s evolution and impact.
<b>General atmosphere</b>	This enables us to monitor how our work and presence at engagements is being received, whether sentiment is negative, neutral, or positive. Tracking this enables us to understand and meet the needs of stakeholders. For example, providing enhanced/improved communications, additional resources, etc. It also helps us prepare more effectively for future engagements where the content/information we are delivering is an update from a prior engagement. If the prior engagement was had a negative atmosphere, look for opportunities to improve.
<b>Empire Energizer and email campaigns</b>	Sign up rate, unsubscribe rate, open rate and what actions are being achieved from the asks we make via the newsletter and bespoke email campaigns.

<b>Content creation and follow up materials</b>	How much external content is created for stakeholders? Why is it being created? How accessible did we make our content/follow up materials? Translations, alternative text, consistent formatting, using renderings and photos to describe our project/tell the story of EW, closed captions on videos, etc.
<b>Unique campaigns</b>	Bespoke campaigns will track key activities such as number of stakeholders spoken to, number of stakeholders identified, number of materials distributed, actions taken by stakeholders, method of communication, etc. Ramp up to groundbreaking, public hearings, etc. would be examples of when we would run a unique campaign.
<b>Grievance mechanism</b>	EW is building out a comments and complaints platform to record and track issues raised by stakeholders. Once this is operational, we will provide KPI's connected to the number of complaints and comments received, how long it took to respond and resolve, in addition to the types of comments and complaints received, location of the complaint, etc. The ability to track and report these KPIs will allow EW to prevent the issues from recurring or escalating.

Metrics will be included in quarterly reporting and will consist of counts, demographics, and mapping. Tools for collecting data will include simple online or paper-based surveys, responses to demographic questions included in registrations for events and engagements, and comment logs that collect stakeholder input across all demographics. Together, these tools will ensure Empire Wind maintains a constantly updating assessment of datasets to ensure equitable engagement and representative of the local population.

Section 8.3  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Attachment 8.C  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan



# **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

## **for**

# **Empire Wind Project 1**

## **Version 1.0**

**Prepared pursuant to [contract number, date]**

with

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

Albany, NY

**Prepared by**

**Empire Offshore Wind LLC**

600 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT 06901



Submitted

January 25, 2024

## **Record of Revision**

## **Communication Officers, Contact Information, Links**

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**Links to Project information:** [www.empirewind.com](http://www.empirewind.com)

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**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
EW1	Empire Wind 1
DAC	Disadvantaged Communities
EJ	Environmental Justice
Empire Wind	Empire Offshore Wind LLC
NY Project	Empire Wind Project
NYS	New York State
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Project	Empire Wind Project
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan

## **1. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Summary**

### **1.1 Overall Philosophy and Principles**

*This section should describe the overall philosophy and principles Proposers will follow to understand, incorporate, and respond to the diverse perspectives, needs, and concerns of stakeholders at every stage of development. Proposers are encouraged to consider a mission statement that drives their engagement and supports accountability.*

- Empire Wind has prepared the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) described herein as part of its ongoing commitment to meaningful engagement and dialogue with interested stakeholders, including the community and the general public.
- The SEP demonstrates Empire Wind's commitment to robust, inclusive, and transparent engagement, and details the approach Empire Wind will take to:
  - Identify stakeholders in the area of the proposed project;
  - Build public awareness and understanding of the project;
  - Encourage and collect public input and incorporate that input into planning and execution of the project; and
  - Ensure project benefits accrue to the community.
- The SEP encourages and champions community representation, putting disadvantaged and underserved communities at the forefront of initiatives to maximize environmental benefits, spur economic development, and create jobs in New York.
- Empire Wind's approach to public engagement is to be a responsible, accountable, and engaged member of the communities in which it works and operates.
- Empire Wind will make efforts to engage with and respond to a diverse array of stakeholders early and often consistent with the following principles:
  - Open: Empire Wind promotes transparency and embraces diversity and new perspectives.
  - Courageous: Empire Wind uses foresight, identifies opportunities, and manages risk.
  - Collaborative: Empire Wind engages with, respects, and earns the trust of Empire Wind's business partners and society.
  - Caring: Empire Wind seeks zero harm to people, wildlife, or the environment, acting in a sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible manner.
- In terms of stakeholder engagement, Empire Wind's mission is to communicate with affected communities to help realize the benefits that offshore wind energy can provide, including the use of benefit agreements for host communities where appropriate, initiatives focused on workforce training and supply chain access for small, minority and women-owned businesses and service-disabled veteran owned businesses, creating

opportunities for DACs, and reducing pollution brought on by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

- In terms of accountability, Empire Wind is focused on being an active, responsible neighbor and member of the community that listens closely to community input when evaluating the plan for developing its projects.
  - Our core mission aligns with New York State's requirement that community members who are impacted by a public works project should have a say in the project's decision-making process.
  - Empire Wind will make an effort to engage municipalities and interested groups, and account for their views in the project planning and decision-making process in order to build support for the project from the ground up.
- Empire Wind seeks to achieve five specific objectives:
  - Identify and provide accurate, factual, timely, and relevant information to stakeholders.
  - Build and maintain trustworthy and constructive stakeholder relationships.
  - Provide a range of opportunities for meaningful public engagement and stakeholder consultations through each project phase.
  - Incorporate stakeholder input into project design, construction, and operations plans, wherever feasible.
  - Deliver tangible and direct economic benefits equitably to local communities, with a specific focus on DACs.

## **1.2 Overall Approach to Incorporating Data and Stakeholder Feedback**

*This section should describe how Proposers 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).*

- Empire Wind employs a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that enables us to identify and track the full range of potentially affected stakeholders and their views, including using stakeholder analysis tools to map the overall universe of engaged participants in Empire Wind's project and to identify gaps in engagement to ensure robust coverage of all stakeholders.
- Empire Wind will track progress and adjust strategies to achieve the goals set for meaningful stakeholder engagement in the SEP.

### **1.2.1 Stakeholder Mapping**

- Empire Wind has and will continue to perform stakeholder mapping exercises to obtain up-to-date population, cultural, and economic statistics and information on relevant communities and interest groups.
- Empire Wind will use stakeholder mapping as a key component of its long-term approach to public engagement to obtain population, cultural, and economic statistics, and information on communities or interest groups relevant to the Project.
- Tools Empire Wind uses in stakeholder mapping include:
  - Borealis Software's Stakeholder Engagement Platform (or other appropriate software or platforms) to understand stakeholders and structure and implement an effective engagement process.
  - US Census Bureau Datasets and EJSCREEN
  - New York State Opportunity Zones
  - NYS Potential EJ Areas
  - Guidance on DACs
- Empire Wind will thoroughly track, analyze, and consistently update the stakeholder engagement process in Borealis to review the progression of stakeholders' levels of interest in the project, understanding of the project, and their level of support.
  - Investment in this activity enables institutional knowledge across projects and phases, allows for consistency and accountability with Empire Wind's stakeholders, and provides essential reports that document stakeholder awareness, understanding, and engagement.
  - Empire Wind will utilize these reports to evolve its outreach program to fit the changing needs of stakeholders.
- Empire Wind will detail the allocated resources that it will use to continuously support long-term engagement and EW1 initiatives.
- Empire Wind will implement a long-term engagement process that produces input that will be shared with Empire Wind's technical project teams over the lifetime of project development, construction, and operations.
- Empire Wind will review and seek input from stakeholders on avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating adverse impacts from Project construction and operation, local economic development, reduced energy burden, avoided health costs, added climate resiliency, avoided environmental costs, added environmental benefits, workforce training opportunities, and economically DAC participation.
- Empire Wind will seek input and respond to community and stakeholder concerns, to build understanding of project benefits, which include:

- Reduced energy burden
- Avoided health and social costs
- Added climate resiliency and avoided environmental costs
- Host community tax and economic benefit agreements
- Community focused permitting process
- Jobs and job training
- Expanded supply chain opportunity and capacity
- Equitable participation and benefits accruing to economically disadvantaged and EJ communities
- Empire Wind will share and review reports on stakeholder activity and input with engagement and technical teams, and with NYSERDA, to update progress, affirm the commitment to engagement, and to identify opportunities for enhanced messaging and communication throughout and beyond the development process.

### **1.3 Existing Guidance and Best Practices that Will Be Followed**

*This section should 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.*

- Empire Wind will follow the practice of public participation, as published by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), which include:
  - Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
  - Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
  - Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
  - Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
  - Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
  - Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
  - Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

- Empire Wind will periodically review guidance documents, publications, and public engagement plans for similar large scale infrastructure projects elsewhere to collect best practices and lessons learned.
- Such documents include:
  - NYSERDA Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement and other NYSERDA guidance materials.
  - NYSERDA Learning from the Experts, webinar series.
  - International Association of Public Participation: The Journal of Deliberative Democracy
  - Resources available from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Environmental Protection and Federal Highway Administration,
  - Guides and procedures as defined by NYSERDA, and
  - Plans and reports issued by other relevant state and federal regulatory authorities.

## **2. Stakeholder Identification and Stakeholder List**

### **2.1 Overview and Stakeholder Identification Objectives**

*This section should provide an overview of the stakeholder identification and relationship management methods.*

- Empire Wind will create and implement different communication strategies for the different stakeholder groups identified for this SEP for public outreach.
- Empire Wind will use established relationships to be responsive to public concerns and to build support through a robust, meaningful, and transparent public involvement process. The information gained from outreach related to Empire Wind and its affiliates' existing projects, and from pre-bid outreach, has bolstered Empire Wind's understanding of what affected communities value and seek from the project, and has forged strong relationships between Empire Wind, its affiliates, and key stakeholder groups. Pre-bid outreach activity has included more than 550 meetings and public information sessions with groups in each of the below categories to initiate conversations, present EW1, and collect stakeholder and community input.
- Empire Wind will identify specific stakeholders through ongoing engagement and information provided by members of the community, other stakeholders, guidance from local and state government contacts, prior submissions of other offshore wind solicitations, review of New York State GIS (Geographic Information Systems) records, tax records, research, and the extensive experience of Empire Wind's stakeholder engagement team in advancing similar projects.
- Empire Wind has taken the following steps in its pre-bid preparatory work to identify DAC potentially impacted by the project:

- Empire Wind has identified and will address preliminary goals, issues, and desired outcomes for each of the potentially impacted DACs using the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Map.
- Data has been collected from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2018-2023 5-Year Estimates for the purposes of this planning including economic, social, and language diversity data for the Project area, sourced from ACS: Census report: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/79500US3604101-nyc-queens-community-district-1-astoria-long-island-city-puma-ny/#language>.
- Empire Wind has utilized New York City Department of Health ArcGIS to identify EJ Areas in and around the project area.
- Empire Wind has consulted with community-based organizations and leaders, elected officials, business owners, and other citizens (including local residents and property owners) in many potential EJ areas and will continue to meet with and expand engagement.
- Empire Wind has identified DAC that are potentially affected by the Project, including those in the vicinity of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.
- Empire Wind will add or remove communities following annual review processes and make appropriate engagement adjustments.
- Empire Wind has established an office in the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn in close proximity to SBMT and the proposed point of interconnection for EW1. Empire Wind will continue to engage with stakeholders and participate in public meetings in affected communities.
- Empire Wind will hire community and tribal liaison officers. Empire Wind will continue to engage with Tribal Nations, including the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Unkechaug Indians.
- Empire Wind has identified the following stakeholder categories for the NY Project Area and assigned each to a department within Empire Wind:

Category	Department
Host Communities	Community Affairs
Federal, State, and Local Governments	Public/Political Affairs
Environmental Organizations, NGOs, and Special Interest Groups	Permitting/Community Affairs
Environmental Justice Groups	Community Affairs
Labor Organizations	Labor Liaison/Labor Counsel
School, Civic, and Community Organizations	Community Affairs
Affected Property Owners	Permitting/Commercial
Native American Tribal Groups	Permitting/Community Affairs
Port Owners and Operators	Facilities Management
Fisheries and Marine-Based Businesses	Permitting
Media	Communications
Representatives of U.S. Iron and Steel	Commercial

## 2.2 Assigning Team Members as the Primary Relationship Holder

*This section will 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. Proposers should indicate if and who reports to certain staff members such that NYSERDA may understand organizational structure. 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.*

- Empire Wind's team of government relations, communications, and community outreach professionals lead on-the-ground stakeholder engagement, including that which is focused on the Empire Wind project.
- The following is the organization and listing of team members with primary responsibility for stakeholder engagement and external relations, including government, community, and media. This list will be published on the Empire Wind project website and will be reviewed to reflect organizational changes throughout the project lifecycle.

Name	Role/Responsibilities	Contact Information
Harrison Feuer	Senior Director of Public Affairs	<a href="mailto:hfeu@equinor.com">hfeu@equinor.com</a> 917-495-4914
Ashley Ball	Director of Community Affairs, Empire Wind 1	<a href="mailto:aball@equinor.com">aball@equinor.com</a> 347-383-3002
Lauren Shane	Director of Communications	<a href="mailto:laush@equinor.com">laush@equinor.com</a> 917-392-4252

## 3. Stakeholder Engagement Goals

### 3.1 Defining Goals and Desired Outcomes

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

- Empire Wind will define the issues and/or information prioritized by each stakeholder group in collaboration with stakeholders. As part of these efforts, Empire Wind will:
  - Engage stakeholders and interested parties in an approach that is both inclusive and equitable, developed in alignment with Climate Act requirements.
  - Encourage public involvement through the development, construction, and operation phases of the project.
  - Address local interests and identify strategies to mitigate concerns raised by the public, working toward actionable solutions that contribute to long term social and economic development.
  - Solicit feedback and input early and often from the public and affected agencies.

- Deliver outreach materials and project information to ensure stakeholders are well informed regarding project timelines, progress, and key decision dates, amplifying opportunities to participate in the process.
- Partner with local governments and community groups to ensure transparent and mutually beneficial project outcomes.
- Empire Wind has initiated stakeholder collaboration to define the issues priorities by each stakeholder group, and to set preliminary goals, and desired outcomes for each of the specified stakeholder categories as follows:
  - **Host communities:** engage members of such communities in collaborative partnership to build positive relationships and ensure input and feedback is collected from affected communities.
  - **Federal, State, and local governments:** ensure that elected leadership and policymakers at the local, county, state, and federal levels are informed of the project, and can provide input and raise questions.
  - **Non-Governmental Environmental and Special Interest Groups:** engage with such groups to help identify specific concerns, resources, opportunities, and interests in key areas, such as wildlife preservation, maritime and fisheries, and the clean energy transition.
  - **EJ Groups and DACs:** reach out to members of EJ groups and DACs to encourage participation and input, and identify opportunities to advance economic and health objectives.
  - **Labor organizations:** outreach and engagement with labor organizations to collect information and identify opportunities for ensuring jobs and economic development, including workforce training programs and wraparound services for trainees.
  - **School, Civic, and Community Organizations:** attend meetings held by these groups to better understand local needs and interests and provide information about the project development on an ongoing basis.
  - **Affected Property Owners:** maintain and update the list of affected landowners and intervenors to ensure they receive project information and are specifically engaged to comment on the project and identify specific concerns, such as property value, viewshed impacts, safety, and traffic.
  - **Tribal Nations:** build on existing outreach to Tribal Nations by continuing to brief interested tribes on the Project, guided by its Native American Tribes Communication Plan.
  - **Port Owners and Operators:** meet with port owners and operators throughout project development, briefing them on project progress, and identifying collaborative initiatives to maximize the advantages to the new offshore wind industry.

- **Media:** keep media apprised of project developments with regular releases, advisories, notice of public events, and periodic briefings.
- **Fisheries and Marine-based businesses:** continue to conduct outreach to fisheries groups and businesses, including inviting their participation in public information meetings, consistent with Empire Wind's fisheries mitigation plan.
- Empire Wind has established the following goals consistent with the Climate Act's focus on building an inclusive, clean energy economy including education, training, and hiring opportunities, with a specific focus on DACs.
  - Empire Wind will develop an approach that is both inclusive and equitable, developed in alignment with Climate Act requirements.
  - Empire Wind's will help to achieve the CLCPA's goal of ensuring that investments in clean energy are shared equitably and broadly with New Yorkers.
  - EW1 and affiliated projects will strive to create new jobs and attract investment in areas located in or in close proximity to DACs.
- Empire Wind will identify opportunities for collaborative decision-making and efforts throughout the development process with community members, local elected officials, relevant businesses, institutions, EJ communities, DACs, and non-profit organizations including but not limited to MOUs and LOIs.

## **4. Stakeholder Engagement Goals Activities, Consultations and Partnerships**

### **4.1 Planned Activities and Outreach**

*This section shall detail options for engagement activities and follow-up with community members, local elected officials, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Engagement activities detailed in this section should specify with what stakeholder groups they will be leveraged.*

- Empire Wind's engagement will incorporate a wide range of voices, including the key stakeholder groups identified in the sections above, and direct a concerted effort towards engagement to include historically marginalized groups traditionally left out of development decisions, such as disadvantaged and frontline communities.
- Empire Wind will uniquely consider each stakeholder group and increase awareness and participation from each group at each phase of EW1 to ensure stakeholders are informed, involved, and engaged in project development.
- Empire Wind will incorporate appropriate communications methods throughout project development to provide access to information, ensure opportunities to have questions answered, and to solicit and collect feedback as detailed in Section 3.
- Empire Wind will address and consider accessibility factors affecting DACs and other stakeholders including convenience of meeting times and accessibility of locations or virtual platforms, childcare needs, language and interpretation needs, and providing a

variety of opportunities to participate and ways to provide input are considered in planned activity and outreach.

- Empire Wind will provide detailed anticipated outreach schedules prior to informing stakeholders of planned activities including alerting NYSERDA and posting public events to their project website's event pages.
- Empire Wind will provide consistent follow-up with the stakeholders they have engaged, especially members of DACs, to make clear how their input was considered, and/or provide learning opportunities to raise awareness of and gain support for the Project with the stakeholders.
- Empire Wind will 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.
- Empire Wind has proactively conducted outreach to stakeholders to build on partnerships established during Empire Wind's prior New York projects, initiate new partnerships, collect input, and identify potential collaborative activities for educational partnerships, and initiatives related to workforce and supply chain development.
- Empire Wind will maintain and update its website to ensure that it serves as a hub for communicating updates on project progress and opportunities for participation and for maintaining a repository of information about the project, enabling stakeholders to easily find content as the project develops. Content will include:
  - Project information
  - Project benefits and need
  - Project map
  - Addresses of local document repositories
  - Library and links to project documents
  - Outreach event schedule and key milestones
  - FAQs
  - E-blast and newsletter opt-in
  - Advertisements for upcoming public outreach events
  - Project contact information, email, and comment forms
- Empire Wind will continue to host a variety of workshops, open houses, and information sessions to provide multiple opportunities to facilitate dialogue in the community, distribute project information, and solicit feedback.
  - Such events will be focused on collecting input from the public, and ensuring ample opportunity for participants to ask questions, and share comments.

- Meeting materials such as comment cards and/or questionnaires/surveys will be provided to gather feedback for future consideration.
- Public meeting locations will be selected for accessibility and convenience, to enable the widest participation
- Public meetings and events will be promoted via advertising, media advisories, direct mail, and social posts.
- Meeting materials will be translated as needed, and American Sign Language interpreters will be available during live meetings.
- Hybrid events, with both in-person and virtual options, will be utilized to reach stakeholders with information and participatory opportunities, regardless of their location and attendance preferences.
- Meetings and events will be advertised in a variety of ways, including the following:
  - Display advertisements, including legal notices, will be placed in the local newspaper of record, as well as in daily and weekly newspapers to promote attendance at public meetings, workshops, and other outreach events.
  - When required, notifications of meetings will include direct first-class mail communication to property owners whose properties abut the project area.
  - E-blasts will be developed and used to announce meetings and opportunities to participate in the process.
  - The Empire Energizer, Empire Wind's monthly newsletter, will list upcoming events and provide information and materials on events that took place over the past month, with all embedded links directing recipients of the newsletter to visit the project's website.
- In addition to providing access to official project documents on the project website, and via link to official sites, Empire Wind will provide copies of milestone documents at repositories in the project area. Such repositories will include such public libraries as:

Service Area	Library Name	Street Address	Telephone
Manhattan Beach	Brighton Beach Library	16 Brighton First Rd. at Brighton Beach Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11235	718.946.2917
Brighton Beach	Brighton Beach Library	16 Brighton First Rd. at Brighton Beach Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11235	718.946.2917
Coney Island	Coney Island Library	1901 Mermaid Ave. (Near W. 19th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11224	718.265.3220

Seagate	Coney Island Library	1901 Mermaid Ave. (Near W. 19th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11224	718.265.3220
Bath Beach	New Utrecht Library	1743 86th St. at Bay 17th St. Brooklyn, NY 11214	718.236.4086
Fort Hamilton	Fort Hamilton Library	9424 Fourth Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11209	718.748.6919
Dyker Heights	Dyker Library	8202 13th Ave. (@ 82nd St.) Brooklyn, NY 11228	718.748.6261
Bay Ridge	Bay Ridge Library	7223 Ridge Blvd. at 73rd St. Brooklyn, NY 11209	718.748.5709
Sunset Park	Sunset Park Library	5108 Fourth Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11220	718.230.2255
Gowanus	Park Slope Library	431 6th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11215	718.832.1853

- A wide range of media channels, including print, broadcast, cable, and social media outlets serving the project area will be kept apprised with regular press releases related to project milestones, briefings as needed, and distribution of fact sheets and other materials.
- The media will be invited to attend public information meetings, and sign up for email updates and newsletters, and view website postings. Media channels include, but are not limited to the New York Daily News, New York Times, New York Post, Brooklyn Eagle, Red Hook Star-Revue, Canary Media, BK Reader, Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn Patch, Brooklyn Reporter, Crain's NY, WNBC-4, WABC-7, WCBS-2, News 12 BK, NY-1, Fox 5 NY, PIX 11/WPIX, WNYC, WCBS880, 1010 WINS
- A wider list of statewide media will also be kept apprised of project progress.
- Empire Wind will utilize social media platforms to share information and collect input from stakeholders.
  - Social media posts, photos, and videos will feature information on project status and milestones on, for example:
    - Facebook Page
    - LinkedIn Page
    - Nextdoor Profile
    - YouTube – Equinor Renewables Americas Playlist
    - X/Twitter (@EquinorWindUS)

- Empire Wind will develop project brochures, flyers, and fact sheets, which will be translated into multiple languages, written in plain English, and will be available on the project website and distributed at in-person events as well as high traffic areas.
- A toll-free local hotline 833-699-1965 and regularly monitored e-mail in-box [empirewind@equinor.com](mailto:empirewind@equinor.com) have been established for the project to allow individuals to contact Empire Wind for information, ask specific questions, or share concerns and comments.
  - The number and address will be included on all communication materials.
  - Calls placed to the Infoline will be recorded and documented and logged in Empire Wind's stakeholder database.
  - Inquiries received via the Infoline will be directed to the appropriate subject matter expert for response, and responses, along with further correspondence, will be entered in the stakeholder management system.
- A project newsletter published online and in print, and translated as needed, will be developed and distributed periodically to communicate project progress and opportunities to participate throughout Project development.
  - In addition to direct distribution, the project newsletter will be featured in social media, and posted on the project website, with an opt-in to subscribe to the distribution list.
- Informal “pop-up” booths, display tables, or exhibits will be scheduled during existing or previously planned, local events and activities, such as farmers markets and fairs to create opportunities to bring Project information to the public, supplementing formal public information meetings and public hearings. These activities will be posted to the website and on social media.
  - Project “Walkshops” (an outdoor public education event that can be used if state or local regulations prohibit indoor meetings) will be conducted along development areas for informal discussions with stakeholders.
  - Displays will be developed for use in tabling at local events to bring project information to local residents.
  - Intercept polls may be conducted at events to collect input and ideas from attendees.

#### **4.2 Planned and Active Partnerships and Initiatives**

*This section should describe proposed or existing partnerships with community organizations, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations.*

- The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub is an initiative, led by Equinor, in collaboration with Urban Future Lab at NYU Tandon School of Engineering and the National Offshore Wind

R&D Consortium <https://nationaloffshorewind.org/>(NOWRDC), supported by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC).

- The mission of the Innovation Hub is to catalyze startups and innovation collaboration to unleash the potential of offshore wind in New York.
  - The Innovation Hub is a three-year \$5 million investment launching a technology accelerator to identify and develop promising start-up companies to drive new innovations in the OSW industry.
  - Designed to facilitate testing opportunities, fast-track commercialization, and develop strategic partnerships. Located at Industry City Adjacent to SBMT.
  - The first cohort graduated in December 2023, and the second call for innovators is to be published on January 24, 2024, with a new cohort taking part in the six-month program from May 2024.

Term	Percentage
GMOs	100%
Organic	75%
Natural	65%
Artificial	100%
Organic	100%
Natural	100%
Artificial	100%
Organic	100%
Natural	100%
Artificial	100%



- In a stakeholder engagement collaboration with the NYC Economic Development Corporation and the Sunset Park Task Force, Empire Wind completed the development and distribution of a \$5 million clean energy community investment fund to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City. The fund awarded eight grants to qualified applicants supporting workforce development in environmental justice communities in New York City.
- Empire Wind and its affiliates announced the GENext strategy in New York in May 2023, with the goal of providing workers with the training and support necessary to participate in the green energy economy and creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce with a broad representation of all New Yorkers. GENext is a comprehensive cradle-to-career approach to developing regional partnerships supporting offshore wind education, workforce development, and robust supply chains. It addresses K-12 education (STEM), post-secondary education and training, supply chain and capacity building.

## **5. Tracking Progress and Communications**

### **5.1 Tracking Stakeholder Engagement**

*This section should detail the tracking of relationships, activities, and both successful or unsuccessful outcomes from engagements.*

- Empire Wind has implemented a Borealis stakeholder engagement tracking system to inform and enhance outreach activities, understand the development of stakeholder awareness and engagement, and address the information needs of individuals, groups, and organizations in the project area.
  - Its organized methodology utilizes Empire Wind's database to enable the outreach team to monitor and keep detailed records of all stakeholder interaction.
  - The system provides built-in features that store and analyze stakeholder communication, sentiment, and relationships over time, driving the methods and strategies we utilize to engage with existing stakeholders, build on those relationships and initiate new ones.
  - The tracking mechanism will enable Empire Wind's team to enter data from individual communications, as well as from events, public hearings, and feedback

contributions, tracking the progress of the stakeholder engagement effort in encouraging participation by a wide and diverse audience.

- Empire Wind will employ key performance indicators to evaluate the progress of stakeholder engagement.
- Empire Wind will provide early and regular engagement with stakeholders that may be potentially affected by the project activities and track progress in Quarterly Reports.
- This public engagement plan is predicated on knowledge that stakeholders come to a project at different times and with different levels of awareness.
- Leveraging these distinct steps enables us to build and measure clear objectives and performance indicators, which we chart, monitor, analyze, and report in the stakeholder tracking software.
- Empire Wind will employ tracking tables for goals that include when and where the goal is supported or achieved through engagement activities. An example of the types of information that will provided is reflected in the table below.

Organization Type	Engagement Type	Goal/Subject of Engagement	Marketing Ahead of Event	Attendance Targeted	Final Attendance	Date of Event	Follow-Up Material Provided

## 5.2 Tracking Stakeholder Marketing Efforts

*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.*

- Empire Wind will submit reports on tracking marketing and public awareness campaigns.
- Empire Wind will create and maintain a list of such public campaigns or marketing efforts consistent with the information shown in the table below.

Project detail to be communicated: Project status, schedule change, or employment opportunity	Marketing Campaign Method	Frequency of Communication or Marketing Collateral	Feedback or Inquiries from campaign	Dates and Duration of Campaign	Location of Campaign

- Empire Wind will provide details regarding public awareness campaigns leveraged to communicate or advertise project development status, hiring opportunities and impacts on local communities.
  - Empire Wind will keep community members aware of project development impacting them, regardless of their individual support or interest in the activity.
- Empire Wind will create detailed marketing methods plans for raising awareness of workforce opportunities within DACs.

Section 8.3  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Attachment 8.D  
Community Meetings

REDACTED



Section 8.3  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Attachment 8.E  
Stakeholders Register

REDACTED



Section 8.3  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Attachment 8.F  
Letters of Support



### **Overview of Letters of Support**

Empire Wind is pleased to submit with its proposals into ORECRFP23-1 letters of support from three dozen diverse stakeholders, including labor organizations, community organizations, government agencies and elected officials, universities, environmental organizations, contractors and suppliers, and port operators. Empire Wind is proud of the strong relationships that it has forged across New York.

1. 350Brooklyn
2. Albany Port District Commission
3. BOND Civil & Utility
4. Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
5. City Growers
6. City of Albany - Office of the Mayor
7. City of New York - Office of the Mayor
8. Educational and Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry
9. GE Grid Solutions
10. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC
11. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of Greater New York and Vicinity Local Union No. 3
12. International Longshoremen's Association
13. International Longshoremen's Association - Local 1814
14. International Union of Operating Engineers Local Union 14-14B
15. Iron Workers Locals 40 & 361 Apprentice & Training Facility
16. Kingsborough Community College on behalf of CUNY Offshore Wind Advisory Network
17. LaGuardia Community College
18. Long Island Association
19. Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey

20. New York City & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters – United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
21. New York City Councilmember Alexa Avilés
22. New York League of Conservation Voters
23. New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett - Chair of the Assembly Energy Committee
24. New York State Assemblymember John McDonald & New York State Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
25. New York State Senator Iwen Chu
26. New York State Senator Kevin Parker – Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy & Telecommunications
27. New York University Tandon School of Engineering
28. Offshore Wind Innovation Hub
29. OSC
30. Prospect Park Alliance
31. Shipping Association of New York & New Jersey
32. Skanska USA
33. Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation
34. Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal & Red Hook Terminals
35. Vinci VR
36. Waterfront Alliance



January 16, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of 350Brooklyn to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. We are a Brooklyn-based grassroots climate organization representing over 4000 members, and since 2015 we have worked to secure a clean and healthy environment for all by fighting fossil fuel development and supporting renewable energy statewide. We understand the need for rapid decarbonization of our electricity sector, and we understand the need for projects that have a positive impact on our community, supply chain, and environment.

The Empire Wind 1 project offers a multifaceted approach to addressing some of our most pressing challenges and is a significant opportunity to advance renewable energy generation, combat climate change, and foster regional economic growth. This initiative not only delivers a renewable source of energy—reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainability—but also generates numerous job opportunities, including through dedicated efforts to educate and train the next generation of New Yorkers, boosting local employment and economic development. Equinor and bp have already invested more than \$10 million in workforce and innovation initiatives and has set aside an additional \$12 million to be invested through and in support of local organizations. Empire Wind's investment in local communities and organizations with their focus on providing benefits to disadvantaged communities reflects a commitment to our region's environmental, social, and economic well-being.

The project's goals and objectives are consistent with our organization's overall interest in reducing and ultimately eliminating our region's dependence on fossil fuels, particularly in electricity generation. New York City's gas-fired “peaker” plants create unsafe levels of air pollution and our community needs those plants to be replaced with clean energy as quickly as possible. We agree that the Empire Wind 1 project directly supports New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we actively

contribute to New York's ambitious climate mitigation endeavors, bolster our energy resilience, and phase out our use of fossil fuels. 350Brooklyn encourages NYSERDA to actively support and advocate for its successful development.

We believe that our endorsement will significantly contribute to the project's credibility and will help demonstrate the project's commitment to Brooklyn.

Sincerely yours,



Delia Kulukundis  
Senior Organizer, 350Brooklyn  
[dkulukundis@gmail.com](mailto:dkulukundis@gmail.com)



## **ALBANY PORT DISTRICT COMMISSION**

GEORGETTE STEFFENS  
CHAIR, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALBANY-RENSSELAER  
106 Smith Blvd.  
ALBANY, N.Y. 12202 – (518) 463-8763  
FAX NO. (518) 463-8767  
EMAIL: [portofalbany@portofalbany.us](mailto:portofalbany@portofalbany.us)

RICHARD J. HENDRICK  
Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear President Harris:

I am writing to express the Port of Albany's steadfast support for Equinor's (Empire Offshore Wind LLC) proposal for NY4 and the substantial environmental and economic impact it's success will have on the Capital Region, New York State, and our nation. Like the regulatory and permitting progress that Equinor has achieved on Empire Wind, the Port of Albany is equally proud to express its project development maturity and fully permitted status for the Marmen Welcon OSW tower manufacturing site. These milestones are critical considerations in the value of selecting Equinor's project and its potential to advance the offshore wind industry in the U.S. The selection of Equinor would also result in the swiftest access to significant renewable energy for New Yorkers and solidify the creation of the country's first OSW tower manufacturing facility here in Albany, New York.

As you know, the Port of Albany has been working in partnership with Equinor over the past three years developing 100 acres for the Marmen Welcon offshore wind tower manufacturing facility. The project is 100% designed, the site is fully permitted, and the development team is entirely in place, with construction bids complete and significant site and infrastructure work complete. The framework is in place for the project to move forward. The Port of Albany applauds and supports the term sheet and agreement Equinor and Marmen Welcon have put forward to solve the funding gap and move the project forward. The Port of Albany is committed to fulfilling our partnership role to construct and finalize the project.

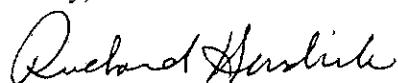
As Governor Hochul has made clear, the imperative to address climate change and the threat it poses to our citizens compels us to cut our dependence on fossil fuels and invest in clean energy sources, including offshore wind. We know investment in renewable offshore wind energy generation will also produce substantial economic benefits for the Capital Region. We are including a recently completed economic impact assessment of the Marmen Welcon project at the Port of Albany. We were extremely pleased that the results indicate beneficial outcomes beyond what we even expected at the outset of this endeavor. The economic impact assessment, completed by Karp Strategies in December 2023, indicates that the Port of Albany's offshore wind tower manufacturing project, which continues to be supported by Equinor in its

NY4 proposal, will generate an overall economic impact exceeding \$1.6 billion in industry spend. This project will also generate over \$500 million in labor earnings and create and support more than 3,500 jobs. These numbers underscore the significant economic growth and job creation potential that Equinor's NY4 proposal would help bring to the Capital Region and beyond. The benefits go beyond including significant opportunities for disadvantaged communities and New York State M/WBE and SDVOB companies. These are paramount considerations to the Albany Port District Commission, as well as to our partners Equinor and Marmen Welcon. This project has pledged from the beginning to offer environmental, economic development and community benefits. These benefits have already been put in motion with more than \$3 million invested in environmental mitigation; a PLA executed with local hiring and pre-apprenticeship support occurring and other environmental justice priority commitments occurring including transportation improvements. We credit Equinor with these realities and we know that fulfilling the Marmen Welcon tower factory with a 30-year initial commitment will provide further meaningful outcomes.

Equinor's support and involvement in the offshore wind industry are crucial to achieving the state's offshore wind goals and to ensuring that the Capital Region and New York State can fully capitalize on this transformative opportunity. We are excited for its potential to advance the state's clean energy goals, reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen our national energy security.

On behalf of the Port of Albany, I firmly believe in the immense potential of Equinor's NY4 proposal and strongly encourage NYSERDA to select their proposal in this next round. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me for any further discussion.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Hendrick



January 22, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Bond Civil & Utility Construction, Inc. to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As President of our organization, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

In concert with the impending start of this project this summer, we have recently announced a move of our regional Headquarters from the Bronx to Mid-Town Manhattan. This move will allow us to double our headcount in support of sustainable energy projects such as Empire Wind 1. In the past year along we've added over 50 people to our team and are looking at add another 50 or more people in 2024.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.



Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

  
Kane Cuddy  
President  
617-212-4821

January 16, 2024

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Doreen Harris, President and CEO  
NYSERDA  
17 Columbus Circle  
Albany, NY 12203

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with

even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,



Randy Peers  
President and CEO



Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of City Growers to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the Director of Development for City Growers, a small grassroots youth development nonprofit based in Sunset Park Brooklyn, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind,



with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards have already been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City, and investment my organization benefitted from, which will ultimately benefit young people in the neighborhood in learning about green jobs.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

Rebeca Guerrero Ames  
Director of Development and Communications  
City Growers  
[rebecca@citygrowers.org](mailto:rebecca@citygrowers.org)  
917-742-9657



**CITY OF ALBANY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
24 EAGLE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207  
[WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV](http://WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV)

**KATHY SHEEHAN**  
MAYOR

January 23, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of City of Albany to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As Mayor of Albany, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

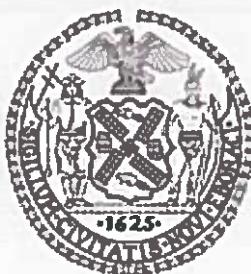
Equinor and Empire Wind have made substantial investments in a critical local asset at the Port of Albany. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region and is under construction. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state – and create potential for more investment in developing offshore wind manufacturing at the Port of Albany.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Kathy Sheehan



Office of the Mayor  
City of New York

**MARIA TORRES-SPRINGER**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR FOR HOUSING,**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**WORKFORCE**

January 23, 2024

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

Dear President Harris:

On behalf of the City of New York, I am writing to express our emphatic support for Equinor's Empire Wind 1 proposal to NYSERDA's fourth offshore wind renewable energy certificate procurement. The City of New York is committed to supporting the development of the offshore wind industry and this project will deliver substantial and immediate economic and environmental benefits to New York State and New York City. Furthermore, Equinor's project represents a significant renewable energy infrastructure project that will help address the City's growing demand for clean power.

In 2021, the City released a 15-year Off-Shore Wind Vision Plan which included three goals: (1) developing best-in-class infrastructure to support 12 gigawatts of production, (2) create robust workforce and supply chain opportunities for New Yorkers to ensure that 40% of the benefits of the industry go to underserved populations and (3) support at least \$1.1 billion in average annual local economic activity. The Adams' Administration has provided municipal real estate, capital, and program investments to advance these goals and support the regional industry. Equinor's application represents significant private investment by Equinor to support New York City and New York State's offshore wind goals. Accordingly, the City of New York is in strong support of Equinor's Empire Wind 1 proposal because it delivers a renewable source of clean energy that will create local supply chain opportunities and well-paid, new jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs.

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Doreen M. Harris  
January 23, 2024  
Page 2

Furthermore, Equinor's work to create a world-class, working port in New York City harbor at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) is of top importance to New York City. Equinor is poised to break ground at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in March, and I would be thrilled to stand on that site, along with the State, to mark this advancement in the creation of an offshore wind industry in New York.

The City of New York encourages NYSERDA to support the rapid advancement of the Empire Wind 1 project so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Maria Torres-Springer



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EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL TRUST FUND  
OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

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GREGG SOKOLOFF  
LANCE VAN ARSDALE  
JOHN VILLAFANE

**ERLAND CASTILLO**  
Associate Director

January 19, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

We are writing on behalf of the Educational Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As Chairman and Director of this fund that provides continuing education for members of Local Union 3, IBEW, we understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public

interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

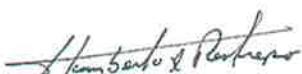
Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City. As an award recipient of the Ecosystem Fund, the Educational and Cultural Trust Fund will be establishing a program addressing offshore wind awareness in New York City K-12 schools and various community organizations.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Humberto J. Restrepo  
Chairman



Michael Yee  
Director



GE VEROVA

January 22, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of GE Grid Solutions to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the North America Region Executive for GE Grid Solutions, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.



GE VEROVA

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew F. Goodman".

Andrew F. Goodman  
Executive General Manager – North America  
GE Grid Solutions  
[Andrewf.goodman@ge.com](mailto:Andrewf.goodman@ge.com)

January 23, 2024

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

**RE: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project**

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC. express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a Senior Vice President for Offshore Wind at GLDD, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



ELENI BEYKO, PhD  
*Senior Vice President, Offshore Wind*  
**Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC**  
9811 Katy Freeway | Suite 1200 | Houston, TX 77024 | USA



**Local Union No. 3  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
OF GREATER NEW YORK AND VICINITY**

**OFFICES AND HEADQUARTERS**

158-11 Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Avenue, Flushing NY 11365  
Phone 718-591-4000 • Fax 718-380-8998

200 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains NY 10605  
Phone 914-948-3800 • Fax 914-948-1843

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CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL  
AFL-CIO

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES COUNCIL  
OF GREATER NEW YORK  
AFL-CIO

AND ALL STATE AND  
CENTRAL BODIES

January 16, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Local Union 3, IBEW to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a business manager, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs. Equinor has engaged labor unions in support of their commitments to negotiate agreements to help supply skilled trades workers for the construction of this offshore wind project. The construction of the SBMT port project alone will create hundreds of good-paying, union jobs—and lay the groundwork for future employment in the offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Erikson  
Business Manager



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION •

5000 WEST SIDE AVENUE, SUITE 300, NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047 • (212) 425-1200 • FAX (212) 425-2929

January 16, 2024

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

**RE:** Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

The undersigned officers are writing on behalf of the International Longshoremen's Association, its Atlantic Coast District and its affiliated local unions in the Port of New York to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. We understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry. Equinor has engaged labor unions in support of their commitments to negotiate agreements to help supply skilled trades workers for the construction of this offshore wind project. The construction of the SBMT port project alone will create hundreds of good-paying, union jobs—and lay the groundwork for future employment in the offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers.

Doreen M. Harris, President  
January 16, 2024  
Page 2

from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

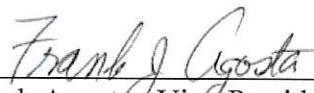
In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which we strongly support and for which we advocate. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. We encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Very truly yours,



Peter Clark, Vice-President  
International Longshoremen's Association



Frank Agosta, Vice-President  
International Longshoremen's Association



Michael Izzo, Vice-President  
Atlantic Coast District, ILA

**LOCAL 1814**

**INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

201 Edward Curry Avenue Suite 205

Staten Island, NY 10314

PHONE (718)-499-9600 - FAX (718)-499-9626



January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Local 1814, International Longshoremen's Association to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a President of Local 1814 of Brooklyn, New York, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

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Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW

❖  
**FRANK AGOSTA**  
President

❖  
**DAVID SCALA**  
Secretary-Treasurer

❖  
**LONGSHOREMEN  
MAINTENANCE  
DIVISION I/II**

**DOMINICK ALAIMO**  
Vice-President Division I/II  
**ROSOLINO AMATO**  
Delegate Division I  
**NEAL MARASCIUOLO**  
Delegate Division II

❖  
**INDUSTRIAL DIVISION**

**DANIEL LA BOY**  
Vice-President Division IV  
**JAMES BEACH**  
Delegate Division IV

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❖  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL DELEGATES**

**RICHARD FERA**  
**CHARLES MARSALA**

educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

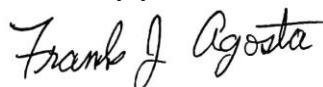
Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Frank Agosta  
President Local 1814, I.L.A.

Office (718)-499-9600  
Fax (718)-499-9626  
Cell (718)-288-1908  
Email FJAgosta@gmail.com



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**  
AFFILIATED WITH THE A.F.L.-C.I.O.  
**LOCAL UNION 14-14B**

36

THOMAS D. GORDON  
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KENNETH B. KLEMENS, JR.  
Vice-President

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Rec./Corr. Secretary

THOMAS ROEMER, JR.  
Treasurer

HUGH MANLEY  
Financial Secretary

EDWIN L. CHRISTIAN

Business Manager  
International Trustee

**BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**

JOHN R. POWERS

HUGH MANLEY

KENNETH B. KLEMENS, JR.

ALLEN S. WRIGHT

TIMOTHY S. BROGAN

January 18, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 14-14B, AFL-CIO ("Local 14") to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As Local 14's Business Manager, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, New York's supply chain, and working people.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry. Equinor has engaged labor unions in support of their commitments to negotiate agreements to help supply skilled trades workers for the construction of this offshore wind project. The construction of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal ("SBMT") port project alone will create hundreds of good-paying, union jobs—and lay the groundwork for future employment in the offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like SBMT in the spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent,

thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind and Equinor have demonstrated their support for regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives, including awarding \$5 million in community grants through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice, as well as the institution of the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub to provide the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Very Truly Yours,



Edwin L. Christian  
Business Manager



**IRON WORKERS LOCALS 40 & 361  
APPRENTICE & TRAINING FACILITY**

January 24, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Iron Workers Locals 40 and 361 to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the Training Director for Iron Workers Locals 40 and 361 I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry. Equinor has engaged local labor unions in support of their commitments to negotiate agreements to help supply skilled trades workers for the construction of this offshore wind project. The construction of the SBMT port project alone will create hundreds of good-paying, union jobs—and lay the groundwork for future employment in the offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Thank you,



Bryan M. Brady II  
Director of Training



January 16, 2024

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

Kingsborough Community College as lead on behalf of CUNY Offshore Wind Advisory Network (OWAN), would like to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the consortium network of CUNY schools that includes Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, City Technical College of New York and The College of Staten Island, servicing the New York City area, we understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.



Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City. In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. KCC on behalf of OWAN encourages NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Rodriguez".

---

Title: Vice President,  
Division of Workforce Development,  
Continuing Education and Strategic Partnerships  
Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

1/16/2024

---

Date



Continuing  
Education

January 18, 2024

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

Re: Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris,

I am writing on behalf of LaGuardia Community College to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. Our organization understands the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

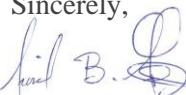
Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Doreen Harris  
Page 2  
January 18, 2024

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,  
  
Sunil B. Gupta  
Vice President  
Division of Adult and Continuing Education



Long Island Association  
300 Broadhollow Road  
Melville, NY 11747

January 22, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President & CEO Harris:

The Long Island Association (LIA) strongly supports Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to New York State, positively impacting our community, the environment, and the regional supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project could be integral to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9 GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and would help combat climate change while fostering economic growth. Empire Wind 1 will deliver clean, renewable energy while creating thousands of jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the spring of this year. This project has already led to new jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. The imminent construction of the SBMT will result in thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of the SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from New York City public schools, participants in offshore educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will



Long Island Association  
300 Broadhollow Road  
Melville, NY 11747

continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. The LIA understands that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

The LIA supports Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives on this project, which align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice priorities. This project will substantially contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading aspirations to address climate change and diversify our fuel mix. The LIA encourages NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,

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

Matt Cohen  
President & CEO  
Long Island Association

January 24, 2024

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

**VIA Electronic Filing**

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing to express the Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ's (MAPONYNJ) staunch support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As an Association that represents the Commercial Maritime Industry in New York and New Jersey we understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

It is the mission of the Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ to serve the commercial maritime industry in the New York and New Jersey region by monitoring and disseminating data regarding vessel activity to its members and the public, to act as an advocate for the commercial maritime interests of the region at the municipal, state, and Federal levels, and to promote the safety of navigation, the security of maritime assets, the sustainability of the marine environment, and the competitiveness of port services. The membership of the Maritime Association of New York and New Jersey consists of ship operators, ship owners, marine terminal operators, pilots, tug and barge operators, maritime governmental agencies, warehouse, and trucking companies. The Maritime Association is uniquely situated to represent stakeholders responsible for the movement of cargo within the Northeast Mid-Atlantic region and the ports and waterways within this region.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which we strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued

development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Lyman".

Stephen Lyman  
Executive Director  
Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

4417 4<sup>th</sup> AVE

BROOKLYN, NY 11220

**TEL:** (718) 439-9012

**FAX:** (347) 599-0604

**CITY HALL OFFICE**

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**TEL:** (212) 788-7372

**FAX:** (212) 788-7768

**E-MAIL:** [aaviles@council.nyc.gov](mailto:aaviles@council.nyc.gov)



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OF

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COUNCIL MEMBER  
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TWIN PARKS CITYWIDE TASKFORCE ON FIRE

PREVENTION

January 19, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris,

As the duly elected representative for New York City's Council District 38 representing Sunset Park, Red Hook, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst and other South Brooklyn neighborhoods I write to express my support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the elected representing one of Brooklyn's and New York City's oldest industrial working waterfronts I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets located within my district such as the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York State continue to invest in Empire Wind 1.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

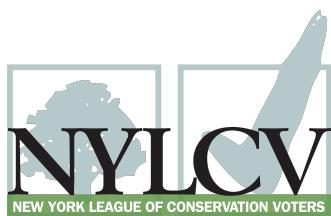
Finally, it is a core part of our community's environmental justice mission to advocate and advance greater protections for utility customers, especially those who are low-income or who live in Disadvantaged Communities ("DACs"). Low-income people and people of color who make up much of Sunset Park should not be left to shoulder the financial burden of cost adjustments, even in the name of climate change and economic development. I encourage NYSERDA to provide ratepayers with detailed information about expected financial impacts resulting from a price adjustment mechanism and propose measures to mitigate any adverse economic impact on ratepayers, particularly those in DACs like Sunset Park, before NYSERDA makes those adjustments. I suggest that NYSERDA explore potential funding sources that will minimize or eliminate ratepayer impact while providing additional funding to renewable energy projects

including but not limited to New York's State Budget, the upcoming Cap and Invest Program revenues, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative revenues, the Inflation Reduction Act or other federal funds, and NYSERDA or New York Power Authority securities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexa Avilés".

Alexa Avilés  
Council Member  
District 38



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James T. B. Tripp  
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Michael Woloz

### President

Julie Tighe

January 22, 2024

Doreen M. Harris

President & CEO

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

Re: Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris,

On behalf of the New York League of Conservation Voters (League), we write in reference to Empire Wind 1, an offshore wind energy project being developed by Equinor.

The League is committed to a renewable energy future for New York. Offshore wind is one of our top priorities, and 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 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. The proposed Empire Wind 1 project will help us to achieve those goals and realize those benefits near term.

We urge you to consider, in addition to ratepayer impacts, the public health benefits and economic opportunities at stake when evaluating Empire Wind 1. With strong steady winds blowing just off our coast, the effort to stand up a new industry presents an historic economic opportunity for New York to create thousands of good-paying jobs. This vision is quickly becoming a reality.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical, mature project for New York and has already invested heavily in the state. Empire is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) this spring, and has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created.



Empire Wind is establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center, which will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including NYC public school students, and the broader public. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry more easily accessible and benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, including the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund which already award \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the NYC Economic Development Corporation and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in NYC. In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

I understand the early wave of offshore wind projects, along with all large-scale infrastructure projects, have been impacted by a confluence of unprecedented and unforeseen global events beginning after 2019 when the first offshore wind contracts were awarded, undermining their economic viability. Losing the Empire Wind 1 project would mean restarting a years-long permitting process, causing Brooklyn and New York State to lose strategic positions and costing immediate jobs and economic progress for our State.

Worse, cancellation of these projects may cause New York to miss its mandates of achieving 70% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030 and 9 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2035. However, if Empire Wind 1 continues advancing, New York will be able to celebrate a completed project that will deliver clean power for 500,000 homes annually as early as 2026 and realize cleaner air and reduced health impairments.

If the current economic landscape discourages long-term development and slows down near-term construction of clean energy, costs will be higher when these projects finally get off the ground, ratepayers will be on the hook, and we will all pay a steep environmental price. News of 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 last summer and the record temperatures worldwide. Now is the time for climate action. That means we need projects in operation to deliver clean energy.

We applaud the state for offering an accelerated procurement process that will allow projects to be competitively bid again in a manner that provides opportunities for early projects to maintain timelines and commitments. We look forward to continuing our support of New York's ambitious energy goals, and to achieving the full environmental and economic benefits of offshore wind.

Sincerely,





Julie Tighe  
President





**THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY**

**CHAIR**  
Energy

**COMMITTEES**  
Agriculture  
Environmental Conservation  
Mental Health  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development

**Didi Barrett**

Assemblymember 106<sup>th</sup> District  
Columbia County  
Dutchess County

January 24, 2024

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

Dear President Harris,

I write today in support of Equinor's rebid for Empire Wind 1, a mature offshore wind project that will deliver substantial benefits to the State of New York. Projects like this will help us reach our ambitious climate and renewable energy goals while creating economic opportunities throughout the region and the State.

Equinor has already made substantial investments in a critical local asset at the Port of Albany, a project that is currently under construction as part of Empire Wind 1. This rebid proposal creates more potential for investment in the Port of Albany and would create the first offshore wind tower manufacturing facility in the United States, helping accelerate the development of future offshore wind projects.

Additionally, Empire Wind 1 is poised to begin construction on assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in Spring of this year, with thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs set to be created. Included in its development of the SBMT is the establishment of an Offshore Wind Learning Center, intended to conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including K-12 students from NYC public schools.

Equinor has already invested heavily to create jobs and supply chain investments throughout the region and the State. To date, the Empire Wind project has committed more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives. This rebidded project will not only significantly contribute to achieving our state's goal of 9GWs of offshore wind by 2035 but will also continue to create numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development, putting New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

I support Equinor's submission which will allow them to successfully continue to develop this key offshore wind project. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Didi Barrett".

Didi Barrett  
Member of Assembly, 106th District  
Chair, Assembly Energy Committee

DISTRICT OFFICES: 12 Raymond Avenue, Suite 105, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 • 845-454-1703, FAX: 845-454-2408

420 Warren Street, Hudson, New York 12534 • 518-828-1961, FAX: 518-828-5329

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 724, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5177, FAX: 518-455-5418

EMAIL: barrettd@nyassembly.gov



**THE NEW YORK STATE  
LEGISLATURE**

January 22, 2024

Ms. Doreen Harris  
President and CEO  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203

Dear President Harris:

We write in support of the application of Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project promising to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. We understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project seeks to contribute to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and the plan outlines that it will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 is promising not only a renewable source of energy, but also jobs for the Capital Region, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Equinor and Empire Wind have made substantial investments in a critical local asset at the Port of Albany. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region and is under construction. This proposal creates potential for more investment in developing offshore wind manufacturing at the Port of Albany.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which we strongly support and advocate for.

In the Capital Region, we welcome the offshore wind industry and the opportunities it affords to businesses and workers in our area, especially in the Port of Albany. For the aforementioned reasons, we support Empire Wind 1's efforts and urge you to strongly consider all of these factors when considering their application and making this decision.

Sincerely,



Hon. John T. McDonald III, RPh  
Member of Assembly, 108<sup>th</sup> District



Hon. Patricia Fahy  
Member of Assembly, 109<sup>th</sup> District

**CHAIR**  
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EDUCATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
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**NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE**



**SENATOR IWEN CHU**  
**17<sup>th</sup> SENATE DISTRICT**

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
615 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-3401  
FAX (518) 426-6914

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
6605 FORT HAMILTON PKWY.  
BROOKLYN, NY 11219  
(718) 333-0311  
FAX (718) 238-2468

**E-MAIL:**  
[iwenchu@nysenate.gov](mailto:iwenchu@nysenate.gov)

January 24, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing in my role as a New York State Senator to express my strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Iwen Chu  
NYS Senator, NYS District 17

**CHAIR**

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**COMMITTEES**

BANKS

BUDGET AND REVENUE

FINANCE

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

RULES



**SENATOR  
KEVIN S. PARKER**

21<sup>ST</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK

MAJORITY WHIP

**ALBANY OFFICE:**

ROOM 504

CAPITOL

ALBANY, NY 12247

PHONE: 518-455-2580

FAX: 518-426-6843

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

3021 TILDEN AVENUE, 1st FLOOR

BROOKLYN, NY 11226-5107

PHONE: 718-629-6401

FAX: 718-629-6420

e-mail:

parker@nysenate.gov

January 16, 2024

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

Dear President Harris:

I write to express my strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a New York State Senator and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Telecommunications. I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035. In addition, it will also help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy but also jobs including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

A critical project for the state of New York, the Empire Wind 1 is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys and much more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Moreover, the Empire Wind 1 is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore

wind industry and the SBMT wind port easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

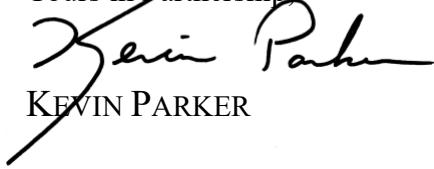
Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. More than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have already been committed by the Empire Wind 1 project and with even more set to be potentially invested in support of local organizations and communities in the future.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub -- another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind 1 and its affiliates -- recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (718) 629-6401.

Yours in Partnership



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Parker".

KEVIN PARKER



Kurt H. Becker, PhD  
*Director, Institute for Innovation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship*

**NYU Tandon School of Engineering**  
370 Jay Street, Rm. 1327  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
**Phone:** 646-997-0523  
[kurt.becker@nyu.edu](mailto:kurt.becker@nyu.edu)

January 14, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear Doreen:

I am writing on behalf of the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, in particular, the Urban Future Lab (UFL) and the Institute for Invention, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (IIIE) to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the Director of the IIIE, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project significantly contributes to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035. It will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

During the last 18 months, UFL has in collaboration with Equinor and bp, created the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub (OWIH), which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind. We recently graduated the first cohort of startups from the program. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

During our engagement with Empire Wind, other critical investments that are complementary to the OWH have been initiated. Firstly the construction of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal

(SBMT) which is set to begin Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Secondly, Empire Wind is also establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in offshore wind educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. Finally, Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, and community organizations through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. The Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and one of our OWIH cohort companies received funding from this fund to further develop their virtual training technology.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt Becker".

Kurt H. Becker, PhD



Tone Søndergaard | Director  
Offshore Wind Innovation Hub  
Industry City | 34 35th Street | Brooklyn

[tone.s@nyu.edu](mailto:tone.s@nyu.edu)  
+1 (917) 912-7577

January 19, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear Doreen:

I am writing on behalf of the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the Director of the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project significantly contributes to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035. It will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

During the last 14 months, in collaboration with Equinor and bp, the team and I have been building the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, as an initiative that aims to deliver new and local technology from small companies to the Empire projects. We recently graduated the first cohort of startups from the program. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

During our engagement with Empire Wind, other critical investments that are complementary to the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, have been initiated. Firstly, the construction of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) which is set to begin Spring of this year, and which I

personally overlook every day from by desk in Sunset Park. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Secondly, Empire Wind is also establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in offshore wind educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. Finally, Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, and community organizations through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. The Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and one of our OWIH cohort companies received funding from this fund to further develop their virtual training technology.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,



Tone Søndergaard



18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of OSC AS to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a Chief Sales Officer in OSC AS, part of the Leader group with 13 years' experience in the Offshore and Renewables segment, representing this company from Norway, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from

disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry. I sincerely appreciate and strongly believe that our partnership with the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub has granted us unique opportunities in the US. Together with the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub and Equinor we will continue to support the initiative for more Offshore wind development, workforce development and community development.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



JØRGEN DRØNNEN  
CSO – Chief Sales Officer  
[jd@osc.no](mailto:jd@osc.no)  
0047 99030203



January 22, 2024

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Prospect Park Alliance to express our strong support for wind energy initiatives in the state of New York. As the President of the Alliance, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

New York State has an ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035, which will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Wind energy initiatives not only deliver a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

We were delighted to learn of the prospective Empire Wind 1 initiative at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT). This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities. Key awards have already been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Morgan Monaco  
President  
Prospect Park Alliance



January 23, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey (SANYNJ) to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As the President of SANYNJ representing the terminal operators and ocean carriers, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Shipping Association of New York & New Jersey

333 Thornall Street, Suite 3A • Edison, NJ 08837 • (732) 452-7800 [Tel]

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



John J. Nardi  
President  
Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey

cc: Mike Stamatis, Red Hook Container Terminal

January 19, 2024

**Doreen M. Harris, President**

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

**Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project**

Dear President Harris:

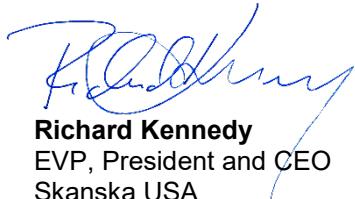
I am writing on behalf of Skanska USA to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a project that will deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a company that recognizes the role the construction industry plays in lowering carbon emissions and our responsibility to act, we believe the Empire Wind 1 project will provide a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth.

We also understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain. Therefore, we fully support this project's goals and commitment to being a responsible member of the community. This involves strengthening local economies, supporting the growth of diverse-owned businesses, and engaging with local communities to create a positive legacy.

Empire Wind 1 is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. This necessary infrastructure will create a state-of-the-art port facility for offshore wind projects. Once completed, it will be a leader nationwide and will play a vital role in helping Empire Wind 1 harness and provide New York City with a significant source of sustainable and renewable energy.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives not only align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and sustainability goals, but also corresponds with our purpose at Skanska to build for a better society. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, and we support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development.

Sincerely,



**Richard Kennedy**  
EVP, President and CEO  
Skanska USA  
[richard.kennedy@skanska.com](mailto:richard.kennedy@skanska.com)



**SBIDC**  
Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

2414 1st Street, 2nd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11232  
718-965-3100 fax: 718-577-5858  
SBIDC.org

Jesse Solomon  
*Executive Director*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Spinner Industries

David J. Sweeny  
PDS Development

Eileen Thornton  
Key Bank

Blake Tomnitz  
Five Boroughs Brewing Co.

January 17th, 2024

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. SBIDC is a local economic development corporation and membership organization whose mission is to create equal opportunity for the people, businesses, and community of Southwest Brooklyn. We provide free services to over 1,500 small industrial and manufacturing businesses across Sunset Park, Gowanus and Red Hook, and help place 200 jobseekers in full-time industrial jobs every year through our Workforce1 Center. As SBIDC's Executive Director, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. Situated in Sunset Park, SBMT has particular importance to the economy of Southwest Brooklyn. When fully built out, this project is expected to create over 1,000 jobs at SBMT and support 13,000 jobs locally. Local industrial and manufacturing businesses, particularly MBEs, have a significant role to play in the supply chain for this new growing sector – furthering the preservation and creation of accessible good-paying jobs that have long formed the bedrock of our community. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be



## Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

2414 1st Street, 2nd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11232  
718-965-3100 fax: 718-577-5858  
[SBIDC.org](http://SBIDC.org)

Jesse Solomon  
Executive Director

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potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

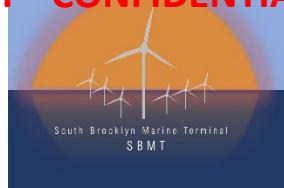
Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce, and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. The project importantly presents a terrific opportunity for establishing good-paying and accessible green industrial jobs in our community. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,

Jesse Solomon  
Executive Director, SBIDC  
718-965-3100 ext. 114



January 22, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, L.P. (SSBMT) and the Red Hook Container Terminal, LLC to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As leaseholder of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, subleasing to Equinor, and owner/operator of Red Hook Container Terminal, LLC, (RHCT) I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

As a terminal operator, RHCT is the only port operator to own a fleet of zero emission electric terminal trucks in operation at a marine terminal, and as leaseholder and developer of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, we have worked for over eight years to ensure the emerging offshore wind industry has a modern port facility in the heart of New York City to develop and build its Offshore Wind projects to supply New York State and New York City with clean offshore wind power. Thanks to the tremendous commitment made by Equinor and BP to develop and build SBMT, we will soon turn that idea into reality with the start of construction at SBMT currently planned to commence later this year. In addition, our union labor force of over two hundred longshore men and women representing the International Longshoremen's Union Local 1814 in Brooklyn will play a significant role in support of all Offshore Wind related port activities at SBMT.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and

maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,



Michael T Stamatis  
Managing Partner  
Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, LP  
President and CEO  
Red Hook Container Terminal, LLC



January 19, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris:

I am writing on behalf of Vinci Virtual Reality Inc. to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York. As a minority small business owner focused on providing educational content to build up a domestic, local workforce, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in



workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence. I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eagle Wu".

Eagle Wu  
CEO, VinciVR Inc.



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

212.935.9831  
[waterfrontalliance.org](http://waterfrontalliance.org)

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Cortney Koenig Worrall  
*President and CEO*

1/23/2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Development of Empire Wind 1 Project

Dear President Harris,

I am writing on behalf of Waterfront Alliance to express our strong support for Empire Wind 1, a significantly mature offshore wind project that promises to deliver substantial benefits to the state of New York.

Waterfront Alliance is a US based nonprofit organization with a growing coalition of more than 1,100 partners that focuses on environmental and economic development and bringing about real change to shorelines, waterfronts, and coastlines across the nation and in the New York-New Jersey region. As the President and CEO of Waterfront Alliance, I understand the importance of sustainable and forward-thinking initiatives that have a positive impact on our community, the environment, renewable energy and New York's supply chain.

The Empire Wind 1 project represents a significant contribution to New York State's ambitious goal of producing 9GWs of renewable energy by 2035 and will help combat climate change in one of the nation's most vulnerable areas while fostering regional economic growth. Empire Wind 1 not only delivers a renewable source of energy, but also jobs, including numerous career opportunities through organized labor, education, and workforce development programs for New Yorkers at the forefront of this blossoming industry.

Empire Wind 1 is a critical project for the state of New York and is poised to begin construction on local assets like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in the Spring of this year. This project has already unlocked jobs and supply chain investments throughout the state and region, including in the engineering and design of the port, marine surveys, and more. Numerous suppliers within the state are counting on this project to move forward. With construction of SBMT imminent, thousands of additional short-term construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs are poised to be created. It is imperative that New York continue to invest in Empire Wind 1—a project that has already invested heavily in the state.

Empire Wind is also in the process of establishing an Offshore Wind Learning Center as part of its development of SBMT. The Learning Center will conduct offshore wind educational outreach to community stakeholders, including but not limited to K-12 students from NYC public Schools, participants in OSW educational programming, and the broader public interested in entering the industry. The Learning Center will make information about the offshore wind industry and the SBMT wind port more easily accessible and will directly benefit impacted New Yorkers from disadvantaged



communities by prioritizing offshore wind education and access to workforce and business opportunities.

Empire Wind 1 has already supported numerous regional businesses, community organizations, and local initiatives through its longstanding presence in New York, and will continue to do so throughout the project's construction and operation. We understand that more than \$16 million in workforce, education, and innovation initiatives have been committed through Empire Wind, with even more set to be potentially invested by the Empire Wind 1 project in support of local organizations and communities.

Key awards already have been made through the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund. For example, the Ecosystem Fund awarded \$5 million in community grants in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force to support sustainable growth, empowerment of underserved areas, and climate justice in the offshore wind ecosystem in New York City.

In addition, the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which was another community initiative instituted through Empire Wind and its affiliates, recently graduated its first cohort. This initiative provides the opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to learn from mentors and other industry experts to help prepare future leaders in New York's offshore wind industry.

Empire Wind 1's goals and objectives align with and directly support New York's climate, workforce and environmental justice goals, all of which I strongly support and advocate for. By endorsing the Empire Wind 1 project, we recognize that it is a priority to contribute to New York's laudable and nation-leading climate goals, bolster our energy resilience, and promote energy independence.

I encourage NYSERDA to support Empire Wind 1's successful continued development so New Yorkers may benefit from offshore renewable energy and the regional economic advantages it stands to bring.

Sincerely,

Courtney Koenig Worrall  
President and CEO



## Section 8.3

### Stakeholder Engagement Plan

#### Attachment 8.G

#### EW1 Press Coverage





# Equinor Media Clips

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**Psc Approves Empire Wind's Plan To Build Sunset Park Wind Power Facilities**

**Brooklyn Eagle**

**12/14/23**

**SUNSET PARK — THE NYS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ON THURSDAY APPROVED the petition to build and operate transmission facilities connecting to a substation in Sunset Park for the Empire Wind 1 Offshore Wind Project.**

A 17.5-mile high-voltage power line will run under the Atlantic Ocean from more than a hundred offshore wind turbines — faintly visible from Jones Beach — to an onshore substation in Sunset Park's South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

Underground cables will also run to a Con Edison substation in Gowanus.

**The project is expected to bring 600-700 temporary jobs and eventually roughly 300 permanent jobs to Sunset Park. With Empire Wind 2, the projects will produce enough renewable energy for more than 388,000 homes.**

Empire Wind is being developed through a 50-50 joint venture between Equinor and bp. **Molly Morris, President, Equinor Renewables Americas, said the project would revitalize the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.**

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**BP And Equinor Win U.S. Government Approval For 2.08GW Wind Farm Off Long Island**

**Forbes**

**By: Gaurav Sharma**

**11/22/23**

An offshore wind farm project 12 nautical miles off Long Island, New York backed by energy giants BP and Equinor has received U.S. government approval.

**In a statement late on Tuesday (November 21, 2023), the U.S. Department of the Interior confirmed the Empire Wind offshore wind project backed by the duo had been given the go-ahead.**

**It will add 2.076GW of wind power capacity to the U.S. grid upon its completion by 2028, and is the sixth commercial-scale offshore wind farm project to receive approval from President Joe Biden's administration.**

The project includes plans for two offshore wind farms - Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2. The former will add 816MW in capacity by 2027, while the latter will add 1,260MW a year later, according to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

The project will feature a total of up to 147 wind turbines that could power more than 700,000 American homes each year. Each mast will utilize 15MW wind turbines, according to estimates provided by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

**The Biden administration said both projects would support over 830 jobs each year during the construction phase and about 300 jobs annually during the operations phase.**

The Department of the Interior added that the project approval for Empire Wind is line with its goal of deploying 30GW of offshore wind along American coastlines by 2030.

**Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland said: "The approval of the sixth offshore wind project adds to the significant progress towards our Administration's clean energy goals.**

**"Together with the labor community, industry, Tribes, and partners from coast to coast, we will continue to expand clean energy development in a manner that will benefit communities, strengthen our nation's energy security, and address climate change."**

The state of New York has its own ambition for 9GW of offshore wind capacity by 2035, in response to a decade-long campaign by supporters of renewable energy in the state.

However, U.S. wind power projects haven't been without controversy and severe financial implications. Empire Wind itself is among several offshore wind projects facing construction and financing cost escalations that are highly unlikely to be covered by existing power sales.

For instance, BP and Equinor have booked \$540 million and \$300 million in impairments respectively on their projects off New York, after the state denied their request to renegotiate power supply terms.

However, some positive news may be on the horizon for both. On November 30, New York state will issue a fresh bid for offshore wind open to all bidders, including those with existing contracts like BP and Equinor, allowing the duo to re-offer their planned projects at higher prices and exit pre-existing contracts.

That may offer some crumbs of comfort. So far both companies, along with Denmark's Orsted have taken a combined writedown of over \$5 billion on U.S. offshore wind projects that are nowhere near completion.

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**[Biden administration approves Empire Wind project, off Long Island's south shore](#)**

**WSHU (NPR/Long Island)**

**By: Bill Rodrigues**

**11/21/23**

Empire Wind plans to develop two offshore wind facilities, one about 12 nautical miles south of Long Island and the other about 17 nautical miles east of Long Branch, New Jersey. This area is known as the New York Bight.

**Together, these facilities would have up to 147 wind turbines and could generate enough power to provide more than 700,000 homes with electricity.**

**The project also plans to employ over 830 union labor jobs during the construction of the project, and around 300 jobs to operate the wind farms.**

The Biden administration's clean energy goal is to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. These projects will generate a total capacity of two gigawatts.

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**Biden administration approves sixth commercial-scale offshore wind project**

Politico

By: Kelsey Tamborrino

11/21/23

**The Interior Department on Tuesday approved the construction and operation of the Empire Wind project offshore New York — renewing support for a U.S. industry hammered by economic challenges.**

The approval marks the Biden administration's sixth for a commercial-scale offshore wind project.

Context: The U.S. offshore wind industry has been battered by high inflation rates and other economic challenges that has stalled progress in recent weeks.

Danish energy company Orsted said late last month that it was killing plans to build a pair of wind farms in New Jersey, which has amplified efforts in New York to save or replace its own at-risk offshore wind projects.

Details: The Interior Department on Tuesday released the record of decision for the Equinor and BP project comprising two offshore wind facilities, known as Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2, and located off the coasts of Long Island, N.Y., and Long Branch, N.J.

**The record of decision approves the construction of 147 wind turbines within the lease area with a total capacity of 2,076 megawatts — enough power for more than 700,000 homes each year, according to the department.**

**The project will support roughly 830 jobs annually during the construction phase and about 300 jobs annually during operations.**

**The decision includes a commitment from Empire Wind to establish fishery mitigation funds to compensate commercial and recreational fishers for losses directly linked to the project, according to Interior.**

The record of decision "balances the orderly development" of offshore renewable energy with the prevention of interference with other uses of the Outer Continental Shelf and the protection of the human, marine and coastal environments, the document said.

The approval is the final step in the federal review process for Empire Wind's Construction and Operations Plan. The BOEM's final approval of that plan is scheduled for Feb. 21.

**The decision marks a "significant milestone" in advancing the Empire Wind project that is "a defining project" for New York, said Molly Morris, president of Equinor Renewables Americas, in a statement.**

Morris also thanked the Biden administration "for continuing to move these important projects forward and for sending a clear signal that offshore wind will play an important role in America's energy transition."

Background: While Equinor currently has contracts with New York's energy agency to buy power from the Empire Wind projects, it has sought higher prices due to inflationary pressures. The company is likely to rebid in an upcoming New York solicitation aimed at salvaging at-risk, early offshore wind projects.

The solicitation will be released Nov. 30, state officials announced last week.

The Biden administration for its part has set a goal of reaching 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2030. Last month, it announced approval for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project — the fifth approval of a commercial-scale offshore wind project under President Joe Biden and the largest ever in the United States.

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**Equinor and BP Offshore Wind Farm Near New York Wins Approval**

**Bloomberg**

**By: Jennifer Dlouhy**

**11/21/23**

**The US Interior Department gave a green light to Equinor ASA and BP Plc's planned 2.1-gigawatt Empire Wind project off the coast of New York.**

- The project, located about 12 nautical miles south of Long Island, NY and about 16.9 nm east of Long Branch, NJ, is set to comprise as many as 147 wind turbines
  - **Venture is set to take the form of two facilities — the 816-megawatt Empire Wind 1 and the 1.2-gigawatt Empire Wind 2, plus an offshore substation and power cables**
  - It is the sixth approval of its kind in recent years, all under the Biden administration, coming amid surging costs and uncertainty that threaten to delay the pace of the offshore wind build-out in the US
  - Project seen contributing to New York's goal of 9 gigawatts of offshore wind energy generation by 2035 and President Biden's ambition of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity installed by the end of the decade
- 

**Rosenberg: The PSC's decision to deny renewable energy increases is a loss for NYS**

**Long Island Business News**

**By: Ronald J. Rosenberg**

**10/26/23**

New York State's green energy initiative has just taken a one-two punch, and it is questionable whether it will get off the mat.

Earlier this month, the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) denied a rate increase requested by wind turbine developers seeking to build the renewable energy generators that lie at the heart of Gov. Kathy Hochul's policy to reduce our state's fossil fuel dependence. Without that increase, the developers would lose considerable dollars building these offshore wind farms, given that issues ranging from the

cost of money—to the increase in supply-chain expenses—have dramatically harmed the construction business model. Proceeding under those conditions would make wind turbine CEOs guilty of incompetence—and more.

The second punch arrived when Gov. Hochul vetoed a bill, which would have allowed Equinor to snake a power cable from the proposed offshore wind turbines beneath the shores of Long Beach to an Island Park substation. She cited her reasoning based on the need for Equinor to instead garner community support for the plan's endorsement.

In the case of the PSC's decision to deny, whether it was an independent decision, or one directed by the governor, the reality remains the same. The future of renewable energy in the Empire State is now on life support.

The PSC's decision creates an expensive dilemma for the wind turbine industry. They must now decide whether to proceed and build wind turbines at a substantial loss, or cancel contracts with the state, thereby losing millions in security payments.

Other northeast wind companies have already made their decisions, cancelling four contracts to supply power to Massachusetts, and a similar Connecticut agreement for renewable power was also halted. It is not their intent to go insolvent in the pursuit of a government energy policy that ignores the financial realities facing the private sector.

These decisions will also affect the renewable energy agenda of the White House. Analysts say that approximately one-quarter of the power required to meet President Biden's energy target of supplying 10 million homes by the end of this decade will likely be delayed by at least several years, or cancelled altogether.

**Here in New York State, the governor had envisioned 70 percent of our electrical needs coming from renewable sources by 2023. With most of that generated by upstate hydropower, the wind projects would have reached 12 percent of that goal. Given the recent PSC decision, however, it is unlikely that even a fraction of that goal will be met.**

The wind developers have been muted in their response to the PSC, with their executives mulling next steps to pursue. The American Clean Power Association, their trade group, had no such inhibitions. Their statement noted, “With one shortsighted decision, the (PSC) has thrown New York’s environmental and clean energy future into peril. Absent a robust offshore wind industry, it will not be possible for New York State to achieve its climate or environmental justice goals.”

**In the face of that observation, the governor has voiced her continued confidence in the future of New York State renewable energy. In response, she issued a 10-Point Action Plan, which she said is an “accelerated renewable energy procurement process for both offshore and onshore renewable energy projects, aiming to backfill any contracted projects which are terminated.” That means the entire wind farm process could be rebid, and even if that process is expedited, it will delay construction, while one can only hope that inflation doesn’t drive up costs even more.**

There have been various public-private initiatives that have worked for both taxpayers and government. It is a lesson that seems to be lost in Albany as its renewable energy effort is about to be sidelined. As

Casey Stengel once said about his struggling New York Mets, “Doesn’t anyone know how to play this game?”

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**[New York Gov. Hochul announces 4 GW of offshore wind contracts as industry criticizes recent actions](#)**

**Utility Dive**

**By: Diana DiGangi**

**10/25/23**

Dive Brief:

- New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, D, announced solicitation awards for 25 new renewable energy projects totaling 6.4 GW on Tuesday, including three offshore wind projects — days after vetoing an offshore wind transmission planning bill, and after a state commission rejected a petition from three offshore wind developers seeking project contract adjustments due to inflation.
- The American Clean Power Association warned that the veto had the state coming “dangerously close to serving a death knell” for offshore wind in the region and saying Hochul “must get serious” about the state’s clean energy goals, but praised the 25 awards and said the state’s investment would deliver “much-needed benefits.”
- In addition to conditionally awarding new contracts, Hochul’s office announced \$300 million of state investment to develop facilities that will manufacture nacelles and blades for offshore wind turbines.

Dive Insight:

The three offshore wind projects announced were the 1,404-MW Attentive Energy One being developed by TotalEnergies, Rise Light & Power and Corio Generation; the 1,314-MW Community Offshore Wind being developed by RWE Offshore Renewables and National Grid Ventures; and the 1,314-MW Excelsior Wind being developed by Vineyard Offshore.

Hochul vetoed an offshore wind transmission planning bill Friday over an aspect of the bill that would temporarily take over parkland in Long Beach while a subterranean conduit and electrical distribution cable system were constructed to support the Empire Wind 2 project 14 miles off shore.

The 1,260 MW Empire Wind 2 project is already facing financial difficulties, along with other offshore wind projects in the region and across the country. The project’s developer Equinor, along with fellow regional developers Ørsted and BP, recently petitioned the state for relief.

The petition to amend the power supply contracts for relief from spiking project costs was denied because the adjustments the companies were seeking would have resulted in billions in additional costs to ratepayers, the New York Public Service Commission said.

**But Wednesday’s announcement brought more positive news for the state’s offshore wind sector. New York’s awarding of three contracts for more than 4,000 MW of offshore wind shows the state is “prepared to double down” on the resource, said Fred Zalcman, director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, in a release.**

Zalcman had said the week before that Hochul’s “actions are not matching her words,” and that it was “hard to square this [veto] decision, along with last week’s silence regarding the Public Service

Commission's denial of inflation adjustments, with public statements that momentum continues for New York's offshore wind industry."

After Hochul's veto of the transmission planning bill, Zalcman said in a release that the decision "put another nail in the coffin of the Empire Wind project."

Ross Gould, vice president of supply chain development & research at the Business Network for Offshore Wind, who had also questioned the state's recent actions on offshore wind, praised Tuesday's announcement.

**The awards are an "important step toward getting the state's offshore wind industry back on track," he said in a release.**

**"It's no secret that New York's clean energy and offshore wind goals are in doubt after the state's recent decisions threw uncertainty into the market, and we encourage the state to fulfill its Action Plan by finding paths forward for previously awarded projects and stabilizing the state's offshore wind industry," Gould said.**

In her veto message, Hochul cited the City Council of Long Beach's opposition to any alienation of parkland. "It is incumbent on renewable energy developers to cultivate and maintain strong ties to their host communities," she said.

Molly Morris, president of Equinor Renewables Americas, told CBS that Hochul's veto along with the petition denial "sends another troubling signal to renewable energy developers."

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**Environmental review completed for Empire Wind project**

**Renewable Energy World**

**9/13/23**

The nation's fifth commercial-scale offshore wind project passed the environmental review process and could soon receive final approval to begin construction.

**The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Equinor and BP's Empire Wind project off the coast of New York. Based off the findings of the FEIS, BOEM will issue its final Record of Decision (ROD) after 30 days with a final decision on the project's environmental approval to begin construction.**

Empire Wind will consist of two separate wind farms, Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2, which have a combined capacity of 2,076 MW, enough to power more than 700,000 homes. If approved, Empire Wind would be the fifth commercial-scale U.S. offshore wind project to receive final environmental approval under the Biden administration. Vineyard Wind, South Fork Wind, Ocean Wind 1, and Revolution Wind have received RODs for their projects, two of which began installation in Q2 of 2023 and are expected to produce power later this year.

**"The Network is excited that Empire Wind passed this important environmental review process, which is critical to New York's clean energy goals and supply chain advancement," said Liz Burdock, founder and CEO of the Business Network for Offshore Wind. "Once it receives final approval, the U.S. will have**

a pipeline of over 5 GW of offshore wind energy cleared for construction, a substantial leap over just one year ago. Additionally, BOEM's actions secures investments in the state and broader Northeast in ports, vessels, and component manufacturing facilities that will be key to the buildout of the U.S. industry."

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**Progress can be full of wind, but it's worth it**

Newsday

By: Charles Komanoff

8/20/23

Hannah Komanoff, who served Long Beach for three decades as a school official and county legislator, didn't live long enough to see wind turbines nearly as tall as the Chrysler Building. Hannah, my mom, died in 2000 at age 89, not long before the destruction of the World Trade Center, which she would have witnessed from her bay-front house opposite Island Park and Oceanside.

The new millennium also saw wind and solar power emerge as viable forms of clean energy. I have no doubt that Mom, a lifelong conservationist and a stalwart supporter of clean energy during her dozen years representing Long Beach on the Nassau County Legislature, would have moved heaven and earth to help get the Equinor Empire Wind Farm in the Atlantic Ocean off Long Beach up and running as quickly as possible.

**Mom would have vouched for the wind farm at every public forum, just as in the 1970s she repeatedly urged the Long Island Lighting Company and state officials to treat energy efficiency and conservation as antidotes to filling Suffolk County's north coast with nuclear power plants.**

**Big offshore wind farms would have been a no-brainer for Mom. The intrusion of super-tall wind towers and giant blades would have paled next to the benefits: good-paying union jobs, bustling maintenance and support industries, the free harvesting of nature's bounty, and the climate benefit from producing power without burning fossil fuels.**

My mother was a doer with a special place in her heart for big doers. She revered President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, and she knew and admired Eleanor Roosevelt. At a Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. benefit dinner in Long Beach in 1990, she beseeched the audience to venerate King not as a dreamer but as a doer.

King's civil rights call to action, his book "Why We Can't Wait," could have been Mom's mantra for Long Island offshore wind. Advocating energy stewardship in the 1970s would have impressed upon her that delaying Empire Wind Farm's up to 147 wind turbines means spewing more climate-wrecking carbon dioxide we can never claw back from earth's atmosphere. That's why wind power can't wait.

This too: Mom kept her word. At a meeting I attended in the 1970s, she told LILCO's CEO that Long Island's strengths lay in manufacturing and installing solar roofs and wind farms and energy-proofing our homes. Those words carried a pledge: When clean energy arrives in abundance, we can't block the way.

**By itself, offshore wind won't stop climate chaos. But it's a big part of winning the fight. Those hundreds of spinning blades will literally keep carbon fuels in the ground, where they can't wreak havoc. They'll also set a positive example for future rounds of climate progress.**

In a year or two, work crews are to begin laying power cables to connect Equinor's ocean-based turbines to the power grid. Recently, I rode my bike along the ocean through the Rockaways and Long Beach to one of the landing spots in Island Park. Once a popular seafood eatery, it's now asphalt and weeds.

Change isn't easy, and big change can be wrenching. But I learned from Mom that the pain of progress is worth bearing. I hope to be on hand when the shovels hit the ground, placing pebbles and stones in tribute to my mother and all who work for a livable future.

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**Empire Wind brings clean energy clinics to Oceanside**

LI Herald

By: Kepherd Daniel

8/20/23

**Empire Wind 2, a joint offshore wind venture between Equinor and bp, partnered recently with the National Supplier Diversity Institute and This is Long Island to bring Sports Power Clean Energy Clinics, an innovative youth development program that combines the excitement of sports with the importance of clean energy education, to about 200 youths on Long Island.**

Clinics were recently held in Oceanside, Long Beach Brentwood, and Wyandanch. The clinics included a wide range of sports activities for children in Grades 3-9, as well as learning about offshore wind and clean energy. Clean energy programming focused on home energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and offshore wind, while sports programming focused on basketball, soccer, volleyball, go-kart racing, tennis, e-sports, karate, speed strengthening, and stamina combines.

"Empire Wind is excited to have brought this program to Brentwood, Wyandanch, Long Beach, and Oceanside and looks forward to continuing to work with other Long Island communities to educate future generations about offshore wind," said Scott Lundin, Vice President of Permitting and Community Affairs for Equinor Renewables.

**Empire Wind 2 will invest hundreds of millions of dollars into the Long Island economy throughout the life of the project, including social investments such as these Sports Power Clean Energy clinics, as well as community host agreements, property taxes, and easement payments.**

The project will deliver power directly to Long Island through an interconnection to the New York grid in Oceanside. Along with the Empire Wind 1 and Beacon Wind projects, which are also being developed by Equinor and bp, these three offshore wind projects will power 2 million New York homes with renewable energy, accounting for a third of New York State's offshore wind goals. When finished, these projects are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars from the road annually.

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**Rosenberg: Cancel culture colors Long Beach arts groups**

Long Island Business News

By: Ronald J. Rosenberg

8/3/23

In what must be one of the most chilling and despicable actions recently undertaken on Long Island (and that covers a lot of ground) is the recent decision by two Long Beach community arts groups to cancel financial support from Equinor for its public events on the grounds that Equinor “offended” some of the local residents.

The Long Beach International Film Festival posted online that it was pulling the plug on Equinor’s sponsorship. The Long Beach Arts in the Plaza has also abdicated their role as a respected community organization by doing the same thing.

Equinor is the company proposing to bring ashore underground cables from offshore wind farms that will be built some 17 miles off the coast of Long Beach.

**Some Long Beach residents have expressed concerns about any health or environmental impacts those cables might bring. These are legitimate questions that need to be answered by science. Others, however, have gone beyond reasonable questions, essentially launching a deliberate misinformation campaign calculated to demonize the project and its people. Equinor has sought to respond with town hall meetings and a community benefits program to demonstrate their commitment to Long Beach and surrounding communities. In return they have been verbally abused and publicly harassed by those who oppose the project.**

Both of these community-based organizations have made a conscious decision to bow to a mob and it sets a dangerous precedent for every other nonprofit on Long Island. **Regardless of how you feel about renewable energy, or climate change for that matter, Equinor is pursuing the installation of technology that is consistent with current state and national policy. If you have a problem with these policies then the proper course of action is to make your opinions known at the ballot box, not by libeling a company and dismissing the physics of electrical generation and transmission.**

Contemplating the actions of these two community arts groups one can question whether our ire should be directed at them because, after all, their actions simply shadow the actions of what is happening on college campuses. Cancel culture is happening so often it could be a major.

The National Association of Scholars counts hundreds of academic cancellations in the United States and Canada, underscoring how the freedom of speech on campuses has become aspirational rather than a core founding principle of our society and these institutions. A survey from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression suggests that professors are withdrawing from a wide-ranging classroom discussion of issues for fear of being canceled by student protests or punitive administration actions.

Seventy percent of students in elite schools believe that there are cases where it is acceptable to shout down a guest speaker on campus. At schools ranked lower than 101, that figure is notably lower, hovering at 58%. Similarly, almost half of the student body (46%) at elite schools holds that it can be acceptable to block other students from attending a campus speech if they disapprove of the content. This figure drops to 32% in lower-ranked schools. And in the case of violence to stop a speaker, there is again a significant difference: A quarter of elite students agree that violence is acceptable in some cases, but only 18% of their peers in lower-ranked schools concur.

So Long Beach has simply become a mirror of our nation’s cancel culture run amok, where nonprofits will quickly bow to the loudest voice and the most intimidating force. Which reminds me. Hey – Long Beach

Film Festival organizers – there might be some of us who don't like your third feature. Cancel that film or you just might face a boycott.

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**Put wind in Long Beach proposal's sails**

**Newsday (Editorial)**

**7/27/23**

The war of words over the proposal to build a wind power generating system off the coast of Long Beach has turned the important project into a political beach volleyball. At the center of the fight is a piece of state legislation that would allow the Long Beach City Council to permit the wind farm's transmission line to come onshore buried beneath the beach. The beach itself is considered parkland under state law, which gives it added legal protections.

It's difficult to know who is on which team in this match. The City Council has changed its position on the wind farm known as Empire Wind 2, and the enabling legislation, at least four times in the last five months. Also trying to spike the ball are area Republican leaders like Rep. Anthony D'Esposito, who opposes the project, and GOP candidates for City Council attempting to use the issue to win control of one of Nassau County's last Democratic strongholds.

Then there's Equinor, the company behind the Long Beach proposal, which is trying to navigate a Long Island landscape it doesn't fully grasp.

What the political leaders of Long Beach and Island Park — on both sides of the aisle — are missing is a real understanding of and commitment to the broader issues, including the region's desperate need for renewable energy sources, the state's critical climate goals, and why the legislation, called the Planned Offshore Wind Transmission Act, and the Long Beach project itself, are necessary components to those efforts. Unsurprisingly, they pay lip service to the topic, claiming they support renewable energy, but their actions speak far louder.

Meanwhile, Equinor, and Empire Wind 2's supporters, haven't handled the project as well as they should. They must jump-start a massive communications effort that makes the community a partner rather than an adversary, that overcomes the ugly misinformation campaigns, and that looks for compromise on any legitimate concerns regarding the design of the proposed Island Park substation or the path of the transmission line.

**This specific Empire Wind 2 project is part of a much larger effort for Long Island's energy future. Equinor itself has other projects in the pipeline, and other offshore wind players such as Orsted are trying to move their own efforts forward, too. An extensive network of other industries is needed to build and operate this new source of generation; they play their own roles. To develop a successful offshore wind industry, the state needs to make sure all of those pieces work together. That's why legislation like the Planned Offshore Wind Transmission Act is so important — and why Gov. Kathy Hochul, who a spokeswoman says is now reviewing the legislation, must sign it.**

But if the harsh political winds blowing through Long Beach become strong enough, they could turn what should be a clear-cut environmental win into an election year battle that everyone could lose.

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**Long Beach's shifting winds on Equinor project**

**Newsday**

**By: Randi F. Marshall**

**7/19/23**

An observer might get whiplash just from trying to understand the Long Beach City Council's position on a proposed wind farm off its shore.

The Council has changed its stance no fewer than four times over the last few months, with the latest shift coming Monday, in a communication to Gov. Kathy Hochul. In the latest letter, the Long Beach City Council expressed "firm opposition" to Equinor's proposed wind farm project, saying it found "both this proposed project and its proposer to be completely irresponsible."

The July 17 letter, signed by Council President John D. Bendo and City Council members Elizabeth Treston, Roy Lester, Karen McInnis and Tina Posterli, emphasized support for renewable energy more generally, but argued that the Empire Wind 2 project, as the Long Beach effort is known, had too many downsides.

The Long Beach letter came as legislation known as the Planned Offshore Transmission Act awaits Hochul's signature. Among other things, the bill would allow the city to alienate parkland — in this case the beach itself — to permit the wind farm's transmission cables to be buried once they come ashore.

The most recent letter didn't mention that bill directly. But it was enough for State Sen. Patricia Canzoneri Fitzpatrick or Assemb. Ari Brown, who penned their own letter the day after Long Beach's, asking Hochul to veto the Planned Offshore Transmission Act in light of the City Council's latest position.

"Unfortunately, this bill falls far short of being a viable solution; rather it poses a grave threat to the city of Long Beach, Island Park and its surrounding communities," Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Brown wrote. "The inherent recklessness of this bill raises significant concerns, and we firmly believe that it is not the right approach for achieving our clean energy goals."

But the council's current position stands in marked contrast to some of its previous correspondence. In March, the council offered a "home rule" message supporting the alienation proposal. Then, the council switched gears and opposed the effort. But by June 19, the council changed its mind again, issuing support for a broader bill that included the alienation, even while choosing not to take a position on the project as a whole.

"We are simply requesting the State give the City of Long Beach providence over what happens to its own beaches," the June letter said. "We ask that the matter stop being obfuscated and that we be granted the authority requested."

But the newest letter took a firmer stance expressing outright opposition to the project, saying it would put "high-voltage A/C transmission lines" through "a densely populated residential community, directly impacting thousands of residents." The council also argued that the "blight of a multi-story substation" in Island Park would diminish the impact of ongoing efforts to improve resiliency and water quality and noted that the project is the only one in New York that "would have a visual impact on the nearby shore communities."

The latest letter comes as details of the Equinor project are still developed and negotiated, during a process known as Article 7, of which the City of Long Beach is a part. As currently proposed, the transmission lines in the Long Beach proposal will be buried, and the substation, which is still being designed, would link to the existing E.F. Barrett power station, also located in Island Park.

The Long Beach City Council's biggest complaint in its most recent letter, however, is about Equinor itself. "Equinor, the project's proposer, has done a dismal job in meaningfully engaging residents and addressing their concerns with respect to this project," the letter said. "We see no current scenario where Equinor can become a trusted partner to our south shore communities."

**In an interview with The Point on Wednesday, Equinor's Susan Lienau, the director of community affairs for Empire Wind 2, pushed back. Lienau noted that Equinor has held five town hall or open house-style meetings in the last year and has held 125 smaller meetings with local stakeholders. She also pointed to Long Beach officials' broader support of renewable energy in general, suggesting that their only way to oppose Empire Wind 2 is by criticizing the company's level of engagement.**

**"I honestly think it's an easy attack to have if you don't have a critique of the merits of the project to say we're not there," Lienau said. "But I know that we're out there. I know the extent to which we're conducting meetings... It takes time to build out and get the word out into the community but we are doing it."**

Hochul still hasn't called the bill to her desk. But Lienau said she expects the governor to sign it.

"The governor is supportive of renewable energy," Lienau said. "This project is very much a part of that agenda."

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#### [\*\*Equinor-backed offshore wind program chooses first startups\*\*](#)

**Axios Pro**

**By: Katie Fehrenbacher**

**6/27/23**

**The newly launched Offshore Wind Innovation Hub in Brooklyn has announced the first six startups it will support in its mentorship program.**

**Why it matters: The offshore wind industry is dominated by large companies with huge projects, and startups don't often play a role.**

How it works: The 5-month-old Hub, which is funded by Norwegian oil company Equinor and bp, won't directly fund the six startups that receive support in its mentorship program.

- Equinor does not take equity stakes. Instead, startups are paired with mentors at Equinor, which will help the companies test out their technologies in the offshore wind environment.
- "We've carefully selected startups that can be scalable and impactful in the offshore wind space," said Hub director Tone Søndergaard.
- **The program is run by New York University's Tandon School of Engineering and includes a co-working space. Other groups that have partnered on the Hub include oil giant BP, the National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium, and New York City's Economic Development Corporation.**

Of note: Søndergaard said many of the startups have built businesses in other sectors, like the oil industry, and are now pivoting into the offshore wind sector.

The big picture: Although the offshore wind industry has grown dramatically in Asia and Europe, it's newly emerged in the U.S. and largely remains on the East Coast, including New York, Boston and New Jersey.

- Because there's so little offshore wind infrastructure in the U.S., startups trying to sell to the American market have few partners to choose from and face challenges working with large developers.
- Equinor can benefit from the program by identifying startups that have already been vetted and are tackling problems that the energy developer shares.

Thought bubble: Accelerator programs that have a core corporate anchor have become increasingly common in recent years. It's a way for the large company to help select the companies and use them for an R&D pipeline or acquisition targets.

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**Offshore Wind Innovation Hub names startups to its accelerator program**

New York Business Journal

By: I-Chun Chen

6/26/23

The newly launched Offshore Wind Innovation Hub has revealed the first round of startup companies selected to receive support to develop innovative ideas in the offshore wind industry.

**The six winners were chosen from a panel of 11 finalists participating in a live pitch competition last month and will begin a six-month mentoring and business development program based in New York City.**

The startups, drawn from an initial pool of 49 international applicants hailing from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe and Japan, are:

- Benchmark Labs Inc., San Diego, California: Turbine-specific weather forecasts to improve operational margins.
- Flucto, Germany: Using sensor, GPS and camera data for offshore wind farm installations and increased precision.
- Heerema Engineering Solutions, Netherlands: Software tool to simulate the complete offshore construction process in an event simulator.
- OSC AS, Norway: Industrial metaverse simulation for derisking and cost-cutting offshore wind farm planning.
- RCAM Technologies, Los Angeles: Low-cost, 3D printed, environmentally friendly concrete anchors for floating offshore wind.
- VINCI VR, Boston: Virtual reality for workforce safety and training.

**The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub, which launched in January, said it aims to help develop promising startups that drive innovation in the offshore wind industry. It is led by Equinor and BP, in collaboration**

with Urban Future Lab at New York University Tandon School of Engineering and National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium. The program is supported by the New York City Economic Development Corp.

**"Shaping the future of energy requires innovation, creativity and agility," said Molly Morris, president of Equinor Renewables Americas. "The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub provides a one-of-a-kind experience for startups to further develop their technologies on the ground as we're developing America's offshore wind energy future right here in New York City. This is an exciting initiative, and I can't wait to see how these innovative solutions will come to life and ultimately strengthen our industry."**

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**The 2023 Above & Beyond: Innovators**

**City & State New York**

**6/26/23**

Tech entrepreneurs often get plenty of credit for developing better, faster and smarter ways of doing things, but they certainly aren't the only ones driving innovation in our society. Outside-the-box thinking has opened up unexpected avenues – and improved outcomes – within a wide array of industries and sectors, from education to energy, construction to cannabis, financial services to social services. And innovators are cutting red tape and solving seemingly intractable problems inside government as well, whether it's adopting smarter investigative methods, rethinking economic development or even revolutionizing how we dispose of our trash.

**City & State's annual Above & Beyond: Innovators list** puts a spotlight on the groundbreaking work of 50 innovative New Yorkers in the public, private and nonprofit sectors and the positive impact that they're having across the state.

**Molly Morris**

**President, Equinor Wind US**

**New York state set a goal to have 70% of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2030, something Molly Morris is actively pursuing through offshore wind energy at Equinor Wind US. Focusing on the building and development of offshore wind assets, Morris says, "Everything we're doing is an innovation."**

**As an emerging industry in the U.S., offshore wind has the potential to deliver clean energy to coastal cities across the country, and the resource is abundant. "The offshore wind industry is basically brand new in the U.S.," Morris says. "There's very little capacity that's already built. ... These are massive infrastructure projects that have never been done in the United States before."**

In partnership with BP, Equinor is behind the Empire Wind project, part of an expansion of New York's renewable energy portfolio. Upon completion, the project is expected to power 1 million homes in New York with over 130 wind turbines.

**Using knowledge gained in Europe's renewables industry, Morris is also spearheading a New York-based Innovation Hub, in partnership with BP, New York University and the New York City Economic Development Corp., to pursue new technological solutions to the growing offshore wind industry with emerging startups.**

Continuing its pursuit of innovation in renewables, Morris' team has also announced the Ecosystem Fund, a \$5 million grant program. Aiming to promote small business and workforce development, as well as equitable access for historically underrepresented communities, the grant program will support growth within New York's renewable energy industry.

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**New York State Assembly votes to clear the way for offshore wind development off Long Island**

WSHU

By: Sabrina Garone

6/20/23

The New York State Assembly approved the Planned Offshore Wind Transmission Act, which allows for the start of construction on the Empire Wind Two project. The wind farm will be built 14 miles off of Jones Beach State Park, and will be supported by an operation base in Brooklyn.

**Environmental groups were concerned New York's renewable energy goals could be in jeopardy if the bill failed to pass this year.**

The bill had already passed in the state Senate a couple of weeks prior. The Assembly had called itself into a two-day session that ended Wednesday.

The passage of the bill keeps offshore wind projects in the state, which are expected to power over 2 million New York homes, on schedule.

**Adrienne Esposito of Citizens Campaign for the Environment said the timely completion of the projects is pivotal for the state to achieve its goal of 70% renewable energy by 2030.**

**"In the climate change battle, every year matters," Esposito said. "Either we're going to achieve the state's goals, or we're going to fail. We hope to achieve them."**

**Esposito said in addition to the climate benefits, the projects would create thousands of jobs and keep energy dollars at home.**

**"If the Assembly is committed to fighting climate change, that means we must do offshore wind to achieve our climate goals, and our carbon dioxide reduction goals."**

Opponents in the Assembly were concerned about the impact laying transmission cable would have on local residents.

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**Assembly should vote yes on Long Beach wind cable**

Newsday (Editorial)

6/19/23

The Assembly returns to Albany this week with an opportunity to advance the lofty climate goals it helped set a few years ago.

**By establishing markers for green energy that are rightly among the most aggressive in the country, and developing critical plans for offshore wind now in motion to meet those goals, the Assembly already**

**has indicated where it stands. So, support for the Planned Offshore Wind Transmission Act — a clunky name for a bill that passed the State Senate earlier this month and would help New York reach its targets — should not be in question.**

The bill would jump-start offshore wind development by allowing the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority to coordinate and plan individual projects, transmission efforts, and the interconnected offshore grid. The Assembly's failure to approve it could halt the progress of three planned offshore wind projects expected to generate 3.3 gigawatts of energy, create thousands of jobs, and move us toward a renewable future.

But the legislation's likelihood of passage has been muddied by the recent addition of provisions related to an offshore wind farm proposed off the coast of Long Beach. Equinor, the Norway-based company behind the project, would lay a transmission cable that comes ashore in Long Beach and stretches 3.3 miles to a substation in Island Park, where it would connect to the E.F. Barrett power plant. But because the beach is considered parkland, the state has to give the City of Long Beach its OK for a process known as alienation.

State Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, who represents Long Beach, proposed a bill that would do just that, but put the brakes on it after hearing constituent concerns. Her bill language was then folded into the larger offshore wind bill, which awaits Assembly action this week.

By passing the bill, the State Legislature wouldn't decide anything for Long Beach, Island Park or neighboring communities. Instead, approval would move the process forward, while keeping the state focused on its fundamental energy goals. Decision-making would remain local. Negotiations with local officials regarding the landfall, the transmission cable's path, the substation's height and design, and more are ongoing. Full approvals aren't expected until late next year.

That means Equinor still has plenty of time to address community concerns and answer legitimate questions. The company should step up its efforts and show residents it is listening.

But local residents, too, need to understand that this project is much larger than a transmission line.

**Temporary construction will be inconvenient. Wind turbines might be visible in the distance. But South Shore residents, more than any on Long Island, have seen the impact of rising sea levels and warming waters. Their communities are under threat. Now, they can be an integral part of the solution.**

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**Is fossil fuel-generated energy gone with the wind?**

**Long Island Herald**

**By: Ronald J. Rosenberg**

**5/18/23**

Island Park doesn't generate daily headlines — and residents like it that way. This historic community is best known for its great public schools and library, and a sense of community that make it an appealing place to live. Generations of residents value their village and don't see many reasons to change. Why mess with hometown perfection?

**Yet for over 60 years, the village has dealt with air pollution and other problems stemming from its hulking neighbor, the E.F. Barrett Power Station — a familiar landmark that has cast a literal shadow for generations.** It also reflects a fossil-fueled technology that has been mandated to disappear. And after a bitter fight between Island Park and the Long Island Power Authority over Barrett's property taxes, they have been dramatically reduced, which will now impact village homeowners.

**New York state's march to embrace an energy future free of fossil-fuel emissions comes at an interesting time. An opportunity has arrived in the form of offshore wind. Whether or not the promised jobs and economic activity from this multi-billion-dollar industry ever emerge, there is a "green" wind farm project being proposed for some 15 miles off Nassau County's South Shore. The cable bringing its power to our region's electric grid would route underground to a proposed substation near the Barrett plant.**

Because that's what we Long Islanders do, local critics have launched a variety of campaigns opposed to the plan. From suggesting the electromagnetic fields generated by the underground cable will cause deformities to attacking the corporate credentials of the international company proposing to build the wind farm, Equinor, they have sought to block its construction.

Science will have to address some of those concerns, but if recent history reveals anything, the Neptune cable, finished in 2007, runs power 65 miles from New Jersey to beneath Jones Beach before heading north to a substation. None of the millions of beach-goers who walk and swim above it have reported electromagnetic distress, much less been aware of the cable's presence.

For Island Park, the real question will be whether the long-term financial benefits of this project will outweigh the inconvenience of a cable trench being dug to connect wind power to a substation. And the developers would have to make sure the substation doesn't impinge on the village's quality of life.

Equinor has stated that it is prepared to offer significant economic benefits and property tax revenue to the village in exchange for the ability to "come ashore." Other Long Island townships have already done the economic and environmental calculations on similar wind farm developments off their shores and determined that they have come up with a winning hand for their taxpayers. Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine negotiated a \$169 million deal for hosting a cable landing. In what has been a long and successful tenure as town supervisor, that may well become one of his lasting legacies to town taxpayers.

**In Island Park, Oceanside and Long Beach, there needs to be a thoughtful, strategic review of the pros and cons, the science and the facts at a time when fossil fuels that power facilities like Barrett are going away.**

**Some say wind power is a big lie, claiming that our cable and AC will go out when the breeze dies. I'm not an energy scientist, but those who manage the grid say the Europeans figured out long ago how to store electricity produced by their wind farms so it can be released as needed when the winds weaken. Others talk about the industrialization of the ocean, but you need only look out at the parade of massive freighters off the South Shore waiting for space at the Jersey docks to deliver our latest smartphones to realize that that ship, so to speak, sailed a long time ago.**

Will offshore wind amount to everything New York state is promising? The jury is very much still out. But for Island Park residents looking at the advantages and disadvantages of Equinor's cable connection proposal at a time when Barrett's payday is over, there is much to discuss over a Sunday family dinner.

*Ronald J. Rosenberg has been an attorney for 42 years, concentrating in commercial litigation and transactions, and real estate, municipal, zoning and land use law. He founded the Garden City law firm Rosenberg Calica & Birney in 1999.*

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**[Offshore wind developers offer \\$25M in fisheries, wildlife research grants](#)**

**Newsday**

**By: Mark Harrington**

**5/4/23**

**The developers of two offshore wind farms set to serve Long Island and the state customers announced \$25 million in grants Thursday to fund wildlife and fisheries research for the region as their projects move closer to construction and production.**

Equinor and bp, which together are developing the Empire Wind projects off Long Island and Beacon Wind off the New England coast, said they have selected two regional nonprofit agencies to help administer the two \$12.5 million grants, which are aimed at increasing the regional understanding of wind farms on wildlife and fisheries.

**The grants will be administered by the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind and the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance. Equinor officials said both have experience in working with experts and agencies to spearhead and guide the research. The nonprofits will contract the research work out to third parties via requests for proposals, said Scott Lundin, vice president of permitting and community affairs for Equinor U.S., whose parent is based in Norway.**

**"As part of this effort, we will encourage Long Island's scientific and research community to put forward proposals to participate in an effort that furthers our commitment to responsible stewardship of the environment and at the end of the day helps us do our jobs right," Equinor said in a statement.**

Solicitations for the work are expected to be issued later this year, and contracts awarded in 2024.

Molly S. Morris, president of Equinor Wind U.S., said the company will leave the parameters of the study up to the groups, which include fishing interests and wildlife conservationists. "We don't prejudge the science."

The two agencies will "support research and monitoring activities" that will produce data and reports that will be publicly available, Equinor said. Lundin said the research is outside of that required by state and federal regulators as part of the approval process for the wind farms, which in the case of the grants are for Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind, which is set to connect to the grid in Astoria. The two projects together will produce about 2,490 megawatts of energy, enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

The two Empire Wind projects, to be located starting at 15 miles off the Long Beach shore, will see more than 100 turbines at a height of nearly 1,000 feet over the next half decade.

Bonnie Brady, executive director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, an industry group, said working with local commercial fishermen to help guide and conduct the research is essential to ensure its independence. She said trusted agencies such as the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine program are also essential to ensure fishing groups trust the end product.

Lundin noted that commercial fishing leaders comprise half the board of the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance.

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**The 2023 Energy & Environment Power 100**

**City & State NY**

**4/17/23**

Many New Yorkers don't spend a lot of time thinking about electricity and gas, at least until the lights go out or their rates shoot up. In New York's political world, however, energy policy is one of the most contentious topics under debate – in Albany, in New York City and across the state.

**Given the rising threat of climate change, environmental advocates are pushing for a quicker transition to renewable power, via greater investment in clean energy infrastructure and a faster phaseout of fossil fuels – and they've secured significant breakthroughs in recent years. Major industry players are increasingly heading in the same direction, while cautioning that moving too hastily poses risks to reliability and affordability. Other key players are focused on how the shift to renewables will impact jobs and salaries.**

**City & State's Energy & Environment Power 100** puts a spotlight on the most influential individuals in New York's vibrant energy industry and the state's thriving environmental movement as well as the government officials who are determining where all of us get our power.

**In October, Molly Morris was announced as the successor to Siri Espedal Kindem as president of Equinor Wind U.S., which is at the forefront of major offshore wind investments in New York.** Morris, who has been with the Norwegian company since 2008, most recently served as a special adviser to Espedal Kindem, who moved to a new role at Equinor as project director. Morris will assume oversight of two offshore wind projects already underway in New York, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, totaling 3.3 gigawatts of energy.

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**Long Island wind farms play vital role in bringing new energy to New York State, says LIPA CEO**

**Newsday**

**By: John Asbury**

**3/28/23**

**Long Island and emerging wind farms off the South Shore will play a vital role in bringing wind energy to New York State and meeting the state's goals of achieving zero-carbon emissions, LIPA chief executive Tom Falcone told Newsday on Tuesday.**

Falcone discussed the future of wind farms during a Newsday Live web forum with Newsday Associate Editor Joye Brown and energy reporter Mark Harrington.

Five offshore wind farms are set to be built from Montauk to off the coast of Long Beach and the state could approve up to 100 more projects awarded through a request for proposals this spring, spanning to New Jersey, officials said.

The wind energy will be key to meeting the state's green energy goals, with Long Island's wind farms accounting for about 25% of the state's wind energy, Falcone said. That wind energy will need to connect to the state's electric grid, including at several places on Long Island, he said.

"We need to spread the load out over how much land and determine where it lands," Falcone said. "It's an absolute certainty there will be more wind energy landing on Long Island than we need to meet the Long Island grid. We need to get that extension cord to New York City and the rest of the state."

Construction is underway for the next eight months to construct the \$2 billion 130-megawatt South Fork Wind Farm consisting of 12 wind turbines to power up to 70,000 homes. LIPA customers are expected to pay an average of \$1.58 per month for the wind energy.

**The next project by Equinor will construct 130 turbines, starting about 15 miles off the cost of Long Beach and Jones Beach combined with a second project 30 miles offshore. Construction is expected to begin next year and connect to Island Park through Long Beach as well as connecting to Brooklyn.**

The federal government leases portions of the coast for wind farms, opening up to bidding the coastline from Virginia all the way through Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Falcone said. New York State wants to buy at least 9,000 megawatts, which developers must connect to LIPA or Con Edison, Falcone said.

**New York is looking to replace aging power plants, which could be deemed obsolete with wind and green energy, Falcone said. The state may need to double its production to meet its goal of eliminating carbon emissions, Falcone said.**

**"Offshore wind is new to New York and the Northeast, but it's established in Europe," Falcone said. "It's a great resource right off Long Island and the time is right, the technology is right and the cost is about right."**

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**[Equinor pledges \\$264M in local funding for wind farm off south shore Nassau](#)**

Newsday

By: Mark Harrington

3/28/23

The developer of an offshore wind farm planned for the waters off Nassau's South Shore on Tuesday said it is proposing a \$264 million package for hosting a 3.3 mile cable and infrastructure for the \$3 billion project amid calls by some to slow the approval process to assess its impacts.

The package, which a top official on Tuesday described as a "starting point" in negotiations, would include \$55 million in payments to local communities and between \$8 million and \$9 million a year in property tax payments over 25 years, developer Equinor told Newsday on Tuesday.

Norway-based Equinor's Empire Wind 2 project would be located more than 20 miles from the South Shore from Long Beach to points east and south, and provide enough power for up to 700,000 homes when it's in service by 2027. The cable would make landfall at Long Beach and traverse 3.3 miles to a substation in Island Park, connecting at the E.F. Barrett power plant.

Empire 2 would be located directly behind Equinor's proposed Empire 1 project around 14 nautical miles from the Long Island shore. Empire I proposes to deliver its energy to the New York City grid via a connecting point in Brooklyn. The combined projects will rely on more than 130 turbines nearly 900-feet high located from 15 to 30 miles from shore.

"This is the starting point" of talks, said Molly Morris, president of Equinor Wind U.S. in an interview with Newsday, suggesting elements of the package are open for negotiation. "This is where we want to start the dialogue. We are committed to these local communities and want to be a partner here."

She added, "We really want the input from the local communities on where this investment can make the most impact."

The move comes amid opposition to the project. U.S. Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY), said he met with Equinor officials last week to discuss the project and the more than 150 constituent calls he has received about it.

"There are a lot of questions," D'Esposito said, including about the structure of payments, impacts on whales and cables running under local streets. Pointing to a \$168.9 million project recently negotiated by Brookhaven Town for Sunrise Wind earlier this month, D'Esposito said the direct payments to Long Beach and Island Park are "not anywhere near what was put forth in Brookhaven."

D'Esposito has signed on to a House bill that contemplates a moratorium on offshore wind projects until studies and an investigation can be done on impacts of the projects on the environment, fishing communities and national defense. The bill has little chance of advancing in the Democratic-controlled Senate or getting signed by Democratic President Joe Biden, who has championed and accelerated offshore wind projects.

Morris said the company is committed to working with government and local communities to answer questions and to fund investments.

"We are really viewing this project as a partnership with the communities and with New York state for the long term," Morris said. "We are also planning to commit to engage with the community as the project moves ahead," including with local events and initiatives.

Equinor is committing a separate \$4 million across Long Island to fund regional training and workforce development programs, she said.

A Long Beach City official didn't immediately return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

**Danielle Higman, Equinor's commercial lead for Empire Wind 2, said the project would make Equinor one of the largest taxpayers in the region, adding that the concept of "sustained" annual tax payments**

of \$8.5 million to \$9 million a year over the 25-year contract was deemed "more beneficial to the community" than a larger upfront payment such as Brookhaven has negotiated."

Higman said Equinor will work with local municipal leaders to devise how best to spend the \$55 million in direct payments, which will come even before the project delivers energy. Around \$7.5 million each would be almost immediately available to the City of Long Beach and the Village of Island Park, she said.

Equinor says the combined projects will contribute to an estimated \$2.5 billion in investments to the state economy and create hundreds of local jobs while building a supply chain.

The company in the past had proposed building large concrete foundations for its turbines at an Albany port, but subsequently switched the plan to tower foundations that must be pile-driven into the ocean floor, a move that irked some conservation groups concerned about sound impacts on sea mammals.

More recently, plans for a proposed offshore wind tower manufacturing facility at the Port of Albany were reported to be "uncertain" after the project's backers said soaring costs led it to ask the state for more money to fund it, according to published reports. Empire Wind and another Equinor project, Beacon Wind, had planned to use towers from that facility. Morris said Equinor is now "assessing different opportunities" for manufacturing. Towers could still be produced there, she said, or it could be used for "manufacturing for a different part of the supply chain."

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#### [Supply Chain Expo Highlights Offshore Wind Opportunities for New York](#)

**North American Windpower**

**By: Michael Bates**

**3/10/23**

Equinor and bp, the partners in the Empire and Beacon Wind projects, recently held their third supplier expo at Farmingdale State College, where over 200 local and regional manufacturers, suppliers and contractors met with key offshore wind project suppliers and vendors.

**The event offered an opportunity for Long Island businesses to learn how to take part in the local offshore wind supply chain arising from new large-scale projects like Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, which are under development off the Long Island coast.**

At the event, attendees heard about the need to create a Long Island- and New York-based supply chain and workforce to aid the development of the offshore wind industry. With the Equinor-bp partnership planning to build four wind farms off the Long Island coast, the Empire and Beacon Wind projects will provide an entryway for Long Island businesses to create components for offshore wind farms and train their workforces for careers in offshore wind.

During the panels, attendees were able to ask questions related to the industry as well as questions about their company's participation in the offshore wind industry. During breaks, attendees were also able to speak with key suppliers at their booths to find out more about these companies.

**Following the panel discussions, a matchmaking session took place. This gave Long Island businesses the chance to speak one on one with the key suppliers and to let them know more about their**

businesses, ask important questions, and find out how these Long Island companies could be integrated into their local supply chain.

"Vestas is thrilled to once again participate in Equinor's Supply Chain Expo as we continue to support the buildout of a sustainable U.S. offshore industry," says Amy McGinty, vice president of offshore construction and operations for Vestas North America. "By connecting with diverse and local suppliers in New York, we aim to establish an inclusive clean energy economy with long-term jobs and opportunities."

Together, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind will provide New York state with 3.3 GW of energy.

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**Wind power energizes the Boys & Girls Club**

**Queens Chronicle**

**By: Michael Gannon**

**3/9/23**

A company's plan to convert a fossil fuel electrical plant in Astoria to wind energy also will give a major charge to the Variety Boys & Girls Club in Long Island City.

Equinor and BP have purchased the site of a gas turbine plant from NRG Energy on the Con Edison-Astoria Yard site on 20th Avenue. The future Astoria Gateway for Renewable Energy plant will be powered by the future Beacon Wind project slated for construction between Montauk Point, LI, and Nantucket, Mass., in the late 2020s.

**Costa Constantinides, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club and a former city councilman, said Equinor also has pledged \$1 million for the rebuilding of the Boys & Girls Club at its antiquated 30th Road address; and \$750,000 over 10 years for the building and operation of a community technology and media program.**

**"One, they purchased the old NRG site, which is really exciting for the community in terms of clean energy infrastructure and transitioning to ... green energy," said Constantinides, long a critic of fossil fuel generation on the Con Edison site.**

**"For the purposes of the Boys & Girls Club, this is a long-term investment by Equinor that will allow us to have not just capital dollars to build the new building, but to create an education fund over the next 10 years that will allow our young people to use the technology and media lab to become the scientists of the 21st century," he added.**

Constantinides said the club hopes to begin construction late this year or early in 2024; and to reopen in 2026. It will use school buildings for programs in the meantime.

**Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), on March 3, was joined by multiple elected officials and Equinor Wind US President Molly Morris when the funding for the club was announced.**

**"For too long, the people of western Queens have borne the brunt of the consequences of having New York's polluting power plants in their backyard," Schumer said in a press release from Equinor. "A rebuilt NRG gas plant would have been yet another unfair burden for the community and the**

environment, but this new project will bring cleaner air and family-supporting jobs to the community, as well as long-term investments in science and technology training for Queens' underserved youth."

Morris said the investments are a demonstration of Equinor's commitment to wind energy and the community.

Beacon Wind will bring an important new source of renewable power to a neighborhood marked by its industrial past, and now, community access to world-class education on offshore wind through the Variety Boys and Girls Club," she said.

Constantinides said the club now serves more than 4,000 people, but that the building is in general disrepair and needs to be torn down and replaced. He said the new building, which already has received the necessary city approvals, could allow the club to serve between 12,000 and 16,000.

"Just about quadrupling our capacity," he said.

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**Astoria Generating Station will convert to renewable energy**

Queens Ledger

By: Matthew Fischetti

3/8/23

Western Queens pols and community leaders packed into the gymnasium of the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens last week to celebrate a historic investment towards renewable energy.

At the Friday announcement, it was unveiled that the Astoria Generation Station located on 20th Ave. will be transformed into a converter station for renewable energy, named the Astoria Gateway for Renewable Energy. The new plant is estimated to power 1 million homes starting in the late 2020s with construction for the site predicted to begin in 2025, pending approvals.

The project will be completed by Beacon Wind, which is a 50-50 partnership between energy provider Equinor and the gas company BP.

**Former Astoria Councilman and current C.E.O of the VBGCC, Costa Constantinides, noted the historical and personal ramifications that the high concentration of plants in the neighborhood, known as Asthma Alley, has had.**

**"My own son, I remember when he was young – having an asthma medication, a liquid, another medication. Then taking something to settle his stomach because he just took all of that. Then he ate breakfast. Then he would have to put a nebulizer over his face. Not just when he was sick, that was just Tuesday," Constantinides said.**

Officials and activists rallied outside the power plant two years ago when the previous owner NRG wanted to convert the turbines into a natural gas based plant.

**"First, I want to acknowledge the change this all around the hundreds of organizing volunteers who worked so hard to change the status quo to make this celebration, what it is today," said U.S. Senator**

Chuck Schumer who joined the protests and even testified in front of the Public Service Commission, the entity which regulates public utilities throughout the state.

"But we wanted to send a message for both this community and the entire state who were serious about the transition to clean energy," he continued. "They [critics] were saying it's a false choice between jobs and climate justice. Well that was bullshit."

Schumer also noted that he wants to make Long Island, including the Brooklyn and Queens parts, the "offshore wind center of the county."

"If we had listened to the words of NRG all those years ago or a day like today would never have happened," said **Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani**, who represents parts of Astoria and participated in the protests against NRG. "**This is a repudiation of the idea that fossil fuel executives should set the limits of possibility in Astoria. In New York City, in New York state and across this country.**"

**Equinor also announced a million dollar partnership through Beacon Wind to build a Technology and Media center along with a \$750,000 over ten year commitment to help fund a Science and Technology program for youth at the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens. Morris said that the program aims to be a gateway for New York children to have opportunities to enter the renewable energy sector.**

"I've spent 68 years here in Astoria. And I've seen the good, the bad, and the difference when it comes to the air," **former Resident Association President and current Astoria Houses resident Claudia Croger** said.

Croger said that when she moved into the neighborhood her seven kids didn't suffer from asthma but that three of her grandchildren did due to the power plant's effect on the local air quality.

**"It gives me joy to know that change is coming," she continued. "Our children will be able to live in clean air and breathe. And their parents will gain because they won't have to pay copays out of the lunch money, their food money, or clothes money."**

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#### [\*\*Beacon Wind to Repower Community with Renewable Energy Facility in Astoria\*\*](#)

**The National Herald**

**3/4/23**

On March 3, Equinor and bp announced two major initiatives focused on Astoria: the purchase of the Astoria Gas Turbines site from NRG to repurpose it as a converter station connecting renewable offshore wind power to the New York grid, and a substantial investment in community resources to serve the youth of Queens. **Equinor and bp were joined at the event by Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), as well as elected officials including State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Assemblymembers Zohran Mamdani, Jessica González-Rojas, and Juan Ardila, and Queens Deputy Borough President Ebony Young.**

The future converter station, named the Astoria Gateway for Renewable Energy (AGRE), will replace the decades-old plant with a new source of renewable power for New York. The AGRE station will receive 1,230 megawatts of renewable energy – enough to power 1 million homes — generated by the Beacon Wind offshore wind project, located 60 miles off the eastern tip of Long Island, beginning in the late 2020s. The NRG facility is planned to cease operations and will begin decommissioning in May 2023. Pending

permit approvals, Beacon Wind will begin site preparations in 2025, making AGRE one of the first fossil-to-renewable infrastructure repurposing in New York City.

**Equinor and bp also announced a \$1M partnership through Beacon Wind for a community-based Technology and Media Center, coupled with a sponsorship of \$750,000 over ten years to support a Science and Technology program, for underserved youth at the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens (VBGCQ). The new state-of-the-art Technology and Media Center will become a focal point for educating Astoria's youth. The investment in curriculum development of a science and technology training program will help provide inclusive early education opportunities to local youth over the long-term, an important element of the workforce development pipeline needed to access the renewable energy jobs that are coming to New York.**

"These investments in Astoria demonstrate the commitment of offshore wind to New Yorkers. Beacon Wind will bring an important new source of renewable power to a neighborhood marked by its industrial past, and now, community access to world class education on offshore wind through the Variety Boys and Girls Club. These classes will provide opportunities to underserved communities to obtain family-sustaining careers. Milestones like this are only possible due to New York's favorable environment for investment and business, and we are excited for many positive developments to come," said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US.

**"After years of successful organizing to stop the pollution from NRG's gas plant in Astoria, the site will now be used to connect renewable, offshore wind power to the New York grid, which will create clean energy and good, green jobs," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. "For too long, the people of western Queens have borne the brunt of the consequences of having New York's polluting power plants in their backyard. A rebuilt NRG gas plant would have been yet another unfair burden for the community and the environment, but this new project will bring cleaner air and family-supporting jobs to the community, as well as long-term investments in science and technology training for Queens' underserved youth."**

bp senior vice president offshore wind Matthias Bausenwein said: "These initiatives show how our offshore wind projects can advance the energy transition while supporting people and communities. Our investments will provide new resources for the youth of Queens and create a critical connection for bringing clean power to the New York grid."

**"Equinor's commitment to create a gateway to our future here in Western Queens is a transformative moment for our community. The transition of the NRG site from fossil fuel to clean renewable wind power is a game changer for reducing respiratory illness and improving health. The energy transition needs champions like Equinor to help us move past the status quo of fossil fuels to create Renewable Row with clean power for our families to breathe easier. The partnership with the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens and Equinor to create the Equinor Media and Technology Center will help us bring this energy transition to life spurring the scientists of the 21st century right here in Western Queens. Thank you to Equinor for this monumental investment in our greatest resource, our children, and your vision to build a brighter, greener future," said Costa Constantinides, CEO Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens.**

Details of the sale from NRG to the Beacon Wind project are available through the New York Public Service Commission (PSC).

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[\*\*Beacon Wind project will repower ‘Asthma Alley’ with renewable energy facility in Astoria\*\*](#)

Astoria Post

By: Bill Parry

3/3/23

**U.S. Senate Majority leader Charles Schumer joined elected officials from across Queens on March 3 for two major announcements at The Variety Boys & Girls Club in Astoria.**

Equinor Wind US and its partner bp in the US announced two major initiatives focused on western Queens: the \$215 million purchase of the Astoria Gas Turbines site from NRG to repurpose it as a converter station connecting renewable offshore wind power to the New York grid, and a substantial investment in community resources to serve the youth of Queens. The future converter station named the Astoria Gateway for Renewable Energy (AGRE) will replace the decades-old power plant that had polluted the air in “Asthma Alley” for generations.

**“After years of successful organizing to stop the pollution from NRG’s gas plant in Astoria, the site will now be used to connect renewable, offshore wind power to the New York grid, which will create clean energy and good, green jobs,” Schumer said. “For too long, the people of western Queens have borne the brunt of the consequences of having New York’s polluting power plants in their backyard. A rebuilt NRG gas plant would have been yet another unfair burden for the community and the environment, but this new project will bring cleaner air and family-supporting jobs to the community, as well as long-term investments in science and technology training for Queens’ underserved youth.”**

The AGRE station will receive 1,230 megawatts of renewable energy — enough to power 1 million homes — generated by the Beacon Wind offshore wind project, located 60 miles off the eastern tip of Long Island, beginning in the late 2020s.

**Former Councilman Costa Constantinides, who authored the city’s Green New Deal before taking over as CEO of the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, called Equinor’s commitment to western Queens is a transformative moment for the community.**

**“The transition of the NRG site from fossil fuel to clean renewable wind power is a game changer for reducing respiratory illness and improving health,” Constantinides said. “The energy transition needs champions like Equinor to help us move past the status quo of fossil fuels to create Renewable Row with clean power for our families to breathe easier.”**

Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas now represents the AGRE site and thanked the environmentalists who stood against the NRG plant.

**“In a neighborhood that has experienced so much environmental injustice and has become known as Asthma Alley, I’m thrilled that Astoria’s decades-old peaker plant will soon instead convert offshore wind to bring renewable, clean power to my constituents in Queens,” she said.**

Councilwoman Julie Won, who represents Long Island City and parts of Astoria, said, “This investment in renewable energy is a step in the right direction to ensuring that we are lowering harmful emissions, providing our city with sustainable power, and rectifying the environmental racism that our neighbors in Astoria have historically faced.”

Assemblyman Juan Ardila also hailed the end of the NRG project. “This is an exciting time for our movement to transition the state’s energy supply away from fossil fuel dependency and into a future that runs on fully renewable energy,” Ardila said. “By repurposing these gas turbines to converters for offshore wind power, we are getting one step closer to providing Western and Central Queens residents with clean energy, and achieving the goals set out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).”

Equinor and bp also announced a \$1M partnership through Beacon Wind for a community-based state-of-the-art Technology and Media Center, coupled with a sponsorship of \$750,000 over ten years to support a Science and Technology program, for underserved youth at the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens.

“These investments in Astoria demonstrate the commitment of offshore wind to New Yorkers. Beacon Wind will bring an important new source of renewable power to a neighborhood marked by its industrial past, and now, community access to world-class education on offshore wind through the Variety Boys and Girls Club,” Equinor Wind US President Molly Morris said. “These classes will provide opportunities to underserved communities to obtain family-sustaining careers. Milestones like this are only possible due to New York’s favorable environment for investment and business, and we are excited for many positive developments to come.”

The investment in curriculum development of a science and technology training program will help provide inclusive early education opportunities to local youth over the long term, an important element of the workforce development pipeline needed to access the renewable energy jobs that are coming to New York.

**“Equinor’s plan to decommission and remove NRG’s old and unsightly propane tanks from Astoria is something the community has been seeking for years. This project will provide sustainable wind energy to Astoria and elsewhere, putting the community on a course to reach the renewable energy goals established in the NY Climate Change Act,” state Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said. “Also, by providing funding for a Science and Technology Center for our underserved youth, Equinor is showing a true commitment to improving our community long term. Through the project and with the funding, Astoria will benefit greatly from offshore wind technology while providing our next generation with the education and tools needed to obtain quality jobs in this competitive and growing field.”**

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**Schumer praises sale of Astoria Gas Turbines Site to offshore wind developer**

**Astoria Post**

**By: Michael Dorgan**

**2/20/23**

The site of a large gas turbine site in northern Astoria has been sold to an offshore wind developer and Senator Chuck Schumer has praised the deal saying it is an example of “climate justice.”

The Astoria Gas Turbines, which is situated on 20th Avenue in the Ditmars section of Astoria, was recently sold to Beacon Wind, a company that is currently developing a wind farm off the East Coast. Beacon Wind is owned by Equinor, an international energy company based in Norway, and BP, an oil and gas company headquartered in England. The site is within the 300-acre ConEd complex.

The plant was formerly owned by NRG Energy, a Houston-based energy company, that sold the site for \$215.4 million to Beacon Wind, according to a report by Crain's.

When its offshore wind site is operational, known as Beacon Wind 1, Beacon Wind will generate power from the site to Astoria Gas Turbines which will, in turn, be fed into New York City's electric grid, a spokesperson for the company told the Queens/Astoria Post.

Schumer said the sale will create green jobs and ensure that the site produces clean energy.

**"For too long, the people of western Queens have borne the brunt of the consequences of being home to far too many of New York's pollution-belching power plants," Schumer said. "A rebuilt NRG plant would have been detrimental to the community, but this new project will bring cleaner air and family-supporting jobs to the community."**

Beacon Wind has also applied to the state to construct a second wind farm off the East Coast, which, if approved, would also be fed into the Astoria Gas Turbines site, according to the company.

**"This purchase will provide the Beacon Wind project with a location to support future development... with the potential to bring offshore wind... directly to New York City... giving Queens a leading role in the state's energy transition," a statement from Beacon Wind reads.**

The sale comes after NRG Energy failed to get state approval to replace its aging gas and oil-fired turbines with a natural gas-fired plant. NRG said the generator would have significantly reduced its carbon footprint at the site.

However, activists argued that the facility would still be dependent on fossil fuels, with NRG relying on natural gas obtained by fracking. They said the site would still pollute the area, which has become known as "Asthma Alley," since residents have higher-than-average rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses.

NRG's efforts to convert the site were opposed by renewable energy activists, including a host of Queens lawmakers such as Schumer, state Senators Michael Gianaris and Jessica Ramos, Assembly member Zohran Mamdani and Council member Tiffany Cabán.

The sale also comes less than three months before the existing plant must be retired in order to comply with Department of Environmental energy efficiency laws. Come May, the plant will no longer meet state-level restrictions on nitrogen oxide emissions.

NRG sought to revamp the site before the May deadline but its plans to reconfigure the plant were rejected by the state.

The DEC concluded in Oct. 2021 that NRG's plan failed to comply with the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, a 2019 law that established a mandate to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Many environmentalists say that human-produced greenhouse gas emissions — driven mostly by carbon dioxide emissions — are causing the earth to warm and need to be drastically cut while skeptics say that climate change is driven by natural factors such as the sun.

The act calls for an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040 and 70% renewable energy by 2030.

The plant is not the only station in western Queens that is set to transition to renewables.

The Ravenswood Generating Station, located north of the Queensboro Bridge, is also expected to be powered by offshore wind energy in the future.

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**Offshore wind farms to generate nearly \$4 billion for NYS businesses**

**Newsday**

**By: James T. Madore**

**2/16/23**

**A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.**

That's how business owners on Long Island described winning a share of the \$4 billion in offshore wind-farm contracts set aside for New York State firms.

**Local companies are supplying concrete, rebar and ocean-floor coverings to protect the electrical cable that will connect one wind farm's turbines to a substation in East Hampton. Others are building an operations center in East Setauket and providing transportation for the scientists and engineers who are creating a cable pathway in Long Island Sound for another farm.**

Five offshore wind farms are to be built off Montauk Point and Long Beach over the next few years. Four are required to award some of their contracts to businesses in the state, under agreements signed with a state authority.

**"We're talking about work being generated for another decade; it's the opportunity of a lifetime," said Thomas Montalbine, president of Roman Stone Construction Co. in Bay Shore.**

The manufacturer of precast concrete won its second contract last month to produce concrete "mattresses," or protective coverings, for South Fork Wind's electrical cable. The wind farm is expected to start producing electricity late this year.

Roman Stone's mattresses are nine feet by 20 feet and weigh 22,000 pounds each. They are deployed to hold the electrical cable on the seabed in places where it cannot be buried because other cables such as telecommunications lines are already there. Those cables are also protected by the mattresses.

The two contracts won by Roman Stone, together totaling about \$500,000, represent a small percentage of the company's annual sales of between \$15 million and \$16 million. But if additional orders come in, Montalbine said he may need to add a couple of people to his unionized production staff of 50.

Roman Stone, founded in 1903, gained entry to the offshore wind industry by establishing a partnership with Subsea Protection Systems Ltd., a British company that sells concrete mattresses to wind farms around the globe. Subsea agreed to provide its design and engineering expertise to Roman Stone in return for a percentage of the contracts' value.

"Offshore wind is over 30 years old in Europe and there are companies with a lot of experience in supplying the industry," Montalbine said. "You have to find the right contact in Europe and establish a relationship with them to be their partner in the United States."

He continued, "It took me awhile to figure that out. I was talking to the wrong people and got nowhere" for months.

One of the individuals who helped Montalbine find his way is Marjaneh Issapour, an engineering professor at Farmingdale State College who recently opened National Wind Services Corp., a consulting firm in Woodbury.

"Every business has a niche and shouldn't reshape itself for offshore wind," she said. "Stick to what's your expertise and see if there is a role that you can play."

Issapour and others said business owners in Nassau and Suffolk counties shouldn't be discouraged that the major components of wind farms – blades, turbines, towers and foundations – will be assembled in New York City and upstate from imported parts.

**"So, you cannot build the turbine but maybe you can supply the grease that it takes to maintain the turbine," Issapour said. "There are opportunities for local businesses because New York State is requiring the [offshore wind farm] developers and their major contractors to have local content, even if it costs them a little bit more."**

The developers have signed contracts stipulating that they spend nearly \$4 billion, among four of the wind farms, with businesses in the state. No such requirement exists for South Fork Wind but the developer expects to spend \$100 million with companies in the state, officials said.

For four of the offshore wind farms, their in-state expenditures must be made during the construction phase through the third year of operation, according to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, which regulates the industry.

The state will provide incentive payments to support the construction and operation of the wind farms. The payments will result in an average increase of less than \$2 per month on residential electric bills, NYSERDA projections show.

The developers are Orsted, the Danish company that operates the first offshore wind farm in the United States near Block Island in Rhode Island, and Equinor of Norway.

Orsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, is partnering with Eversource, a New England-based utility company, on two projects east of Montauk Point: South Fork Wind and Sunrise Wind.

Equinor, in partnership with bp, formerly the British Petroleum Co., is building two projects south of Long Beach: Empire Wind I and Empire Wind II. The partnership's third project is Beacon Wind I, located 60 miles east of Montauk and 20 miles south of Nantucket.

Equinor and Orsted are among the developers that submitted proposals to the state last month for additional wind farms to be located south and east of Long Island. NYSERDA is expected to announce the winning proposals by March 31.

Among the five wind farms that have been approved, South Fork Wind is the smallest, with 12 turbines, and the furthest along in construction. The electricity will be purchased by the Long Island Power Authority.

Much of South Fork Wind's onshore construction is being performed by Haugland Group LLC.

The Melville-based firm is building a 100,000-square-foot substation in East Hampton and last fall dug a four-mile trench and installed a conduit system for the electrical cable in Wainscott, from the water's edge to the substation.

**"We're going to pursue every contract because something like offshore wind only happens once in a lifetime," said CEO Billy Haugland II, adding his company worked on the Block Island Wind Farm in 2016 and 2021.**

He said the South Fork Wind contracts represent about 10% of Haugland Group's annual sales of more than \$500 million. But the other wind farms are larger – and so will bring larger contracts and more jobs.

Haugland Group has already won a contract to help with the installation of the electrical cable for Sunrise Wind. The company employs more than 1,000 people nationwide and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For wind-farm construction, New York State requires the prevailing wage to be paid, which means construction workers earn the union rate and benefits. Together, Orsted and Equinor estimate they will create about 2,000 construction jobs and more than 550 permanent jobs among the five wind farms.

Haugland Group is a Tier I or prime contractor for South Fork Wind, which means it relies on subcontractors to supply some of the goods and services needed to complete the project.

A&S Rebar in Yaphank produced the steel bars or rebar that Haugland Group used to strengthen concrete in the Wainscott trench where the electrical cable was laid. The rebar was installed by A&S' sister company, Yonkers-based Lashay's Construction & Development Co.

**Andrew Simmons, founder and president of both companies, said, "Billy [Haugland II] introduced me to the offshore wind industry and I see a lot of potential. We started out small but there's billions [of dollars of work] between New York and New Jersey."**

Simmons, anticipating more orders, spent \$300,000 recently to add equipment on the 1.5-acre lot that A&S rents in the Brookhaven Rail Terminal, a freight facility. A&S has supplied large building projects in the metropolitan area, such as the Long Island Expressway repaving and Long Island Rail Road's East Side Access.

Five employees take the 60-foot steel bars from steel mills and use machines to cut the bars to the desired lengths and bend them into shapes. The workers turned out about 5,000 tons of rebar last year, which generated sales of between \$4 million and \$5 million, Simmons said.

**"I want to get sales up to \$20 million in the next few years, and offshore wind can help with that," he said. "I'm focused on offshore wind because there's a lot of work coming down."**

Simmons' enthusiasm for wind farms is by no means universal among Long Island manufacturers, according to the projects' advocates.

"It's stunning to me how many people have no clue what these offshore wind projects are all about, or the potential for Long Island companies to make spare parts, for Long Islanders to get jobs operating and maintaining these wind farms," said Phil Rugile, who has spent years guiding technology startups and workforce development programs. "There's very little real excitement and a lot of skepticism."

Two years ago, Rugile started the OSW Supply Chain website and newsletter to inform manufacturers and others about an industry that he predicts will be as important to the Long Island economy as space exploration with Grumman Corp.'s Lunar Module was in the 1960s and 1970s.

**"Offshore wind is the biggest thing to come along in 30 to 40 years and it will need a domestic supply chain, which Long Island's aerospace and defense manufacturers are well positioned to be part of," he said.**

Orsted and Equinor representatives agreed, saying the cost of importing replacement parts from Europe is prohibitive and time-consuming.

"A worst-case scenario is buying parts from Denmark," said Mike McMahon, senior supply-chain development manager for Denmark-based Orsted. "The replacement parts, the support services have to be local."

Amanda Schoen, industry relations director in the United States for Norway-based Equinor, added that European manufacturers are already flush with orders as additional wind farms are planned for Europe and Asia. "It's not true that we will source everything in Europe," she said.

An Equinor contractor hired Miller Marine Services in Port Jefferson to provide the vessel that scientists and engineers used last fall to chart a cable pathway in the Sound for the Beacon Wind I project.

Citing Miller Marine's decades of experience in local waters, Schoen said, "Why pay for a vessel from elsewhere? It definitely makes sense to go local."

**Company president Jimmy Miller said he began exploring opportunities in offshore wind about a dozen years ago after the number of oil tankers traversing Long Island Sound fell off. He transports crew, pilots, inspectors, food and water from the shore to the tankers and back.**

**Miller said he bought a 145-foot vessel specifically to serve the offshore wind farms and installed a hydraulic lift and other equipment. The boat, named "Danielle Miller" for the wife of his eldest son, has been used to examine the seabed for locations to place wind-farm foundations and electrical cable.**

Besides Beacon Wind I, Miller Marine has worked on the Block Island wind farm and Skipjack Wind, an Orsted project off the Maryland/Delaware coast. Miller Marine has between 10 and 25 employees, depending on the amount of work.

"It's very exciting, but it's also very scary," Miller said, of pursuing contracts in offshore wind. "We're competing against foreign-flagged vessels and large companies that service the oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico."

**He said that New York State's requirement that offshore wind developers work with companies in the state "helps us tremendously. It gives us a fighting chance."**

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#### [\*\*bp-Backed New York Hub Seeks Startups to Drive Offshore Wind Innovation\*\*](#)

Cstore Decisions

By: Emily Boes

1/26/23

Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Offshore Wind Innovation Hub (OWIH), backed by bp, is now open for business and announced its first call for applications. The Hub was founded in mid-2022 to identify and help develop promising startups to drive new innovations in the offshore wind industry.

The three-year initiative is also backed by Equinor, who together with and bp, developed the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects. Urban Future Lab (UFL), the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and the National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC) also backed the initiative, which is additionally supported by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC).

Designed to facilitate testing opportunities, fast-track commercialization and develop strategic partnerships, startups will have access to the co-working space and programming at the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub located in Industry City. An Accelerator Program will allow selected cohort companies to begin a six-month intensive mentoring and business development program in June 2023.

"We're thrilled to launch the Accelerator Program at our Offshore Wind Innovation Hub with our esteemed partners to accelerate innovation in New York's burgeoning offshore wind industry," said Molly Morris, president of Equinor Wind US. "The demand for offshore wind is rapidly increasing, and innovative ideas and technological advancement are needed to help the industry develop in the U.S. and beyond."

The first call for applications is focused on finding startups that provide innovative technology and solutions related to the development phase of offshore wind in New York. The deadline for submission is March 27, 2023.

**The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub will also offer membership to stakeholders outside the Accelerator Program. Interested parties can apply for access to the co-working facilities in Industry City, community programming, as well as workshops and networking opportunities with industry peers. Applications to become a Community Member are open year-round.**

"We're looking for New York's best. We know innovation is in New Yorkers' DNA. It's at the core of bp, too, as we transform ourselves to reach net-zero by 2050 or sooner and help the world get there too. At

this incredible moment for growing offshore wind in our country, we want to empower New York's startups to lead the nation," said Dave Lawler, chairman and president of bp America.

Equinor is the operator on behalf of its 50-50 strategic partnership with bp. Together, the companies are developing the Beacon Wind and Empire Wind projects, which will supply 3.3 gigawatts (GWs) of renewable energy to New York — enough to power nearly 2 million homes.

bp's ambition is to become a net-zero company by 2050 or sooner and to help the world get to net-zero. bp is one of America's largest energy investor since 2005, investing more than \$130 billion in the economy and supporting about 230,000 jobs.

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**[Energy multinational Equinor starts wind-tech accelerator in Brooklyn](#)**

**Crain's New York Business**

**By: Cara Eisenpress**

**1/25/23**

An international energy company building two offshore wind farms in the New York area has opened a technology hub and accelerator program at Industry City meant to foster innovation in the local climate-tech sector.

**The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub opened applications Monday for its first accelerator class. The hub is a combined effort of Equinor and BP, with Equinor handling the actual operations. Equinor, headquartered in Norway, is behind the Empire Wind project off of Jones Beach and the Beacon Wind project 60 miles east of Montauk Point.**

The company said both projects together should be able to power a total of 2 million homes when they are up and running.

In the meantime, there are tech solutions around the use of wind energy that require innovation, such as advances in safety and fabrication, said Jennifer Edwards, community and environmental manager for Equinor.

Those will be the subject of projects by entrepreneurs Equinor is hoping to attract to the accelerator. The first cohort, the company said, will accept companies that are working on optimizing the process for permitting and surveying data collection; improving site selection; optimizing production or construction and installation; solving power transmission challenges; and working on safety problems.

**In addition to the two energy companies, partners in the tech hub include the Urban Future Lab at New York University's Tandon engineering school and the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, which is providing the curriculum. The New York City Economic Development Corp. plans to provide support as well.**

Equinor said it hoped to develop close relationships with the four to six companies that will be in the first cohort at the accelerator and would have the chance to make investments, though granting equity is not a requirement for participation. Each cohort will be in the program for six months, the company said, with the first session kicking off in June. Applications are due by March 27.

The overall goal, Edwards said, is to build a wind-tech industry in New York, centered around Equinor's office in the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

"The hub is close to the project office" for Beacon and Empire, Edwards said. "So there will mentorship from our experts."

**The hub also will play host to other kinds of wind-tech programming and be available as a coworking space to those in the industry, she said. The project is scheduled to last for three years.**

New York state is planning to have all its electricity be powered by non-carbon sources by 2040. In 2021 New York boasted the third-lowest per-capita energy consumption of any state, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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### [\*\*Offshore Wind Incubator Opens in Brooklyn\*\*](#)

gCaptain

By: Mike Schuler

1/25/23

A new Offshore Wind Innovation Hub has opened in Brooklyn, New York, providing a tech incubator-type environment to help startups grow their business and drive new innovation in the offshore wind industry.

The three-year initiative is backed by Equinor and bp, partners developing the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects, among others including the National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC).

**The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub was founded in mid-2022 and has now announced its first call for applications. Startups will have access to the co-working space and programming at the hub located at Industry City in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood.**

The hub is designed to facilitate testing opportunities, fast-track commercialization, and developing strategic partnerships. An Accelerator Program will allow selected cohort companies to begin a six-month intensive mentoring and business development program in June 2023.

"We're thrilled to launch the Accelerator Program at our Offshore Wind Innovation Hub with our esteemed partners to accelerate innovation in New York's burgeoning offshore wind industry," said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US. "The demand for offshore wind is rapidly increasing, and innovative ideas and technological advancement are needed to help the industry develop in the U.S. and beyond."

The first call for applications is focused on finding start-ups that provide innovative technology and solutions related to the development phase of offshore wind in New York. The Offshore Wind Innovation Hub will also offer membership to stakeholders outside the Accelerator Program.

"We're looking for New York's best. We know innovation is in New Yorkers' DNA. It's at the core of bp, too, as we transform ourselves to reach net-zero by 2050 or sooner and help the world get there too. At this incredible moment for growing offshore wind in our country, we want to empower New York's startups to lead the nation," added Dave Lawler, chairman and president of bp America.

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director of NOWRDC said, "We are delighted to be a part of this exciting partnership. The Accelerator Program is a unique opportunity to help support innovative solutions for offshore wind in the U.S., as well as help build strategic partnerships within this growing industry. We are looking forward to working with this outstanding group of leaders to achieve our mutual goal of accelerating offshore wind innovation."

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**Beacon Wind Draws Public Support at Power Line Hearing**

By: John Cropley

1/24/23

**The proposed Beacon Wind I project drew unanimous public support Tuesday during public hearings on the transmission line needed for the 1,230-MW wind farm planned off the New York coast.**

**The New York Public Service Commission held virtual comment sessions as part of its review process for the certificate of environmental compatibility and public need the developers must secure.**

Many other state and federal approvals are needed before Equinor and BP can begin construction in 2025 in a 128,000-acre tract of ocean 60 miles east of the southeastern tip of Long Island.

Tuesday's hearings officially centered on the 115-mile underwater export cable running the length of Long Island Sound, plus a short overland cable and substation where it will make landfall in Astoria, Queens, in the northwestern corner of Long Island.

**But everyone who spoke — activists, residents with no stated affiliation, business owners, and elected, union and neighborhood leaders — was in favor not just of permitting the cable but the entire project, and offshore wind in general.**

The written comments submitted to the PSC were similarly supportive.

**The level of public support for zero-emission wind power in and near the Astoria neighborhood is not surprising; the area has been dubbed Asthma Alley for its concentration of fossil fuel power facilities, past and present.**

A subsidiary of NRG Energy (NYSE:NRG) had initially proposed to refurbish the Astoria Generating Station, a 558-MW peaker plant, prompting vigorous protests from neighborhood and climate activists.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation rejected a plan to install a new 437-MW turbine generator on-site, saying it would not meet the emissions limits set in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

So instead, Astoria Gas Turbine Power opted to sell the site to Beacon Wind Land and demolish the power station.

Equinor told RTO Insider via email Tuesday that the purchase of part of the complex is complete, and the developers would share more of their plans for the site in coming weeks.

Among the speakers Tuesday:

- **Casey Petrashek of the New York League of Conservation Voters** said: "Beacon Wind I will bring significant environmental and economic benefits to New Yorkers."
- **Kayli Kunkel, founder of the Earth and Me ecologically themed stores in Queens**, said: "Clean, renewable energy and air and water quality are rights that we deserve as New Yorkers, and considering the diverse makeup of our borough, this is also an environmental and racial justice issue."
- **Edwin Hill Jr., of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**, said the union appreciates Equinor's commitment to organized labor on the project. "Equinor has made a significant commitment of \$52 million in social investments in New York state," he added.
- **Fred Zalcman, director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance**, urged the PSC to grant the certificate of compliance and need. "The Beacon Wind project is a critical component of New York's nation-leading effort to power its economy based entirely on clean, renewable and carbon-free energy resources."
- **Marc Schmied, a volunteer with 350Brooklyn.org**, contrasted the impact of constructing offshore wind farms with that of continued reliance on fossil fuel. "I understand and respect the concerns of both the local residents and the commercial fishermen who will be temporarily inconvenienced by the construction of Beacon Wind's transmission line," he said. "Offshore wind is by far the lesser of two evils here."
- **State Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, a Democrat who represents Astoria**, said: "Our neighborhood has been on the front lines of the climate crisis but also on the front lines of fighting back, and last year we successfully beat back NRG's proposal to build a fracked gas power plant, and the approval of this permit will ensure that very same site that the plant would have been built will instead become an interconnection site."
- **Richard Khuzami, representing the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association**, said: "The Astoria waterfront, home to three major [public housing complexes] has long been afflicted by increased rates of asthma and other environmentally related afflictions, and this project will have a direct positive impact and improve quality of life."

#### Innovation Hub

As the developers push through the regulatory process, they are also taking steps to set up a supply chain, with construction of a tower manufacturing facility on the Hudson River in upstate New York and construction/support hub on the New York City waterfront.

Equinor and several partners on Tuesday announced the opening of the Offshore Wind Innovation Hub in Brooklyn, which will help startups develop innovation in the offshore wind industry.

In a news release Tuesday, Lyndie Hice-Dunton, executive director of the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, said:

**"We are delighted to be a part of this exciting partnership. The Accelerator Program is a unique opportunity to help support innovative solutions for offshore wind in the U.S., as well as help build strategic partnerships within this growing industry. We are looking forward to working with this outstanding group of leaders to achieve our mutual goal of accelerating offshore wind innovation."**

**[Schumer promises strong push for tech, the environment](#)**

**LI Herald**  
**By: James Bernstein**  
**1/12/23**

Chuck Schumer has three goals for the new year: improve mass transit, ensure water and air quality are safe, and promote high technology on Long Island.

The New York Democrat who maintained his role as majority leader in the U.S. Senate after last year's mid-terms, told more than 1,000 people attending last week's Long Island Association breakfast in Woodbury that he has, in the past two years, secured federal money to help the Metropolitan Transportation Authority recover from the worst of the Covid pandemic, while still getting money earmarked to protect the Long Island Sound and even clean up aging lead pipes.

The event at Crest Hollow Country Club was LIA's annual State of the Region gathering that attracted both movers and shakers, as well as elected leaders like the executives from both Nassau and Suffolk counties. Schumer's participation comes after he was elected to a fifth six-year term in the upper chamber of Capitol Hill, defeating Joseph Pinion, a conservative columnist who claimed Schumer had been in office too long with too little to show for it.

But history is written by the victors, and Schumer had a lot of history to share.

"We had one of the most productive legislative sessions in years," the senator said, ticking off a list of legislative wins that included his role in shepherding through President Joe Biden's \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, as well as securing \$15 billion for the MTA, which operates the Long Island Rail Road.

"No one was riding the trains" during the pandemic, Schumer added.

"For the first time, New York state got back more money than it gave out," the senator said, referring to the give-and-take of funding with the federal government. New York has traditionally been a "giving" state, meaning its federal dollars usually went to help other states. This past year, the state was more of a receiver.

How productive the next two years will be is a big question. Republicans took control of the U.S. House — but only by a slim margin. That might mean pushing through bills that could win over at least some moderate Republicans.

One of those efforts will focus on improving transportation. The MTA funding, for example, would pay for repairs and upgrades of cars, tracks and electronic systems. Money also would be directed to portions of the Sunrise Highway in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Another \$5 million will build a transit hub in Ronkonkoma.

Schumer also budgeted \$106 million to clean up Long Island Sound, and that's just the beginning. He also plans to use \$60 million to help remove some of the contaminants from the Long Island aquifer.

**Yet the Senator sounded most enthusiastic about a project to install electricity-generating windmills off Long Island's South Shore — likely within the next few years.**

Equinor, a multibillion-dollar Norwegian conglomerate specializing in petroleum, hopes to build a wind energy farm just a few miles off the coast with a substation delivering power directly to Island Park — a plan that has aroused controversy with neighbors.

The \$3 billion project must still pass a plethora of bureaucratic hurdles, however.

"Long Island will be the capital for offshore wind," Schumer said, "not just in New York, but across the country."

The senator also wants to promote two of Long Island's largest high-technology institutions — Brookhaven National Lab and SUNY Stony Brook.

"Long Island can be the center for (microchip) production and manufacturing," Schumer said. "BNL and Stony Brook are at the cutting-edge of technology."

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, told the Herald there was more in the works for this part of Long Island as well. He's heard chatter about a strong interest in securing a casino, possibly at the Nassau Hub.

But for that to happen, anyone developing it would need to make sure the facility is first acceptable to the community.

"We wouldn't be interested in anything but a first-class hospitality venue with a casino," Blakeman said.

**NRG closes \$215M sale of Astoria power plant to wind developer**

Crain's New York Business

By: Caroline Spivack

1/12/23

NRG Energy has sold its fossil-fuel powered plant in Astoria for more than \$215.4 million to an offshore wind developer, more than a year after the state denied NRG a permit to repower the facility.

**NRG formally filed plans Thursday to sell the 50-year-old plant to the developer of the Beacon Wind project off Long Island, which is a partnership between German energy firm Equinor and multinational oil and gas company BP, city records show. The sale comes after NRG and Beacon Wind Land LLC filed plans with state regulators for the sale in September.**

NRG spokesperson Dave Schrader confirmed to Crain's that "the transaction has closed." The energy company has temporarily leased the land back to continue operating the Astoria facility until its planned May 1 retirement, along with six months to decommission and demolish the plant before Beacon Wind Land takes over on Oct. 31.

**The retirement of the 558 megawatt power plant will make way for an electrical interconnection hub for the wind developer's 1,230 megawatt project located east of Montauk. Lauren Shane, a spokesperson for Beacon Wind, said that state approval of the sale is expected later this month.**

"Pending New York Public Service Commission approval, this purchase will provide the Beacon Wind project with a location to support the future development of the project and will help deliver homegrown, renewable energy to New York City and the surrounding regions," Shane told Crain's. "We look forward to sharing more about our plans for the site in the weeks ahead."

NRG has owned the plant since 1999, originally purchasing the facility from Con Edison. The company recently sought permits to replace its aging infrastructure with a new natural gas-fired generator, but in October 2021 the state Department of Environmental Conservation rejected those plans, citing state climate law in a precedent-setting decision.

That law, the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, calls for New York to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 and 85% by 2050. The law also requires the state to draw all electricity from emissions-free sources by 2040, which mostly rules out the burning of fuels that emit carbon dioxide.

A coalition of environmental advocates and local elected officials had opposed NRG's natural gas proposal and instead urged that the facility be replaced with renewable energy infrastructure. Neighbors refer to the area surrounding the plant as "Asthma Alley" due to its higher-than-average rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses.

**Food & Water Watch Senior New York Organizer Laura Shindell, who lives a short distance from the Astoria facility, praised the forthcoming sale.**

**"The climate movement won a hard-fought victory to keep fossil fuels out of Astoria," said Shindell. "Now, Asthma Alley can become a clean energy hub for New York, bringing good new jobs, not increased pollution."**

**Daniel Chu, the energy planner for the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, on behalf of the PEAK Coalition of advocates, described the forthcoming sale as "a victory for Astoria and all other environmental justice communities that have long maintained enough is enough."**

**"New York is at an impetus where a just transition is no longer just a permitting requirement but an economic reality for a clean future," said Chu.**

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**[NRG Energy Sells Astoria Power Plant to Offshore Wind Company for \\$216M](#)**

**Commercial Observer**

**By: Celia Young**

**1/12/23**

**Offshore wind developer Beacon Wind Land closed on a deal to buy an Astoria, Queens, power plant from NRG Energy for \$215.5 million, with plans to use the site to connect one of its massive wind projects with New York's electrical grid, according to property records made public Thursday.**

The Jan. 6 sale follows a monthslong debate over the future of the fossil fuel-powered plant at 31-01 20th Avenue, which NRG first looked to offload in September, Politico reported.

The planned interconnection hub will link the Consolidated Edison grid with Beacon Wind 1, Beacon's 1,230-megawatt under-construction project in the Atlantic Ocean about 60 miles east of Montauk, N.Y., when it's completed in 2028, according to plans Beacon filed with the state last year.

**"Pending New York Public Service Commission approval, this purchase will provide the Beacon Wind project with a location to support the future development of the project and will help deliver homegrown, renewable energy to New York City and the surrounding regions," a Beacon spokesperson said in a statement.**

NRG is leasing the land back from Beacon to keep its plant up and running until May, when NRG will demolish it, according to a spokesperson for NRG.

Initially, NRG planned to replace the plant with a natural gas-fired generator to comply with New York's recently passed climate laws, but the proposal sparked anger from advocates and elected officials who argued for renewable energy alternatives, Patch reported.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) struck down NRG's proposal in October 2021, arguing it would exceed New York's greenhouse gas emission limits, according to Patch and a representative for the NYSDEC.

NRG purchased the property from Con Edison in 1999 and took out roughly \$381 million in debt from Deutsche Bank on the site at the corner of 15th Avenue and 26th Street in 2021, according to the New York Times and property records.

A representative for Deutsche Bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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#### **New York State of Wind: Future Looks Breezy for Offshore Empire**

**The City NYC**

**By: Samantha Maldonado**

**1/3/23**

While approaching Wainscott Beach on Long Island's South Fork in early December, one could see the most tangible aspect of offshore wind's New York progress even before hearing the crash of waves: three pillars about as tall as the Statue of Liberty, jutting up from the ocean.

They were the legs of the "Jill," a liftboat from the Gulf of Mexico stationed about a third of a mile off the coast of Long Island's South Fork.

The vessel — more of a giant seagoing platform than a ship — provided a station from which workers drilled a tunnel horizontally beneath the beach, making room for a cable that will function as an extension cord to bring to land electricity from an eventual sea-based wind farm.

Previously, the Jill did this kind of job for gas and oil projects, but last month it was used for South Fork Wind, New York's first offshore wind development. The project is expected to power 70,000 homes in East Hampton when the blades of its 12 turbines — electricity-generating windmills — start rotating later this year.

South Fork Wind is poised to become the second offshore commercial wind farm in the United States. So far, Rhode Island is the only state in the nation that has turned its offshore wind dreams into reality with the Block Island Wind Farm, five turbines that produce enough electricity to power 17,000 homes — about a quarter of South Fork’s capacity.

#### ‘The First Wave’

“It’s really important that we finish this on time, that we do a great job, because it’s a signal to the community and to the broader industry,” said Jennifer Garvey, head of New York market strategy at Ørsted, developer of the South Fork project along with Massachusetts-based utility Eversource Energy.

It’s “a trailblazing project for New York, for the industry. It’s the first wave of many,” Garvey told THE CITY on Wainscott Beach this December.

The pioneering effort provides a test case for the possibilities of a wind-powered future for the state and country. Several projects planned over the next few years for New York would expand the scope even further.

Under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 (CLCPA), New York State has committed to developing nine gigawatts of offshore wind-produced electricity by 2035 — enough to power over six million homes, the most ambitious target in the country.

That puts New York at the forefront of an emerging trend along the east coast, where states from Massachusetts to Maryland are preparing to become wind energy producers.

For city dwellers, offshore wind may seem like a pipe dream — far from our shorelines and even further from the present — but the nascent wind farms could deliver clean electricity to the five boroughs, create thousands of jobs and revitalize old industrial areas.

“Although the projects take a number of years to actually be constructed, the benefits really begin to accrue very fast,” said Doreen Harris, president and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). “This is a situation where if you blink your eyes, you miss something.”

#### Energy Goals

In addition to requiring nine gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2035, the state’s climate law calls for six gigawatts of solar by 2025, and three gigawatts of energy storage by 2030.

These lofty targets are critical because CLCPA mandates that New York must get 70% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, and have a carbon-neutral electric grid a decade after that. NYC specifically is also required by local law to green its grid by 2040.

The hope is that reducing the reliance on burning fossil fuels for electricity will result in air-quality improvements that could improve people’s health and decelerate global warming.

It’s a tough proposition, as fossil fuels generate nearly all of the electricity powering New York City.

But the ocean at our doorstep provides a fertile site for building large-scale renewable power projects to generate immense quantities of emissions-free electricity — if the state can indeed develop the projects fast enough.

The Jill motored away from Long Island in late December, after the drilling work for South Fork Wind finished nearly a month before schedule. Other projects, however, are still in the process of permitting and environmental review.

South Fork Wind is a “proof of concept,” according to Fred Zalcman, director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, a coalition of pro-wind power entities.

“It’s the first really large-scale project to be permitted in federal waters. It’s really blazed the trail for the Sunrise, Empire and Beacon Wind projects that will soon follow,” Zalcman said. “It’s also helping to begin to lay the foundation for a regional industry.”

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On the heels of South Fork Wind, an offshore wind project called Sunrise Wind is slated to be operating by 2025 and will power about 600,000 homes — also developed by Ørsted and Eversource. After that, three more projects off the southern coast of Long Island — known as Empire Wind 1 and 2 and Beacon Wind — are expected to become operational in 2026, 2027 and 2028, providing power for about two million homes.

Those last three projects, by wind developer Equinor and oil and gas company BP, will directly serve New York City’s electricity needs, plugging into substations in Long Island, Gowanus and Astoria.

Those projects will represent about half of the state’s current goal of nine gigawatts of offshore wind power. In July, NYSERDA opened a process to solicit applications for another offshore wind project of at least two gigawatts, to be awarded early this year.

Beyond that, the offshore plans may balloon as the state charts out how to meet its climate mandates. In mid-December, environmental and labor groups sent a letter to Gov. Kathy Hochul, calling on her to significantly increase offshore wind targets.

#### A Gust of Jobs

In the meantime, New York City is the center of a flurry of activity to build the supply chain and prepare the labor market to staff the industry.

NYSERDA estimated that developing offshore wind will create more than 10,000 jobs across the state, from planning the projects to assembling and building them, to maintaining them. By 2030, the state predicts about 6,000 people will work in offshore wind — mostly in construction and manufacturing — compared to just 400 in 2021.

Within the city, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has committed \$191 million to efforts “to ensure that when construction does actually begin, when these wind farms are actually operational, that

New York City folks can really benefit from these investments,” said Nse Esema, EDC’s vice president of smart and sustainable cities.

EDC fund recipient LaGuardia Community College, for instance, is one of several public institutions developing an offshore wind certification program so students can land roles operating and maintaining wind farms. The program will include Global Wind Organization safety training, with lessons on working at heights — turbines can be upwards of 800 feet tall — and surviving at sea, among other skills.

Hannah Weinstock, LaGuardia’s senior director of workforce development, told THE CITY she expects courses will start in late 2023 or early 2024.

“We’re talking to the developers and the manufacturers. We want to line up the training to align with when they’re ready to hire these jobs,” Weinstock said. “I’m hoping that these will be really well-paid, quality jobs and that we’ll have opportunities for folks who may have been left out in the past of the economy to get into the middle class and support their families.”

LaGuardia is also working with Kingsborough Community College and New York City College of Technology to plan a curriculum designed to expose teens to the industry and allow them to explore the related jobs, starting in mid-2023, according to Weinstock.

Around the state, a network of ports will be the backbone for much of the physical and economic activity supporting the wind industry.

**Sunset Park’s South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, leased for use by Equinor, is gearing up to become a hub for operations and maintenance of the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind farms — and possibly others in the region. Construction is set to begin by 2023’s end and will also bring a learning center for job training.**

**Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of Sunset Park-based climate justice organization UPROSE — a key player in securing the deal with Equinor — is organizing to ensure the communities that have endured environmental hardships can participate in and reap the benefits of the industry.**

“How do we navigate our way through a future that’s so uncertain? Well, the best thing to do is to create deep and meaningful partnerships with people on the ground, to make sure that there’s deep democracy and that we’re creating community wealth,” Yeampierre said. “It can’t be thought of in a silo, as simply an economic opportunity. It has to be thought of as a model of what a just transition can look like.”

The EDC has launched an initiative to support minority- and women-owned businesses’ involvement in the offshore industry. With Equinor, it is accepting applications for grants to foster training and education for “historically marginalized” communities. Equinor and other partners in June opened up a program to help start-ups expand wind-related tech solutions.

#### Clear Sailing

On Staten Island, the EDC contracted with a developer to transform the city-owned Rossville Municipal Site — home to two liquefied natural gas storage tanks — to a place where workers will manufacture and

assemble turbines. And just south of Rossville, below the Outerbridge Crossing, another facility for assembling wind farm components is in the works: Construction of the Arthur Kill Terminal should begin in the fall if it's granted necessary permits, with a plan to open in 2025.

"If you look at the demand up and down the east coast for offshore wind port space, it far outstrips the supply that will be there," said Boone Davis, CEO of Atlantic Offshore Terminals, which is developing Arthur Kill Terminal.

That site, for which the company received a \$48 million federal grant, is the only port in the New York Harbor that's not height-restricted by bridges, which means turbines and other large parts can be put together to the maximum extent possible and transported out to sea for the massive wind catchers.

Time will tell how the promises play out, but back on the sands of Wainscott Beach, with her back against the wind, Garvey of Ørsted appraised what's already been done.

"It's awesome — are you kidding? I've been working on this project since 2017," she said. "I think it's really come to fruition in the way we explained that it would."

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**Offshore wind tower impact in Capital Region goes beyond the Port of Albany**

**Albany Times Union**

**By: Rick Karlin**

**12/15/22**

TROY — It's clear that the offshore wind tower factory planned for the Port of Albany will create jobs and opportunities for tradespeople who can weld, fasten and assemble the giant towers that will be built there.

The factory will be just one piece in a whole offshore wind ecosystem that needs to develop in the next few years.

But who would have thought that upstate New York quarry operators who mine rock and shale would be part of that supply chain as well?

They may very well be, since construction of the massive wind turbine towers, which will be installed off the coast of Long Island, will need specific types of rock to help anchor the devices.

Also playing a potential role will be companies that build aerospace components, electric circuitry, manage fisheries -- all part of a raft of ancillary services ranging from trailer rentals to catering to trucking companies.

**With that in mind, Equinor, the Norwegian-based contractor for two major offshore projects, held a supply chain expo Tuesday at Hudson Valley Community College.**

**"We're trying to be proactive," said Amanda Schoen, director of industry relations for the wind power developer.**

While the actual wind towers will be in the Atlantic Ocean, more than 150 miles south of Albany, the Capital Region will play a major role, given the planned tower factory. The towers, which will be hundreds of feet high, will be built at the Port of Albany and then shipped by barge down the Hudson River to a special marine terminal in Brooklyn before going to their final locations off the coast.

**Panel discussions during Tuesday's expo were part cheerleading, part advice-giving to would-be contractors. One discussion featured Equinor's main subcontractors, including Nexans, which is building the cables to carry the electricity from the offshore towers; Marmen, part of the Marmen/Welcon partnership building the towers in the Port of Albany; Vestas, which is supplying generating equipment, and Edison Chouest, which will provide the vessels taking workers and parts to and from the tower sites.**

Also on hand were local lawmakers and government officials who spoke about the various training programs available for contractors who need employees to work in this emerging industry.

"If you want workers, it's Hudson Valley," said Roger Ramsammy, president of HVCC who noted that a newly established welding center has tripled enrollment within a year.

Trade union representatives were also at the expo, since the vast majority of this work will have project labor agreements or promises to employ union shops.

"We are more often than not, partners," said Joseph Canovas, special counsel for the AFL-CIO.

There was broad agreement that the construction, installation and servicing of the massive offshore towers was a long-term proposition and the main contractors were looking for suppliers willing to make a long-term commitment.

"You have to have a healthy respect for the timeline," said Emmanuel Martin Lauzier, director of business development for Nexans.

"You have to be steady."

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**Equinor Launches Expo to Bring New Suppliers into Offshore Wind Supply Chain**

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**12/14/22**

**Equinor and partner bp launched the first of three Industry Supplier Expos with an inaugural event in the Capitol Region at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC), in Troy New York, yesterday. More than 80 manufacturers attended the expo which is designed to help local and regional manufacturers participate in New York's new offshore wind industry and connect them directly with Equinor and its key suppliers. The event was also attended by Assemblyman John McDonald from the 108th District and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy from the 109th District.**

The Industry Supplier Expos are part of Equinor's efforts to facilitate the growth and sustainability of a New York-focused supply chain to sell components and services in the offshore wind industry for decades to come. The series offers a springboard for New York businesses to find out more about working in the

offshore wind industry and prepare for future industry opportunities. The supplier expos also seek to foster involvement from minority- and women –owned businesses and service-disabled veteran owned businesses.

“The Supply Chain Expo is a great opportunity for New York businesses to learn how to get involved in this exciting industry. Offshore wind is still new to the United States, and Equinor and bp are committed to helping create a new and vibrant regional supply chain. These events will help us connect with a variety of manufacturers, especially those in adjacent sectors like aerospace, maritime, and heavy industries that are well-positioned to join the offshore wind ecosystem.” said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US.

At the expo, attendees heard from suppliers and industry leaders who are working with the Empire and Beacon Wind projects and participated in one on one “matchmaking” to find out more about how they can become a part of the supply chain. The second and third supplier events will occur in New York City and Long Island respectively in 2023.

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA said, “NYSERDA is working collaboratively to cultivate a New York-centered U.S. supply chain and develop clear pathways to well-paying, long-term careers in the offshore wind industry. This industry supplier roadshow hosted by Equinor and bp is another opportunity for businesses from the Capital Region and beyond to make connections with manufacturers and capitalize on prospects to join this growing ecosystem right here in New York.”

Key suppliers engaged in panels where they spoke about the importance of building local supply chains for a new industry.

“Nexans is committed to building a local and sustainable supply chain for offshore wind and are excited to participate in Equinor’s Supply Chain Expo to learn more about the opportunities in New York,” said Bjorn Ladegard of Nexans.

“GLDD is excited to share our success story of a U.S. firm moving into the Offshore Wind Industry, especially with the support of Equinor and NYSERDA,” said Michael Greenwood of Great Lakes Dredge and Dock.

“Edison Chouest Offshore are proud to play an important role in the prestigious Empire Wind I/II development by designing, building, owning and operating a US Flagged Service Operations Vessel. The deployment of offshore wind farms in the US is a fantastic opportunity to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions utilizing a sustainable resource but also providing New York State organizations and residents opportunities to engage in the burgeoning industry,” said Michael Braid, Vice President of Renewables for Edison Chouest.

“We applaud Equinor and New York for their leadership and commitment to developing the US offshore wind industry. We look forward to building a sustainable supply chain in New York and deploying our V236-15 MW turbine to bring the 2.1 GW Empire Wind offshore project to operation. This event is a key step to collectively build a robust value chain and deliver reliable jobs and lasting benefits to New York State,” said Amy McGinty, Vice President of Offshore Construction and Operations, Vestas North America.

"Marmen Welcon is excited to be a part of bringing the off-shore wind industry to the Port of Albany. We look forward to the many partnerships with the community and businesses that this project will provide, as well as contributing to the development of the local workforce to support this exciting industry," said Aimee Mairitello of Marmen Welcon.

Future supplier expos will take place in New York City at the CUNY Graduate Center on February 7th and on Long Island at Farmingdale State College on March 10th.

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**The 2022 Responsible 100**

**City and State New York**

**12/12/22**

**PUBLISHER'S SECTION**

New York, much like the nation as a whole, is facing myriad challenges: the economic anxiety spurred by rising inflation, the volatility wrought by climate change, an unending coronavirus pandemic, a dispiriting rise in hate crimes, the scorched-earth political warfare that erodes our democratic norms – the list goes on and on. Yet, there remain reasons for optimism, especially as plenty of New Yorkers are tackling head-on these crises that threaten our society.

Each year, City & State puts a spotlight on 100 exceptional individuals who are quietly putting in the time and effort to help address and overcome these and other challenges – and, fundamentally, to assist their most vulnerable neighbors. These business, government, nonprofit and advocacy leaders, carefully selected from hundreds of nominations, display both the idealism that underpins the belief that change is possible and a realistic understanding of the dedication required to effectuate real and enduring change. In short, this is a group that illustrates what it means to be socially responsible.

For each honoree on this list, we asked a few questions: What does your job entail and why do you enjoy the work you do? What does social responsibility mean to you – and how do you achieve it in your work? What's the best advice you've ever received? We took the most compelling excerpts, edited for length and style, to paint a portrait of each honoree, in their own words.

We're pleased to introduce the outstanding individuals of The Responsible 100.

**Siri Espedal Kindem**

**Outgoing President, Equinor Wind US, Equinor**

Job description

**Over the past few years as president of Equinor Wind US, we've worked to not just build transformational projects, but a whole new offshore wind industry, beginning right here in New York. The Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects will power over 2 million homes with clean renewable energy and will also provide a host of economic benefits to the state and the people of New York.**

Defining social responsibility

A key value of ours is that we prioritize not just what we do, but how we do it. And that's why we've had such a strong focus on the ground of engaging with communities where we're working, hearing the issues that matter most, and understanding how we can work together not just as a developer, but as a partner.

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**[Industry Supplier Expos Announced for Empire Wind and Beacon Wind Projects](#)**

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**12/6/22**

**Equinor and bp, will kick-off a three-part Industry Supplier roadshow with an inaugural event in the Capitol Region at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC), in Troy New York, on December 13, beginning with registration at 8:00 AM. The roadshow is designed to help local and regional manufacturers participate in New York's new offshore wind industry and provide them with the opportunity to directly connect them with Equinor and its key suppliers.**

Through the Industry Supplier Expos, Equinor is facilitating the growth and sustainability of a New York-focused supply chain to supply and service the offshore wind industry for decades to come. The series offers a springboard for New York businesses to find out more about working in the offshore wind industry and prepare for future industry opportunities. The second and third supplier events will occur in New York City and Long Island, respectively.

"The Supply Chain Expo is a great opportunity for New York businesses to learn how to get involved in this exciting industry. Offshore wind is still new to the United States, and Equinor is committed to helping create a new, burgeoning supply chain. The Supplier Expos are designed to help us connect with a variety of manufacturers, especially those in adjacent sectors like aerospace, maritime, and heavy industries that are well-positioned to join the offshore wind ecosystem," said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US.

Through the supplier expos, Equinor also seeks to foster involvement in the supply chain from Minority- and women-owned businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. Key suppliers will include Nexans, Vestas, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock, Marmen and Welcon, Edison Chouest, and more.

Companies are encouraged to register for the first Supplier Expo at HVCC in Troy on December 13 here. Pre-registered attendees may attend short, one to one 'matchmaker' sessions to introduce and share their capabilities with project representatives.

Future supplier expos will take place in New York City at the CUNY Graduate Center on February 7th and on Long Island at Farmingdale State College on March 10th.

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**[Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund from Equinor offers \\$5M in grants for New Yorkers](#)**

**Brooklyn Paper**

**By: Ximena Del Cerro**

**11/17/22**

**Equinor, the Norwegian company leading the construction of the wind farm hub off of Sunset Park, is calling on New Yorkers in the industry to apply for grants of up to \$900,000. The \$5 million program aims to help fund wind power-related businesses based the Big Apple.**

Officials hope the grants will incentivize the creation of jobs and strengthen education and training in the clean energy field — and they're open to just about any business or organization with initiatives to foster innovation that contributes to the growth of the offshore wind ecosystem.

Equinor expects the funds to go small businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, officials said at a Nov. 15 press conference at Brooklyn Grange.

**"This initiative will help spur a new pipeline of creative ideas and talented people from across the city," said Equinor Wind US President Molly Morris. The fund is one of her first initiatives in the role.**

New York City has already committed \$191 million to offshore wind projects — including \$57 million for the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal project, slated to transform the shipping, warehousing, and manufacturing space into an operations and maintenance hub for offshore wind farms.

The SBMT project is one of five related to offshore wind currently in development in New York. In total, they are expected to power more than 2.4 million homes, and bring a combined economic impact of \$21.1 billion to the state.

Equinor's British partner BP and the nonprofit quasi-governmental New York City Economic Development Corporation teamed up to launch the new grant program.

**"We're investing to support equity within the offshore-wind sector, help people develop skills for the future energy system and build greater workforce resilience," said Dave Lawler, chairman and president of BP America.**

**Equinor's projects are planned to provide New York State with 3.3 gigawatts of energy—enough to power nearly two million homes. Platforms for off-site wind turbine staging for Equinor and other developers will be built on the 39th Street Pier in Brooklyn. The agreement states the development will be a low-emissions facility.**

Operations are expected to start in 2024 once the permitting processes are completed, according to Lauren Shane, Equinor's communications manager.

**"These are the green jobs that will not only ensure that we meet our city's climate goals of 100% clean electricity by 2040, but will also meet our goals for a just economic recovery," said Councilmember Amanda Farias, chair of the city's Committee on Economic Development.**

In the meantime, local electeds were among those to applaud Equinor's new funding initiative.

**"The Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund is bringing an integrated approach to environmental justice in Brooklyn," Borough President Antonio Reynoso said in a statement.**

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**[Brooklyn waterfront poised for new job growth in offshore wind assembly](#)**

**Brooklyn Daily Eagle**  
**11/16/22**

SUNSET PARK — A fund to promote workforce growth and inclusivity in New York's offshore wind industry has been launched, impacting most directly the community of Sunset Park where wind system assembly and workforce recruiting will be based.

Equinor — one of the largest wind developers in the world — and BP, in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force (SPTF), announced Tuesday the creation of the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund.

It's a \$5 million clean energy community grant program designed to support sustainable growth, workforce development, empowerment of underserved communities, and climate justice in New York City's emerging offshore wind ecosystem.

The fund will provide grants that help spur job education and training, provide historically marginalized communities access to workforce and small business opportunities, and assist minority and women-owned business enterprises in New York City to foster innovation that contributes to the growth of the offshore wind ecosystem.

**The Ecosystem Fund is governed by a Strategy Development Committee responsible for creating investment strategies that align with the Fund's objectives, and a Selection Committee that will help evaluate and select funding proposals. Both include representatives of the Sunset Park Task Force, which advocates to maximize the economic potential and community links between Sunset Park residents and the waterfront, NYCEDC and Equinor.**

One of the largest wind developers in the world, Equinor is leading the Ecosystem Fund initiative on behalf of its 50-50 strategic partnership with bp in the US. Together, the companies are developing the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects, which will provide enough renewable energy to power more than two million New York homes. Empire Wind, located off the southern coast of Long Island, will provide over two gigawatts of offshore wind energy, and Beacon Wind will provide an additional 1.2 gigawatts of power.

**"We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Ecosystem Fund that will provide important funding to help develop the future of the clean energy economy in New York. This initiative will help spur a new pipeline of creative ideas and talented people from across the city, especially from underserved communities, to build careers in this exciting new field," said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US. "It also aligns with our work with the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and the community of Sunset Park in Brooklyn to revitalize the industrial port facility and transform it into a major staging and assembly port for offshore wind turbines that will last well into the future."**

Dave Lawler, Chairman and President of bp America, said: "bp recognizes the importance of a just energy transition that delivers quality jobs, supports the livelihoods of local communities and prepares workers for new opportunities in the energy sector. That's why we're investing to support equity within the offshore-wind sector, help people develop skills for the future energy system and build greater workforce resilience."

"We are thrilled to partner with Equinor in the creation of the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund, which will be a critical program helping to advance New York City's Offshore Wind vision," said NYCEDC President and CEO Andrew Kimball. "This fund is the result of a great public private partnership that will help ensure the green economy is accessible to all New Yorkers."

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA said, "NYSERDA's partnership with Equinor includes three of New York's five offshore wind projects currently in development—part of the largest active portfolio in the U.S., that will anchor this game-changing renewable resource here in the Empire State and bring benefits to all New Yorkers – especially those who have historically been left behind.

This Ecosystem Fund will support communities like Sunset Park with a pathway to provide historical knowledge and local expertise for workforce training and development initiatives—and guide community investments that will best serve their neighborhoods and the broader development of offshore wind projects."

"The Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund is bringing an integrated approach to environmental justice in Brooklyn," said Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. "Not only will these grants accelerate our clean energy efforts, but they will also open up green careers to new generations and empower small businesses owned by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans to participate in the offshore wind industry. Thank you to Equinor, NYCEDC, and SPTF for the thoughtful approach to New York's clean and green future."

"As we work to create a regional hub of offshore wind production and logistics at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, it is essential we prepare the local workforce to build and operate it. The principle of a just transition is that we focus on equity and include underserved and environmental justice communities in our energy transition. Toward this end, I was also pleased to secure Department of Labor funding for a local workforce development program for climate adaptation manufacturing. As we retool our economy for green energy, I am pleased that this initiative and the work of NYCEDC, Sunset Park Task Force, and Equinor will ensure additional resources for a more just transition as we prepare the local workforce to have real manufacturing jobs right here in Brooklyn. With all levels of government, industry and the community working together, the future can be bright," said Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D- NY).

"New York City's green energy sector continues to grow stronger with today's announcement of \$5 million dedicated to supporting sustainable and equitable growth in our local communities. These are the green jobs that will not only ensure that we meet our city's climate goals of 100% clean electricity by 2040, but will also meet our goals for a just economic recovery. As the Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Economic Development, I am excited to see the attention that the NYCEDC, Equinor, and the Sunset Park Task Force are paying to the intersectional needs of our workforce. To recover equitably we must put our Black, Brown, and minority communities first- this grant does just that by making sure our Offshore Wind Sector is focusing on M/WBEs, SDVOBs and environmental justice communities. Thank you to President Andrew Kimball, Equinor, and the Sunset Park Task Force for your leadership and collaboration on this important grant," said Councilmember Amanda Farias, Chair of Committee on Economic Development.

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our city. These types of public/private partnerships play an instrumental role in making New York City greener," said Council Member James F. Gennaro, Chair

of the New York City Council's Committee on Environmental Protection. "I applaud Equinor Wind, NYCEDC and Sunset Park Task Force for this much-needed investment in clean energy."

"This grant program is a win for climate justice: growing our city's green economy and supporting good jobs while empowering this community," said Kizzy Charles-Guzmán, Executive Director Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice. "Offshore wind is crucial to reducing our city's dependence on fossil fuels and reaching city and state clean energy goals, and we are so pleased that this fund will prioritize frontline communities like Sunset Park."

"Programs like this show New York City's great progress toward becoming a world-renowned offshore wind hub," said Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection and Chief Climate Officer. "The Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund moves us closer to achieving the city's long-term sustainability goals while creating economic opportunities that revitalize environmental justice communities."

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### **\$5 Million Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund Announced**

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**11/15/22**

**Equinor and bp, in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Sunset Park Task Force (SPTF), today announced the creation of the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund, a \$5 million clean energy community grant program designed to support sustainable growth, workforce development, empowerment of underserved communities, and climate justice in New York City's emerging offshore wind ecosystem.**

The fund will provide grants that help spur job education and training, provide historically marginalized communities access to workforce and small business opportunities, and assist minority and women-owned business enterprises in New York City to foster innovation that contributes to the growth of the offshore wind ecosystem.

The Ecosystem Fund is governed by a Strategy Development Committee responsible for creating investment strategies that align with the Fund's objectives, and a Selection Committee that will help evaluate and select funding proposals. Both include representatives of the Sunset Park Task Force, which advocates to maximize the economic potential and community links between Sunset Park residents and the waterfront, NYCEDC and Equinor.

One of the largest wind developers in the world, Equinor is leading the Ecosystem Fund initiative on behalf of its 50-50 strategic partnership with bp in the US. Together, the companies are developing the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects, which will provide enough renewable energy to power more than two million New York homes. Empire Wind, located off the southern coast of Long Island, will provide over two gigawatts of offshore wind energy, and Beacon Wind will provide an additional 1.2 gigawatts of power.

**"We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Ecosystem Fund that will provide important funding to help develop the future of the clean energy economy in New York. This initiative will help spur a new pipeline of creative ideas and talented people from across the city, especially from underserved**

communities, to build careers in this exciting new field,” said Molly Morris, President of Equinor Wind US. “It also aligns with our work with the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and the community of Sunset Park in Brooklyn to revitalize the industrial port facility and transform it into a major staging and assembly port for offshore wind turbines that will last well into the future.”

Dave Lawler, Chairman and President of bp America, said: “bp recognizes the importance of a just energy transition that delivers quality jobs, supports the livelihoods of local communities and prepares workers for new opportunities in the energy sector. That’s why we’re investing to support equity within the offshore-wind sector, help people develop skills for the future energy system and build greater workforce resilience.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Equinor in the creation of the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund, which will be a critical program helping to advance New York City’s Offshore Wind vision,” said NYCEDC President and CEO Andrew Kimball. “This fund is the result of a great public private partnership that will help ensure the green economy is accessible to all New Yorkers.”

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA said, “NYSERDA’s partnership with Equinor includes three of New York’s five offshore wind projects currently in development—part of the largest active portfolio in the U.S., that will anchor this game-changing renewable resource here in the Empire State and bring benefits to all New Yorkers – especially those who have historically been left behind. This Ecosystem Fund will support communities like Sunset Park with a pathway to provide historical knowledge and local expertise for workforce training and development initiatives—and guide community investments that will best serve their neighborhoods and the broader development of offshore wind projects.”

“The Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund is bringing an integrated approach to environmental justice in Brooklyn,” said Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. “Not only will these grants accelerate our clean energy efforts, but they will also open up green careers to new generations and empower small businesses owned by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans to participate in the offshore wind industry. Thank you to Equinor, NYCEDC, and SPTF for the thoughtful approach to New York’s clean and green future.”

“As we work to create a regional hub of offshore wind production and logistics at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, it is essential we prepare the local workforce to build and operate it. The principle of a just transition is that we focus on equity and include underserved and environmental justice communities in our energy transition. Toward this end, I was also pleased to secure Department of Labor funding for a local workforce development program for climate adaptation manufacturing. As we retool our economy for green energy, I am pleased that this initiative and the work of NYCEDC, Sunset Park Task Force, and Equinor will ensure additional resources for a more just transition as we prepare the local workforce to have real manufacturing jobs right here in Brooklyn. With all levels of government, industry and the community working together, the future can be bright,” said Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY).

“New York City’s green energy sector continues to grow stronger with today’s announcement of \$5 million dedicated to supporting sustainable and equitable growth in our local communities. These are the green jobs that will not only ensure that we meet our city’s climate goals of 100% clean electricity by 2040, but will also meet our goals for a just economic recovery. As the Chair of the New York City Council’s Committee on Economic Development, I am excited to see the attention that the NYCEDC, Equinor, and the Sunset Park Task Force are paying to the intersectional needs of our workforce. To recover equitably

we must put our Black, Brown, and minority communities first- this grant does just that by making sure our Offshore Wind Sector is focusing on M/WBEs, SDVOBs and environmental justice communities. Thank you to President Andrew Kimball, Equinor, and the Sunset Park Task Force for your leadership and collaboration on this important grant," said Councilmember Amanda Farias, Chair of Committee on Economic Development.

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our city. These types of public/private partnerships play an instrumental role in making New York City greener," said Council Member James F. Gennaro, Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Environmental Protection. "I applaud Equinor Wind, NYCEDC and Sunset Park Task Force for this much-needed investment in clean energy."

"This grant program is a win for climate justice: growing our city's green economy and supporting good jobs while empowering this community," said Kizzy Charles-Guzmán, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice. "Offshore wind is crucial to reducing our city's dependence on fossil fuels and reaching city and state clean energy goals, and we are so pleased that this fund will prioritize frontline communities like Sunset Park."

"Programs like this show New York City's great progress toward becoming a world-renowned offshore wind hub," said Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection and Chief Climate Officer. "The Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund moves us closer to achieving the city's long-term sustainability goals while creating economic opportunities that revitalize environmental justice communities."

Further information on the Ecosystem Fund, guidance on applications, and matching opportunities for collaborating with other applicants will be provided in the coming weeks.

An online site for applications opened on November 14th. For more information about the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund, visit <https://www.empirewind.com/ecosystem-fund>

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#### The 2022 Long Island Power 100

**City and State New York**

**By: City & State**

**11/7/22**

There's a new generation of leadership ascending on Long Island. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman knocked Laura Curran out of office last year, and Republicans flipped both district attorney offices from blue to red as well. At least three members of Congress – Lee Zeldin, Tom Suozzi and Kathleen Rice – are wrapping up their time in Washington, D.C., although Zeldin does have a shot at becoming the state's next governor. And in the state Legislature, Todd Kaminsky has already departed the state Senate, state Sen. James Gaughan is following him and a few more Democratic state senators are in tough reelection battles that will conclude on Election Day.

City & State's Long Island Power 100 – researched City & State staff in partnership with writer Lon Cohen – tracks all these changes and assesses the new power structure in Nassau and Suffolk counties. This list features not just elected officials, but also government appointees, business CEOs, hospital executives, attorneys, union chiefs, nonprofit leaders and many other influential individuals shaping the future of Long Island.

**67. Harrison Feuer**

**New York Director of Public Affairs Equinor**

In January, veteran government communications professional Harrison Feuer joined Equinor, the Norwegian energy company that's a big player in the U.S. renewables industry. Earlier this year, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm joined Gov. Kathy Hochul to tout finalized state contracts for the Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects, which Equinor is partnering on with BP. Feuer brings a wealth of Long Island governmental experience, including with Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman, then-Rep. Steve Israel and Assembly Member Charles Lavine.

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**Hundreds turn out for Fall Festival**

**LI Herald**

**By: James Bernstein**

**10/13/22**

Not only was fall in the air in Long Beach this past weekend, but it was also on the ground at Kennedy Plaza outside City Hall, and it was in the pumpkin patch, and the Ferris wheel and the carousel and the food and trinket booths.

It was Long Beach's Fall Festival, which returned after a two-year hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic. There were masks here and there, but there was more of a relaxed and casual feeling among the hundreds who attended the Saturday and Sunday events and the Halloween Parade.

"Yesterday was summer," said Zoe Koegel. "Today it's fall."

Judging by the hundreds of pumpkins in a large pit in the middle of the Plaza, and the masks and costumes many of the children were wearing, it was certainly fall.

The Festival brought out members of the Long Beach City Council, as well as candidates for political office. Vicky Shaw, the administrator of the Park Avenue Extended Care facility, across the street from the Plaza, had her 10-year-old son, Chase, in hand.

"We're here to support the city and all of the kids who turn out," Shaw said.

Chase agreed: "It's nice to see everyone out and about," he said.

Mike Jordan, president of the Long Beach Kiwanis, used to occasion to drum up new members. He wasn't signing up too many people., but he was glad to see the growing crowds as the day wore on.

"Look at all the vendors you've got here" Jordan said. "You can do your Christmas shopping here. You can get ready for Thanksgiving." Indeed, there were apple and cherry pies for sale.

Liz Nachman, the Herald's Person of the Year last year, was selling tee shirts. She spends much of her time raising money for the homeless and those suffering from food insecurity.

For us vendors, we've got a lot of parents shopping for their kids. This is our first year back in two years. "It's so nice to see people back out and having a good time."

There was a serious side to all this too. The city hopes to at least break even on the Festival, instead of losing money. **As such, Long Beach asked Equinor to be a prime sponsor. The international energy firm hopes to play a large role in the city's future.**

The construction of its proposed Empire Wind, a \$3 billion wind farm project that includes plans to run an underground cable through Long Beach to a substation near the E.F. Barrett Power Station in Island Park, is still pending approval. A Jack-Up Barge was built and began operating in the ocean off Lido Beach in January, taking samples of the soil underwater to test its strength, in order to determine the best location for the cable to run under the barrier island.

**Equinor had a booth, manned by employees Susan Lienau and Brian Young.**

**"We're here to support the community," Lienau said, while handing out free Equinor tee shirts and other trinkets. She said visitors to the booth seemed to favor the project, but some had questions about where the company will place the underground cable.**

**"Equinor wants to thank the City of Long Beach for welcoming us to be part of this year's festival," said Harrison Feuer, the company's New York director of public affairs, said last week. "I also want to recognize that the city is celebrating its 100th year and 24th year of this festival. So we're in a special place during a very special time."**

The construction of the wind farm is far off. Just over a year ago, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management began its studies of the construction and operation of the project, which is expected to take about two years, and it would need approval from New York State as well. Work on Empire Wind would begin no sooner than 2025.

The festival's highlights included a pumpkin patch filled with thousands of gourds for families to choose from. A pumpkin bounce house, a carousel, hayrides and rides in fire engines will also return after the pandemic hiatus, as will the children's activity tent, with fall-themed crafts. There will also be Long Beach centennial-themed attractions.

But the day was all about fun. Five-year-old Michael Sosa could barely wait to get into the red bounce house. His mom, Sydney Sosa, a former U.S. Marine who recently transferred to serve in the Army, said she came from their home in Island Park.

"I wanted to spend more time with him," she said of her son, who was hungering for a hot dog.

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**A Brooklyn neighborhood's long fight for green jobs is paying off**

**Canary Media**

**By: Maria Gallucci**

**10/13/22**

A sprawling concrete lot overlooks the blue-gray bay in Brooklyn, New York, a smattering of weeds bursting through the cracks in the pavement. Cargo ships and orange ferries breeze by the lot's empty piers. Behind them, the torch of the Statue of Liberty shimmers in the distance.

Farther up the shore sits a recycling facility, a cement plant, garbage transfer stations and three fossil fuel “peaker” power plants. Truck-clogged Third Avenue and an elevated crumbling highway separate the gritty waterfront from the steep residential streets of Sunset Park, a mainly working-class neighborhood of Asian, Latino and immigrant communities.

This stretch of waterfront once bustled with the unloading and collecting of cargo, including imported cars and thousands of tons of Nigerian cocoa beans bound for chocolate-making factories. But in the 1990s, shipping activity shifted to other ports, leaving the piers vacant.

For Elizabeth Yeampierre, the empty space holds enormous potential — a chance to build something better than what came before.

Yeampierre is a long-time resident of Sunset Park and the executive director of UPROSE, a grassroots organization that serves the neighborhood. UPROSE and other local groups have pushed for years to revitalize the dormant waterfront. Not by building luxury apartments and retail shops, which they say would hasten gentrification, and not by adding dirty factories that further pollute the air — but by developing clean-energy industries in their own backyard.

Maritime areas can be “vehicles for addressing our climate needs, for creating community wealth and addressing the legacy of historical harm in our communities,” Yeampierre says.

That vision is about to be realized here in Sunset Park.

**The 73-acre South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will soon become a hub for storing and assembling offshore wind turbines. Equinor, the Norwegian energy giant, and its partner BP plan to build a staging ground for the sprawling wind projects they’re developing in the Atlantic Ocean. The offshore wind farms will be among the first to appear in U.S. waters. The Sunset Park facility will be among the first of its kind on U.S. shores.**

Yeampierre says she’s so excited about the project that she almost wants to pinch herself in disbelief. Still, she adds, the community has much to do to prepare. UPROSE belongs to a local coalition called the Sunset Park Task Force that’s working to ensure local residents are trained and ready for jobs in offshore wind — a sector that’s only just emerging in the United States.

**Alba Pena, Equinor’s community engagement manager in Brooklyn, says the company expects to create around 1,200 jobs in construction and operations once it starts building the hub in 2024. “This is a community that has been overlooked in the past and that is very passionate about climate justice,” she says of Sunset Park. “What we hear from them is, ‘We want to be at the table.’”**

A green-industry dream takes hold in the wake of disaster

Some 131,000 people live in the tightly packed apartment units, aging brownstones and tidy row houses of Sunset Park. Avenues lined with fish markets and noodle shops in the area’s Chinatown run parallel to

roads brimming with Mexican taquerías, Peruvian chicken spots and Ecuadorian food trucks. Repair shops crammed with electric bicycles and mopeds serve the many app-based delivery workers who live in the neighborhood. A leafy hilltop park offers a respite from the rumbling industry down below.

In 2012, residents of New York City received a brutal wake-up call with the arrival of Hurricane Sandy, which struck the U.S. East Coast on October 29. Although Sunset Park was spared the worst of the deadly storm, the neighborhood next door suffered extreme flooding. Thousands of residents in Red Hook went weeks without heat and power, including at the largest public-housing complex in Brooklyn. Inundated roads and damaged subway lines made travel across the city difficult.

Even as residents were still clearing debris and pumping out soggy basements, UPROSE began holding neighborhood meetings on how to prepare for the next climate-fueled disaster. These early efforts to adapt to climate change involved enlisting “block captains” to learn about climate resiliency and serve as point people during emergencies. Volunteers also mapped the local businesses that store industrial chemicals at risk of leaking in a storm, an effort that led to better safety protocols.

Over time, organizers and community members began discussing not just storm recovery and resiliency but also the root cause of climate change — the emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases, the vast majority of which come from burning oil, gas and coal.

“We realized that, as we are moving toward more superstorms and more clear impacts of the climate crisis, that we have to move toward green energy,” recalls Alexa Avilés, a community activist and New York City council member who represents and lives in Sunset Park.

UPROSE and local solar companies worked to develop the neighborhood’s first community solar project. And a new vision for the abandoned waterfront took shape: Businesses could use the empty maritime areas to manufacture or assemble clean-energy technologies like solar panels and wind turbines. Electric trucks and vessels could recharge their batteries from the waterfront’s expanded electrical infrastructure.

Avilés says residents began to contemplate a world in which they didn’t have to choose between well-paying jobs at polluting factories, or derelict spaces but cleaner air. “We felt like no, we want oxygen and a good wage,” she adds. “We deserve both.”

Then, in 2015, an opportunity emerged. The New York City Economic Development Corporation announced it was seeking proposals to fill the 73 acres of empty space at the Sunset Park waterfront.

The nonprofit corporation cast a wide net; any kind of cargo activity might do. But soon after, New York state officials began outlining ambitious goals to develop renewable energy across the state — including offshore wind power, which for densely populated coastal cities is one of the few available opportunities to build out renewables.

Offshore wind companies, including Equinor, began reaching out to community groups like UPROSE and local business leaders with plans to transform the vacant terminal. Developers would need a place to store, assemble and repair the enormous blades and towers of offshore wind turbines — some of which stand nearly 900 feet tall — before hauling them out to sea. Specialized vessels carrying turbine parts and crew members would need to load, unload and refuel at the piers.

At the same time, a separate effort to commercialize parts of the waterfront was getting underway: The owner of a neighboring development called Industry City was proposing a \$1 billion expansion that would potentially surround the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal with high-end hotels and luxury retail shops.

Proponents said the expansion plan could create as many as 20,000 jobs. Critics argued the megadevelopment risked raising property values in Sunset Park in exchange for adding mostly low-wage retail positions. They also worried it would threaten the development of green industrial activities. At neighborhood meetings and city hearings, climate advocates and progressive politicians railed against the plan.

"This rezoning could exacerbate real estate pressures, displacement, rising rents, congestion, pollution and forever shift the nature of the waterfront away from manufacturing to commercial tourism," U.S. Representatives Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), along with New York State Senator Zellnor Myrie (D-Crown Heights), wrote in a 2019 letter to the Department of City Planning.

Maintaining Sunset Park's industrial character is key to keeping housing affordable in the area, says Eddie Bautista, executive director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, of which UPROSE is a member.

"Some people say the best way to improve the quality of life in these [frontline] communities is to...zone out these [industrial] uses," he says. An alternative path is to create new clean-energy-related activities while also cleaning up pollution from existing facilities. In Sunset Park, those sites — along with heavy truck traffic — contribute levels of harmful air pollution that are higher than in Brooklyn and New York City as a whole.

"Our mission has been to attract the sort of industries that we need to execute a just transition for New York," Bautista says.

In 2020, amid the mounting pushback, the developer of Industry City withdrew its proposal, marking an important victory for those who favored the development of green industry. Not long after, plans to revamp the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal started to solidify.

#### Prepping Sunset Park for a new kind of industrial waterfront

In March, Equinor signed an agreement with the city's Economic Development Corporation to use the 73-acre site to stage and assemble turbine components imported from Europe. Equinor and BP are jointly developing two offshore wind farms: the 2.1-gigawatt Empire Wind project near Long Island and the 1.2-gigawatt Beacon Wind project off the coast of New England.

The projects are part of a larger push in New York state to build 9 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2035, enough to supply roughly 30 percent of the state's total electricity needs. Along with generating more carbon-free power, state and city officials are hoping to snag many of the jobs and supply-chain investments that are expected to emerge with the fledgling U.S. industry.

"We are enormously proud to lay the groundwork today for our vision of making New York City a nation-leading hub for the offshore wind industry," Lindsay Greene of the Economic Development Corporation said earlier this year when the Sunset Park hub was announced.

Along with New York, nine East Coast states and Ohio have offshore wind projects in the pipeline, and California is pushing to develop floating wind farms off the Pacific coast.

Still, the United States has a ways to go to catch up to the rest of the world. Of the 56 gigawatts in cumulative offshore wind capacity installed globally, less than 0.1 percent is spinning off the U.S. coast, with five turbines near Rhode Island and two near coastal Virginia.

In Sunset Park, Equinor and BP say they will invest \$250 million to upgrade infrastructure at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and to make it a “low-emissions facility.” Crucially, the developers pledged to create a \$5 million “ecosystem fund” to help train and prepare New York City residents for offshore wind careers. Equinor will build a public learning center within its offices in Sunset Park. It’s also creating a workforce-development plan to assess gaps in local skill sets for various stages of the project.

Alba Pena, from Equinor’s Brooklyn office, said her outreach team is quickly expanding and is working closely with the Sunset Park Task Force, the coalition of elected officials, local residents, businesses and community groups. “While we have experience in offshore wind, it doesn’t mean we have experience in offshore wind in the U.S.,” she says.

Avilés, the city council member, is part of the task force. She says the project will only be successful in her eyes if it delivers on the promise of clean-energy jobs for Sunset Park residents.

“The community that has borne the brunt of environmental racism needs to be at the front and center of receiving the [hub’s] benefits,” she says.

For its part, UPROSE plans to continue to push for other improvements, such as making sure that specialized ships don’t idle and pump harmful exhaust into the neighborhood, as well as securing space on the rooftops of Equinor’s buildings for community solar projects. As offshore wind takes off along the U.S. coastline, Yeampierre says she hopes Sunset Park can serve as a model for including marginalized communities in the development of this new U.S. industry.

“For us, it’s really important that what happens here becomes a guidepost for people across the country,” she says.

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**Agreement to Monitor Large Whales Locally Extended to 2028**

**Red Hook Star-Revue**

**By: Erin DeGregorio**

**10/9/22**

On Sept. 7, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Empire Wind announced the extension of their agreement to monitor large whales in the lease area of Empire Wind—an offshore wind project off the southern coast of Long Island—from 2022 to 2028. The new agreement ensures that important data to protect wildlife in the New York Bight will be collected during the pre-construction, construction, and post-construction phases of the wind project.

**Two acoustic monitoring buoys were deployed in 2016 and 2019 as part of a broad effort to generate key data prior to construction of the Empire Wind project. Data collected over the next six years will**

**continue to result in new knowledge on whale occurrence and behavior in and around the Empire Wind lease area.**

"We know there are at least three, if not four, seasonally-present endangered species and up to 38 marine mammals species are present in and around our project area," said Jen Dupont, marine biologist with Equinor.

"The buoys are expected to be deployed through the end of 2028 and then we'll have a final report in 2029. That will help inform us what, if anything, is changing as we go through the different construction phases and it will ultimately give us one of the longest running datasets on marine mammals in the New York area in terms of presence and absence."

The buoys have already compiled more than 2,000 days of monitoring data and have detected more than 18,900 whale sounds in near real-time—including more than 3,500 detections this year alone and 442 detections in September.

"The data from this acoustic monitoring and our analyses clearly demonstrate that several large whale species (fin, humpback, sei, and North Atlantic right) are seasonally present, and some for extended periods of time in the New York Bight," said Dr. Howard

C. Rosenbaum, the project principal investigator and director of WCS's Ocean Giants Program. "In turn, this data can be used to inform best practices to minimize impacts on wildlife from the development of offshore wind energy."

**"The whale vocalizations detected by the buoys over the past six years highlights the importance of developing offshore wind responsibly and seeking ways to minimize impacts on marine mammals and other wildlife," added Scott Lundin, from Equinor, the company building wind power generators in Sunset Park.**

The North Atlantic right whale, which lives on the east coasts of the U.S. and Canada, has been listed as endangered since 1970 and has experienced an ongoing unusual mortality event since 2017. Vessel strikes, entanglement in fishing gear, changes in distribution and availability of prey to ocean noise and climate change have contributed to the population decline. Only 57 calves have been born since 2017, and roughly 368 North Atlantic right whales are in existence.

"The North Atlantic right whales are migrating through our area and not staying present for more than a certain amount of time, but they're still the one that we're keeping the biggest eye on and who we're designing our mitigation measures around," Dupont said. "The right whale story personally hits you hard when you start seeing the last remnants of this population coming down."

Information collected from this project is available to the public on [whalesofnewyork.wcs.org](http://whalesofnewyork.wcs.org) and [dcs.whoi.edu](http://dcs.whoi.edu), and can also be accessed at an exhibit kiosk at WCS's New York Aquarium in Coney Island.

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**Nexans Signs Contract for Phase One of Empire Wind Project**

**North American Windpower**

**By: Ariana Fine**

**10/6/22**

Nexans has executed a contract for phase one of the Empire Wind Project being developed by a 50-50 partnership between Equinor and bp. This signature follows the preferred supplier agreement signed in March 2021 which prompted several months of collaborative work to negotiate a turnkey contract, covering the design and manufacturing, as well as the laying and protection of export cables for the project.

**The Empire Wind lease area for the first phase of the overall 2.1 GW project is located about 20 miles south of Long Island and east of the Rockaways. Nexans will install the export cables over 93 miles from the offshore substation for Empire Wind 1 to landfall at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.**

The Empire Wind 1 project, when completed, will deliver electricity to over 500,000 homes of the eventual over 1 million homes that will be powered by the entire Empire Wind project.

“New York is one of the most aggressive states in the U.S. in terms of committing itself to create a fully carbon-free statewide economy, and offshore wind energy will likely be the main source of electricity for the state by 2035,” says Christopher Guérin, CEO of Nexans.

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**[NRG to Demolish Astoria Plant, Sell Site to OSW Firm](#)**

RTO Insider

By: John Cropley

9/20/22

Rebuffed on its repowering plans, a subsidiary of NRG Energy (NYSE:NRG) is planning to demolish the 558-MW Astoria Generating Station in New York City and sell the site to an offshore wind developer. Astoria Gas Turbine Power LLC (AGTP) and Beacon Wind Land LLC petitioned the state Public Service Commission on Sept. 15 and asked for approval on or before the PSC’s Nov. 17 session.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in October 2021 denied AGTP’s request to refurbish the aging facility with a new 437-MW dual fossil fuel-fired peaking combustion turbine generator on the grounds that it would not comply with greenhouse gas emission limits set in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

“Astoria has failed to demonstrate that the project is justified notwithstanding this inconsistency [with state emission limits], as it has not demonstrated a reliability need for the project,” DEC said. “Nor has Astoria identified adequate alternatives or GHG mitigation measures.”

Environmental and community activists applauded the ruling; the surrounding area in northwest Queens, with its collection of fossil fuel power plants past and present, has been nicknamed “Asthma Alley.”

AGTP plans to retire the power plant on May 1, 2023, then decommission and demolish it within six months.

Under the arrangement outlined in the new petition, AGTP would sell the 15.7-acre site to Beacon Wind Land and lease it back while it winds down operations there, which it expects to complete by Oct. 31, 2023.

**Beacon Wind Land is an affiliate of Beacon Wind LLC, which is developing the 1,230-MW Beacon Wind project east of Long Island. When AGTP clears the Astoria site, Beacon Wind Land will lease it to Beacon Wind LLC or another affiliate to locate converter stations and points of interconnection for offshore wind power cables, or other renewable energy resources.**

**Beacon Wind Land LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Shared Renewable Energy Assets LLC, which is jointly owned by Equinor Wind US LLC and BP Wind Energy North America, Inc.**

**Equinor and BP are also upstream owners of Empire Offshore Wind LLC, which is developing the 816-MW Empire Wind 1 and 1,365-MW Empire Wind 2 projects off the New York coast.**

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**Contested Astoria Power Plant Could Be Sold To Wind Energy Company**

**Patch**

**By: Nick Garber**

**9/16/22**

The owner of a fossil-fuel-powered Astoria energy plant wants to sell the facility to an offshore wind developer, following months of controversy over the future of the site.

**NRG Energy filed forms with the state on Thursday seeking regulators' approval to sell its peaker plant north of 20th Avenue to Beacon Wind Land LLC, the developer of a huge wind energy project being built in the Atlantic Ocean about 60 miles east of Montauk.**

The potential sale, first reported by POLITICO, comes after the state last October rejected NRG's proposal to replace its aging 50-year-old turbine with a natural gas-fired generator.

Advocates and elected officials had long argued that the plant should instead be replaced with a renewable energy source — a demand that the sale would apparently meet.

NRG has always planned to retire its plant by May 2023 to comply with state energy laws. Now, under the proposed sale, NRG would continue leasing the plant for six months after its closure to help decommission and demolish it, before ceding all control to Beacon Wind Land on Oct. 31, 2023.

**Beacon said it would use the Astoria site as an interconnection between its offshore wind projects and the city's Con Edison grid.**

NRG has owned the Astoria plant since 1999, when it purchased it from Con Edison, according to the company's website.

Some of those who had opposed NRG's prior plan for the Astoria site celebrated news of the potential sale.

"This multi-year long campaign was seen through by an array of ecosocialist organizers," the Queens chapter of the Democratic Socialists in America said in a tweet. "Canvasses, marches, education sessions, & more our neighborhood grew this greener future."

A broad neighborhood chorus had opposed NRG's natural gas proposal, including U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and eight other New York City members of Congress; Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani; and former City Councilmember Costa Constantinides, who said elevated asthma rates associated with peaker plants "devastate" Black and brown communities.

"Thru this victory, we have laid the foundation for a renewable investment that will benefit our neighbors, our state, and the environment as a whole," Mamdani tweeted Friday.

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**Thar she blows! Wildlife Conservation Society expands whale monitoring project in partnership with NY Aquarium**

**Brooklyn Paper**

**By: Jada Camille**

**9/9/22**

The Wildlife Conservation Society is expanding its ocean life observation program, which monitors various whale species and activity within the New York Bight, and New Yorkers will be able to see the activity of the ocean giants in real time at the New York Aquarium on Coney Island.

The expansion — announced by WCS and partners at the New York Aquarium on Thursday — will come in addition to WCS' first push to help track and protect New York's whales, the Ocean Giants Program. Since the program was launched in 2019, two acoustic monitoring buoys off the coast have already collected more than 2,000 days worth of data and detected more than 18,000 whale sounds within New York waters.

**WCS, the city's nongovernmental wildlife organization headquartered at the Bronx Zoo, and their conservation partners — Equinor, the Norwegian energy company behind the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal's coming wind turbine assembly plant, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority — hope the program expansion will continue to help bridge the gap between marine life and the general public.**

According to Dr. Howard Rosenbaum, lead scientist and director of the Ocean Giants Program, data from that first study has already brought needed attention to the animals right off the coast of New York — and detected four known species of whales in local waters. By increasing their observation, Rosenbaum said, New Yorkers will be more informed on how their lifestyle impacts ocean life.

"Having this data readily available will help guide decision-making and best practices for off-shore wind development and other human activities in the New York bight," Rosenbaum said on the rooftop of the southern Brooklyn aquarium. "From our work we have shown that these whales spend more time in and migrate through these waters, certainly more than we previously thought."

**The monitoring program will now continue until 2028, after Empire Wind, a new offshore wind energy project, is finished. The expanded timeline will allow scientists to track whale activity and behaviors before, during, and after construction.**

**Scott Lundin, head of U.S. permitting and environmental affairs at Equinor, said the buoys help the public better understand whale migration patterns — and that the amount of wildlife already detected only emphasizes the program's importance.**

After looking at their findings, scientists at WCS then share the information with Equinor to discuss what actions or policies should be implemented to better care for the animals. Realtime detections are then sent to the New York Aquarium, allowing the public to learn about the whales in their own backyard at an interactive kiosk.

"We are learning so much and we will keep monitoring the Empire Wind lease area and the wider New York Seascape for any new and important findings on the most iconic and endangered whales on the planet," said Rosenbaum.

The lead scientist said the four whale species found so far are the Sei, Fin, Humpback and an especially endangered North Atlantic Whale, a species that has less than 350 individuals existing today.

The work of the conservation society will operate in tandem with the offshore wind energy project, a competitive solicitation issued by NYSERDA to create at least 2,000 additional megawatts of offshore wind energy for New Yorkers and meet New York's renewable energy target.

Rosenbaum believes the increased offshore wind development is a vital renewable energy source and the two programs are eager to work together.

"Offshore wind developers are poised to be catalysts for positive change in the eyes of New York, the federal government and our wider civil society," he said. "America is watching us as major offshore wind projects take shape off the eastern seaboard."

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**[N.Y. offshore wind farm will help track endangered whales](#)**

**E&E News**

**By: Heather Richards**

**9/7/22**

A massive wind farm off the coast of Long Island will help monitor the endangered right whale as it moves along the Eastern Seaboard, where the nascent offshore wind sector is poised to rapidly expand.

**Empire Wind — a joint venture of oil giants BP PLC and Equinor ASA — said today it would host two acoustic buoys in its lease area until 2028 as the company develops its 2.1-gigawatt wind projects.**

The long-term monitoring effort will allow scientists to track the movement of not only the right whale, but also other species of whales in the New York Bight, a triangular area of shallow sea off the coast of New York and New Jersey.

The wind venture is partnering with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which invented and launched the acoustic buoys for a preliminary monitoring project in 2016. Equinor later joined the project for a three-year monitoring agreement that began in 2019 and ended earlier this year.

So far, the buoys have collected thousands of distinct whale sounds, most from fin, humpback, sei and North Atlantic right whales.

"The data from this acoustic monitoring and our analyses clearly demonstrate that several large whale species are seasonally present, and some for extended periods of time in the New York Bight," said Howard Rosenbaum, project principal investigator and director of the WCS's Ocean Giants Program.

Rosenbaum said the findings will help wind developers and wildlife experts establish best practices and "minimize impacts on wildlife from the development of offshore wind energy."

**Siri Espedal Kindem, president of Equinor Wind US, said the agreement helps put "marine life first."**

**"As a new industry, it is crucial that we establish best-in-class practices throughout the development phase of our projects from the start," Kindem said in a statement.**

The buoys are part of a network of acoustic monitors up and down the east coast that scientists are already using to follow whales in real time, said Mark Baumgartner, a marine ecologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

"This network is especially helpful for reducing risks to the North Atlantic right whale, a critically endangered species that lives on the east coasts of the U.S. and Canada," he said in a statement.

The data collected is available to the public via the New York Aquarium, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and WCS. Researchers say it will be fundamental in establishing best practices for the industry, tracking whale movement before, during and after construction.

Correction: The original version of this story misstated the year the monitoring began. The buoys were first launched in 2016, with Equinor ASA joining the project in 2019.

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**[Empire Wind and WCS Announce Extension of Historic Near Real-Time Acoustic Marine Monitoring Project In New York Bight](#)**

**Business Wire**

**By:** Equinor

**9/7/22**

**Empire Wind and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) announced today the extension to 2028 of their historic agreement to monitor large whales in the lease area of Empire Wind, an offshore wind project located in the New York Bight off the southern coast of Long Island.**

The new agreement ensures that important data to protect wildlife in the New York Bight will be collected during the pre-construction, construction, and post-construction phases of the wind project.

Two deployed moored acoustic monitoring buoys located in the New York Bight within Empire Wind lease area have already compiled more than 2,000 days of monitoring data and have detected more than 18,000 whale sounds in near real-time, including more than 2,600 detections this year alone. The acoustic monitoring agreement is between Empire Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and bp, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), which invented and operates the buoys.

**"As a new industry, it is crucial that we establish best-in-class practices throughout the development phase of our projects from the start. The technology that will be deployed over this ten-year agreement provides Equinor the ability to assess our activities in real-time and ensure that we are putting marine life first in our operations," said Siri Espedal Kindem, President Equinor Wind US.**

"New York State is proud to lead offshore wind development in the U.S. through an industry that is backed by science and environmental research and data. We applaud Equinor and the Wildlife Conservation Society for expanding their partnership and ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and understanding marine life – setting a strong example for how strategic collaboration can mitigate potential risks and support responsible project development," said Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA.

The two buoys use WHOI-developed near real-time passive acoustic monitoring (NRT PAM) technology that detects the distinct sounds of different whale species (there is also an archival recorded aspect as well). Data collected will result in considerable new knowledge on whale occurrence and behavior in and around the Empire Wind lease area. The sounds that are detected and recorded by the buoys to date came from four large whale species: fin, humpback, sei, and North Atlantic right whales. The most commonly detected whale sound was a low frequency downsweep, called a 20Hz song note, that is produced by fin whales.

"The data from this acoustic monitoring and our analyses clearly demonstrate that several large whale species are seasonally present, and some for extended periods of time in the New York Bight. This ongoing collaboration provides invaluable data on how these whales are using the New York Bight. In turn, this data can be used to inform best practices to minimize impacts on wildlife from the development of offshore wind energy," said Dr. Howard C. Rosenbaum, the Project Principal Investigator and Director of WCS's Ocean Giants Program.

**"The whale vocalizations detected by the buoys over the past six years highlights the importance of developing offshore wind responsibly and seeking ways to minimize impacts on marine mammals and other wildlife. Combined with individual sighting data from boats and aircraft, the vocalizations provide important baseline information on the frequency and number of animals present in and around the project area. We are delighted to continue our collaboration on this important topic with the experts at WCS," said Scott Lundin, Head of US Permitting and Environmental Affairs, from Equinor.**

Mark Baumgartner, Project Principal Investigator and WHOI Marine Ecologist, said, "These buoys are part of a network of identical buoys deployed all along the U.S. east coast designed to monitor for whales and alert stakeholders in near real time. This network is especially helpful for reducing risks to the North Atlantic right whale, a critically endangered species that lives on the east coasts of the U.S. and Canada."

The two acoustic buoys supported by the project are deployed as part of a broad effort to generate important data prior to construction of the Empire Wind project. The effort will continue to provide near real-time monitoring for more than a decade, both during and after construction, for the four species of large whales. This information will help Empire Wind and future offshore wind developments mitigate risks to these species from project activity, while also offering insight into any potential impact that wind farm construction and operation might have on these species. WCS began this monitoring in 2016 and Equinor began supporting it in 2019.

Information that is collected from the project is available to the public on [whalesofnewyork.wcs.org](http://whalesofnewyork.wcs.org) and [dcs.whoi.edu](http://dcs.whoi.edu). The data can also be accessed at an exhibit kiosk at WCS's New York Aquarium in Coney Island.

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**Equinor Establishes Public Affairs Team for U.S. Offshore Wind Projects**

**North American Windpower**

**By: Michael Bates**

**8/25/22**

**Equinor has announced the members of the company's new Equinor Renewables US public affairs team, which is responsible for strategic communications and stakeholder, community and government relations for Equinor's offshore wind projects in the U.S.: Empire Wind 1, Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1.**

**"Equinor has created a team of professionals that are not only skilled and experienced practitioners, but who also possess a deep understanding of the communities and regions in which we operate," says David Marks, head of government and public affairs for Equinor Renewables US. "The priority of every team member is to ensure that, as we work tirelessly to help realize the region's long-awaited energy transition, we fulfill our commitments to our stakeholders, partners, and communities every single day."**

The team includes the following:

**David Marks – Head of Government and Public Affairs:** Marks leads all communications, state government relations, and stakeholder management for Equinor's U.S. offshore wind energy business. He began his career working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., where he worked for the U.S. Senate Energy Committee.

**Tom Cunningham – Senior Public Affairs Manager:** Cunningham leads stakeholder engagement for the Beacon Wind project and supports strategic engagement across the United States. Prior to joining Equinor, Tom was Deputy Director of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council.

**Harrison Feuer – New York Director of Public Affairs:** Feuer leads public affairs and community engagement efforts across New York state for Equinor's offshore wind portfolio and is the main point of contact for the Empire Wind project. He has extensive experience in Albany and in New York politics, with more than 10 years of experience in federal, state, and local government, serving on the staffs of former Congressman Steve Israel and New York State Assemblyman Charles Lavine.

**Jennifer Edwards – Community & Environmental Investment Manager:** Edwards manages Equinor's community benefit commitments and environmental mitigation funds. She joined Equinor more than a decade ago, working in roles that include Procurement Lead for the early stages of the Beacon Wind Project, and providing strategic support for the company's Legal Services, Permitting, and Business Consulting groups.

**Amanda Schoen – Director of Industry Relations:** Schoen leads all coordination within the offshore wind industry, including outreach and engagement with suppliers, associations, NGOs and community groups.

She began her career working on Capitol Hill and most recently was the U.S. offshore policy director for Vestas.

Ana Fisyak – Community Engagement Manager: Fisyak is responsible for external relations and engaging stakeholders and communities in New York across Long Island and Queens for the Beacon Wind project. She is a trained urban planner with over a decade of experience collaborating with environmental justice and frontline communities.

Kristin Kelleher – Stakeholder Engagement Manager: Kelleher is responsible for stakeholder engagement in New England for the Beacon Wind Project, where she works to raise awareness, identify local opportunities, and maintain communication with stakeholders. She previously served as the Vice Consul for Prosperity, Energy & Climate Policy at the British Consulate in Boston.

Alba Peña – Community Engagement Manager: Peña manages external relations in New York City for Empire Wind, engaging with communities and stakeholders. She previously worked for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, supporting the development of programs and initiatives for at-risk youth.

Susan Lienau- Community Engagement Manager: Lienau manages external relations for the Empire and Beacon Wind projects, engaging with communities and stakeholders on Long Island. Susan has over 15 years' experience working with communities, elected officials, and stakeholders across Long Island, with extensive experience in the Capital Region and throughout New York.

Lauren Shane – Senior Communications Manager: Shane leads internal and external communications, including media and digital communications, for Equinor Renewables US. She has worked at Equinor for more than a decade, most recently as communications manager for Equinor's upstream business in the United Kingdom.

Brian Young- Senior Communications Consultant: Young works on internal and external communications, including media and digital communications, for Equinor Renewables US. Before joining Equinor, he previously worked as strategic communications consultant for labor unions throughout the Northeast.

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**Equinor Announces Public Affairs Team For Us Offshore Wind Projects**

**Equinor**

**By: Equinor**

**8/25/22**

**Equinor announced today members of the company's newly formed Equinor Renewables US Public Affairs Team. The team is responsible for strategic communications and stakeholder, community, and government relations for Equinor's growing portfolio of offshore wind projects in the U.S. Together, these projects, known as Empire Wind 1, Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1, will produce enough electricity to power approximately two million homes in New York State and will help generate more than \$1 billion in economic output in the region.**

"Equinor has created a team of professionals that are not only skilled and experienced practitioners, but who also possess a deep understanding of the communities and regions in which we operate," said David Marks, Head of Government and Public Affairs for Equinor Renewables US. "The priority of every team

member is to ensure that, as we work tirelessly to help realize the region's long-awaited energy transition, we fulfill our commitments to our stakeholders, partners, and communities every single day."

The Equinor Renewables US Public Affairs Team includes:

David Marks – Head of Government and Public Affairs: David leads all communications, state government relations, and stakeholder management for Equinor's US offshore wind energy business. He began his career working on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC where he worked for the U.S. Senate Energy Committee. David has worked in the energy industry for nearly two decades leading policy, media relations, and government affairs for companies in the renewable energy space.

Tom Cunningham – Senior Public Affairs Manager: Tom leads stakeholder engagement for the Beacon Wind project and supports strategic engagement across the United States. Prior to joining Equinor, Tom was Deputy Director of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council. He previously worked at the US Department of State in a variety of roles, including Energy Diplomacy Team Lead for Europe.

Harrison Feuer – New York Director of Public Affairs: Harrison leads public affairs and community engagement efforts across New York state for Equinor's offshore wind portfolio and is the main point of contact for the Empire Wind project. Harrison has extensive experience in Albany and in New York politics with more than 10 years of experience in federal, state, and local government, serving on the staffs of former Congressman Steve Israel and New York State Assemblyman Charles Lavine. Harrison also served as the director of programming and communications at separate global policy institutes at Cornell University and Long Island University.

Jennifer Edwards – Community & Environmental Investment Manager: Jennifer manages Equinor's community benefit commitments and environmental mitigation funds. She joined Equinor more than a decade ago, working in roles that include Procurement Lead for the early stages of the Beacon Wind Project, and providing strategic support for the company's Legal Services, Permitting, and Business Consulting groups.

Amanda Schoen – Director of Industry Relations: Amanda leads all coordination within the offshore wind industry including outreach and engagement with suppliers, associations, NGOs, and community groups. She began her career working on Capitol Hill in Washington DC and most recently was the US Offshore Policy Director for Vestas, where she engaged directly with federal and state lawmakers to promote certainty and growth for offshore wind development and manufacturing.

Ana Fisyak, AICP – Community Engagement Manager: Ana is responsible for external relations and engaging stakeholders and communities in New York across Long Island and Queens for the Beacon Wind project. She is a trained urban planner with over a decade of experience collaborating with environmental justice and frontline communities. Ana helped launch The RISE Center, a Rockaway-based community hub for climate change education. Her work in recent years has focused on planning and community engagement to prioritize biodiversity, community-led conservation, jobs, and youth leadership.

Kristin Kelleher – Stakeholder Engagement Manager: Kristin is responsible for stakeholder engagement in New England for the Beacon Wind Project where she works to raise awareness, identify local opportunities, and maintain communication with stakeholders. She previously served as the Vice Consul for Prosperity, Energy & Climate Policy at the British Consulate in Boston. Kristin has also led policy and

programming for a clean energy business association and served as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts State Legislature. She serves on the Board of the Connecticut Power and Energy Society and on the selection committee as a mentor for UMass Amherst's Offshore Wind Access Scholarship.

Alba Peña – Community Engagement Manager: Alba manages external relations in New York City for Empire Wind, engaging with communities and stakeholders. She previously worked for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America supporting the development of programs and initiatives for at-risk youth. Alba also worked at the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, creating educational opportunities for youth and families from historically marginalized communities.

Susan Lienau- Community Engagement Manager: Susan manages external relations for the Empire and Beacon Wind projects, engaging with communities and stakeholders on Long Island. Susan has over 15 years experience working with communities, elected officials, and stakeholders across Long Island with extensive experience in the Capital Region and throughout New York. She previously worked for Discover Long Island where she developed community partnerships and engaged with the local communities and elected officials.

Lauren Shane – Senior Communications Manager: Lauren leads internal and external communications, including media and digital communications, for Equinor Renewables US. She has worked at Equinor for more than a decade, most recently as communications manager for Equinor's upstream business in the United Kingdom. Previously, Lauren worked on communications for the company's US onshore business in Houston, Texas, as well as communications for strategy and business development in London.

Brian Young- Senior Communications Consultant: Brian works on internal and external communications, including media and digital communications, for Equinor Renewables US. Before joining Equinor, he previously worked as strategic communications consultant for labor unions throughout the Northeast. He also previously worked as a community organizer on Long Island focused on economic justice issues in low-income communities.

**"Our reputation defines us as an organization and is essential to realizing everything we hope to achieve," said Lauren Shane, Senior Communications Manager. "Open, consistent and transparent communications with communities in which we operate is a priority for Equinor. We look forward to partnering with community members and key stakeholders in moving this industry forward – and we will get there, together."**

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**Review process for Island Park Empire Wind 2 project is underway**

**LI Herald**

**By: Jake Pellegrino**

**7/14/22**

**The planning for Equinor's Empire Wind 2 project, a wind energy proposal to install 147 turbines in an 80,000-acre area about 20 miles off the coast of Jones Beach, which would involve the use of a substation in Island Park and connect with the power grid in Oceanside, is progressing smoothly.**

Equinor filed an Article VII application for the work on June 17, to have the New York State Public Service Commission review its proposal to construct new transmission infrastructure. The application process

evaluates the need for the project, ensures that it meets environmental standards and gauges public involvement.

**The cables for the turbines would be routed into the City of Long Beach, connect with the Island Park substation, run through an LIRR easement and connect to the grid in Oceanside. The substation would be built at the site of Pop's Seafood Shack and Grill, on Railroad Place in Island Park. Ana Fisyak, Equinor's community engagement manager, said that the company has purchased the restaurant, which will remain open for one more season before closing at the end of this year.**

Fisyak explained that the Railroad Place site is the ideal location for a substation because it will minimize the impact on the community and create an efficient route to the electrical grid.

**Empire Wind 2 is one of three Equinor wind-energy projects in the works in the metropolitan area. Empire Wind 1, in Brooklyn, will power the New York City grid, and Beacon Wind, off the coast of Montauk, will connect into Astoria, Queens. Fisyak said that in total, the projects will provide 3.3 billion gigawatts of power, enough to power 2 million homes and help New York state reach its goal of 9 gigawatts by 2035.**

**"This is a collective investment of \$2.5 billion in economic development commitments to New York state," Fisyak said. "The project also set aside a substantial amount of funding for workforce development innovation and community and environmental benefits."**

She added that New York state offers unlimited potential for offshore wind generation. "Our wind speeds and strengths are unprecedented globally, so there's a lot to take advantage of in the New York Bight," Fisyak said. "It blows exactly when we need it and is close to the population centers of New York City and Long Island. It blows west in the morning and evening, which are the peak times for energy uses, exactly when and where we need it."

Equinor she said, anticipates that the increased use of wind power will bring not only economic, but health benefits. "It will have a collective benefit to air quality and avoidable hospitalizations," Fisyak said. "That's equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars annually."

Now that the project's Article VII application is filed, it has kicked off the permitting process, and Equinor should receive a certification of a complete application later this year.

The company has also published public notices in local papers including the Herald, Newsday and the Rockaway Wave, sent copies of its application to elected officials and public libraries and sent notices to property owners along the route to inform them of the status of the project.

Still to follow are public hearings as well as evidentiary hearings overseen by an administrative law judge, all leading to a final decision on certification by the Public Service Commission. If the project is approved, there will various environmental management filings and construction and right-of-way plans. So it's no surprise that construction would likely not begin before 2024. "It's a very long, multi-tiered process," Fisyak said.

She added that, despite the fact that the process is in its early stages, anticipation is building, as evidenced by the response at a May 26 community meeting at Island Park Village Hall. "People were really receptive

and excited about the project," Fisyak said. "There's still a lot of questions about the community benefits. However, we're still really, really early on in the process, and we hear that the community wants to be involved and wants it to be a transparent process, and we want to make sure we're delivering on that."

One major concern is about the impact of construction of such a large project on boat traffic. "Early and often communication is key in ensuring that they're aware if we're going to be in the area well in advance of us being there," Fisyak said. "We will be contracting fishing vessels as 'Safety vessels' during construction, to communicate with other mariners at sea to notify them of the construction activities. There will also be safety zones around the work area as well, where mariners will be prohibited during construction for safety reasons, of course. After construction, the area will remain open to transiting and fishing."

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**[Maersk Supply Service to Install Turbines on 1.2 GW US Offshore Wind Farm](#)**

**Offshore Wind Biz**

**By: Adnan Memija**

**7/14/22**

**Maersk Supply Service has signed a Preferred Supplier Agreement (PSA) with the joint venture of Equinor and BP to install the wind turbines at the Beacon Wind offshore wind farm in the United States.**

Located 60 miles east of Montauk Point and 20 miles south of Nantucket, the Beacon Wind offshore wind farm was selected by the State of New York as the winner of the state's second offshore wind solicitation at the beginning of last year.

The installation of the 1.2 GW project on the US east coast is expected to start in 2028.

This is Maersk's second offshore wind installation contract in the US and a direct continuation of the previously announced contract for Empire Wind, the company said.

"With this new agreement, we have secured a stable start for our new Wind Installation Vessel. We are very pleased that Equinor and bp have shown us the trust to extend the award and look forward to future collaboration", said Jonas Munch Agerskov, Chief Commercial Officer at Maersk Supply Service.

**In March, the company ordered a wind turbine installation vessel and won its first contract with Equinor and BP to install wind turbines at the Empire Wind 1 and 2 offshore wind farms.**

Designed in-house and patented by Maersk Supply Service, the wind turbine installation solution is said to work in conjunction with a new feeder technology, which is expected to be over 30 per cent more efficient than conventional jack-up vessels.

Maersk said this is due both to the WIV's unique feeder capabilities and to the fact that the vessel stays on location for the duration of the installation, while only the tugs and barges ferry to and from the coast.

This enables the WIV to be deployed solely for the purpose of the turbine installation, according to Maersk.

The company also added that the solution is less weather-dependent, enabling the installation to continue all year round.

Maersk's WIV will be built in Singapore by Sembcorp Marine, with the steel-cutting ceremony set for the fourth quarter of 2022.

The jacking units, load transfer system, and a crane will be provided by NOV. The vessel, which will be built to ABS class, is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Maersk Supply Service has partnered with Kirby Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of Kirby Corporation, which will construct and operate the feeder barges and tugs in the US, in compliance with the Jones Act. Kirby Offshore Wind will support the Beacon Wind contract further by adding a third barge to the installation spread.

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**Norwegian oil giant Equinor to buy U.S.-based energy storage firm**

**CNBC**

**By: Anmar Frangoul**

**7/12/22**

**Norway's Equinor is to acquire U.S.-based battery storage developer East Point Energy after signing an agreement to take a 100% stake in the company.**

**Equinor, a major producer of oil and gas, said Tuesday that Charlottesville-headquartered East Point Energy had a 4.1-gigawatt pipeline of "early to mid-stage battery storage projects focused on the US East Coast."**

According to Equinor, the transaction is slated for completion in the third quarter of 2022.

"Battery storage will play an important role in the energy transition as the world increases its share of intermittent renewable power," Equinor said.

"Battery storage is key to enabling further penetration of renewables, can contribute to stabilizing power markets and improve the security of supply," it added.

In Dec. 2021, the International Energy Agency said the world's installed storage capacity was projected to jump by 56% over the next five years, hitting 270 GW by 2026.

According to the IEA, the chief driver of this growth is "the increasing need for system flexibility and storage around the world to fully utilise and integrate larger shares of variable renewable energy ... into power systems."

The IEA says investment in battery storage grew by nearly 40% in 2020, reaching \$5.5 billion.

Formerly known as Statoil, Equinor's chief shareholder is the Norwegian state, which has a 67% holding in the company.

**Its plans to acquire East Point Energy represent the company's latest foray into the U.S. It already has substantial oil and gas operations in the country and is working on large-scale offshore wind projects.**

In 2021, the IEA said there should be "no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects, and no further final investment decisions for new unabated coal plants."

What's more, a recent report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also weighed in on the subject of fossil fuels.

"Limiting global warming will require major transitions in the energy sector," the IPCC said in a news release accompanying its publication.

"This will involve a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels (such as hydrogen)," the IPCC said.

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#### **Equinor Acquires Energy Storage Developer in the US**

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**7/12/22**

**Equinor has signed an agreement to buy a 100% stake in the US based battery storage developer East Point Energy LLC. The acquisition supports Equinor's ambition to be a leading company in the energy transition and provides a platform for broadening our energy offerings in the US.**

The privately owned East Point Energy is headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia, and has a 4.1 GW current pipeline of early to mid-stage battery storage projects focused on the US East Coast. Additional growth potential beyond the current pipeline has been identified.

"The acquisition of East Point Energy represents Equinor's entry into the US power market through flexible assets. It will enable Equinor to further unlock the potential we see in the renewables space in the US, capturing value from volatility in the power markets and providing reliable services to the grid," says Olav Kolbeinstveit, senior vice president for power and markets within Renewables at Equinor.

Battery storage will play an important role in the energy transition as the world increases its share of intermittent renewable power. Battery storage is key to enabling further penetration of renewables, can contribute to stabilizing power markets and improve the security of supply. The acquisition will provide us with attractive investment opportunities, and the projects will contribute to lifting the return on our renewable portfolio while at the same time lowering the portfolio risk.

Equinor sees a strong opportunity to create a profitable business by deploying battery storage assets in selected power markets. This is based on the flexible nature of the assets and Equinor's advanced trading capabilities through the wholly-owned energy trading house Danske Commodities. The acquisition of East Point Energy is another step in this direction following the 2021 investment in Noriker Power Limited, a leading battery storage developer in the United Kingdom. The acquisition also further diversifies Equinor's energy offerings in the US, strengthening our role as a reliable supplier of energy. Adding flexible battery storage will complement Equinor's portfolio of offshore wind, upstream oil and gas and growing opportunities in the hydrogen and CCS space.

East Point Energy has a competent team that, since 2018, has matured and divested a number of high-quality, ready-to-build battery storage projects in the US energy market. East Point Energy will become a subsidiary of Equinor with its team continuing to develop the business, as well as adding capabilities to own and operate energy storage projects in the near future.

**"We look forward to working together with East Point Energy to build a portfolio of battery storage assets in the US. This strengthens and diversifies our existing renewable energy offerings in the US, which includes substantial offshore wind projects Empire Wind and Beacon Wind," says Siri Espedal Kindem, senior vice president for Equinor Renewables US.**

"On behalf of the East Point Energy team, I am excited to welcome Equinor as the new owner. We look forward to a long and successful relationship developing, owning and operating energy storage projects in the US," says Andrew Foukal, CEO of East Point Energy.

The transaction agreement was signed July 9, and the transaction is planned to be completed in Q3 2022.

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**Equinor, NYU Tandon, others form wind-industry R&D hub**

**Brooklyn Eagle**

**6/10/22**

**Equinor, together with its partner BP, announced on Thursday the launch of a New York-based Offshore Wind Innovation Hub that will facilitate partnerships with start-ups and bring new technological solutions to the rapidly growing U.S. offshore wind industry.**

The initiative springs from a new three-year partnership between Equinor, the Urban Future Lab (UFL) at the Brooklyn-based NY Tandon School of Engineering, and the National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium (NOWRDC), supported by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC).

**Equinor is the company that was chosen by NYCEDC to develop a wind-turbine assembly facility at the now-underused South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Subset Park, Brooklyn. Turbines assembled here will be shipped to the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind sites, both off the coast of Long Island, according to the Equinor website.**

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**Offshore Wind Innovation Hub Launched in New York**

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**6/9/22**

**Equinor, together with its partner bp, today announced the launch of a New York-based Offshore Wind Innovation Hub that will facilitate partnerships with start-ups that bring new technological solutions to the rapidly growing US offshore wind industry. The initiative springs from a new three-year partnership between Equinor, the Urban Future Lab (UFL) at the NY Tandon School of Engineering, and the National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium (NOWRDC), supported by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC).**

The new Innovation Hub will leverage the success of the Urban Future Lab in promoting and helping the launch of cleantech start-ups, fostering collaboration with the international incubator community to cultivate pilots and demonstration projects that accelerate advances in offshore wind.

The Innovation Hub will create a physical location for offshore wind programming and serve as a center for the industry's innovation ecosystem. The Hub will host educational programming, workshops and curricula for the startups, as well as networking opportunities with industry participants. It will be located adjacent to Equinor and bp's new project office in Sunset Park.

Equinor is leading the initiative on behalf of its 50-50 strategic partnership with bp. Together, the companies are developing the Beacon Wind and Empire Wind projects, which will supply 3.3 gigawatts (GWs) of renewable energy to New York—enough to power nearly two million homes.

**"Offshore wind is increasingly accepted as a viable new source of renewable energy, but the industry has evolved by harnessing the power of nature through cutting-edge technological solutions," said Siri Espedal Kindem, President of Equinor Wind U.S. "Equinor and bp are thrilled to launch this partnership in an effort to push the envelope even further by nurturing innovative new ideas from around the world that will help drive technological growth and efficiency even further. Establishing this innovation hub is just one way we are accelerating the development of the offshore wind industry in New York and beyond."**

"NOWRDC is pleased to provide its support to the Innovation Hub and its future cohorts," said Robert Catell, Chair of the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium.

"NYCEDC is committed to accelerating equitable innovation in New York City's growing offshore wind industry," said New York City Economic Development Corporation COO Melissa Burch. "We look forward to supporting the Innovation Hub's partners in building a program that ensures a diverse startup ecosystem with a curriculum that focuses on generating shared equity for all New Yorkers."

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA said, "New York is committed to being the nation's hub for offshore wind development, setting a template for the green economy and the clean energy grid of the future. We applaud the efforts of Equinor and bp, NYU's Urban Future Lab, NOWRDC, and NYCEDC to grow this industry by harnessing the intellectual and entrepreneurial power of New Yorkers."

"The benefits of this program to the citizens of NYS are twofold. Not only will the Equinor/bp projects bring us clean, renewable energy, but the Innovation Hub will be an important step in building a new wind industry based in NY. The nascent technologies that are necessary for successful deployment will find a receptive home and business development services at the Hub," said Pat Sapsiley, Managing Director, Cleantech Initiatives, NYU Urban Future Lab.

In the coming months, the partners will develop a call for applications to identify and select industry-leading startups whose technologies address key challenges facing US offshore wind. Once chosen, these startups will receive tailored support and unique programming that draws on UFL's network of mentors, NOWRDC industry community, and key policy figures in the technology areas identified for the cohort – laying the groundwork for potential partnerships between Equinor and the participating startups.

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**Alternative energy blows in with Long Island's future at stake**

**LI Herald**  
**By: Jake Pellegrino**  
**5/19/22**

There are certainly some advantages to living on an island — advantages Matt Cohen says Long Island doesn't exploit enough. Especially when it comes to alternative energy sources like offshore wind.

"We're an island," Cohen, president of the Long Island Association, told a roundtable discussion in Melville last week. "We're surrounded by water. Iowa and Nebraska may not be able to do this, but we can. We're in position to take advantage of it."

Cohen brought together small business owners as well as representatives from four leading wind developers — Ørsted/Eversource, Equinor, Community Offshore Wind and Attentive Energy — hoping they might find some synergies as part of several intimate 15-minute "speed-dating" style meetings.

**Harrison Feuer, the New York-based spokesman for Norwegian petroleum company Equinor, called the association's roundtable "inspiring."**

**"There were so many people interested in this growing industry on Long Island and eager to see where they could learn more," he said. "They want to get involved to help this industry grow, and the conversation in general was a great opportunity to connect with the folks on the ground and see how much support there is for offshore wind."**

It's also a great opportunity to help develop new career paths, said Marjaneh Issapour, an associate dean focused on sustainable energy at Farmingdale State College.

"I'm here as an educator interested in the business and looking for possible employment pathways for our graduates," she said. "The most exciting thing about this is mainly just that the fact that it's actually happening now, and that it's a realization. We've been talking about it for so long, and now we actually have a few projects in the pipeline. And that is great news for the local economy."

Ørsted's roots are in fossil fuels, but the Danish company — named for scientist Hans Christian Ørsted — has since moved completely to renewable energy. It has joined with Connecticut-based offshore wind company Eversource on a pair of major projects in the region, including the South Fork Wind Farm — a dozen turbines spinning offshore 30 miles east of Montauk.

Construction on those turbines start and finish next year, according to Grant van Wyngaarden, who heads offshore procurement in North America for Ørsted. It's expected to deliver enough electricity to power more than 100,000 homes.

Sunrise Wind, expected to be constructed nearby in 2024, will be a much larger project with more than 80 turbines.

Community Offshore Wind is developing a seabed lease in the New York Bight that it won during a recent auction hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, according to company spokeswoman Alanna Russo.

"This is something we've thought about for many years, and we're very excited, but we're still in our infancy stage of developing our project," she said. "We're doing site surveys, environmental assessment, and engaging with stakeholders, and hopefully it will be completed by the end of decade."

For Jamie Shellenberger-Bessman, who represents the Attentive Energy subsidiary of France's TotalEnergies Renewables, says her role is more about education — not just of Attentive Energy's work, but renewable energy in general.

"I have conversations every day with people who don't even know what an offshore wind farm is and the massive opportunity that's out there," she said. "So, it's just about making sure we're making those connections. We believe the younger generation is the future because it's the people in junior high and high school right now who are going to be building these things, so we're looking to make connections there."

The Ocean Energy Management bureau auctioned off six leases last February in the Bight for \$4.4 billion, including \$795 million from Attentive Energy. The leases include more than 460,000 leasable acres with the hopes of producing enough energy for nearly 2 million homes.

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**[Empire Wind selects Edison Chouest Offshore to provide plug-in hybrid service operations vessel](#)**

**Brooklyn Daily Eagle**

**5/14/22**

**Empire Offshore Wind — the joint venture between Equinor and BP will include a wind turbine assembly plant at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal as well as two wind farms of the coast of Long Island — has awarded a long-term service agreement to a company that will operate an unusual plug-in ship.**

The "hybrid service operations vessel [SOV]," operated by Edison Chouest Offshore, will be the first in the U.S. offshore wind sector capable of sailing partially on battery power, according to Equinor.

The vessel will be able to transport 60 wind turbine technicians and will be utilized for the safe and efficient operations and maintenance of the Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2 offshore wind farms of Long Island. However, it will have its home port at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, and will go back and forth between the two locations.

The plug-in hybrid vessel will be the first in the U.S. capable of sailing on battery power for portions of the route, according to Equinor. The SOV will sail into South Brooklyn Marine Terminal on battery power, recharge its battery using shore power, then sail out of New York Harbor.

The ship will be constructed with components from ECO's extensive supplier base across 34 U.S. states. The supplier estimates that this will generate over 250 high-skilled U.S. jobs during vessel construction.

Edison Chouest Offshore is also dedicating considerable effort and resources to recruiting and training vessel crew from the New York region. ECO will operate the vessel from its New York office.

**Equinor and bp are investing in port upgrades to help transform the underused South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) into a world-class offshore wind staging and assembling facility and to become the operations and maintenance (O&M) base both for Equinor and other project developers going forward.**

SBMT will become one of the largest dedicated offshore wind port facilities in the United States at approximately 73 acres, with the capacity to accommodate wind turbine generator staging and assembly activities at the scale required by component manufacturers.

SBMT is being redeveloped together with New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and terminal owner Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SSBMT). SSBMT is a joint venture of Red Hook Terminals and Industry City.

**"Equinor and bp's agreement with Edison Chouest will generate ripple effects throughout the supply chain, creating jobs in numerous states across the country. With the first-of-its-kind, plug-in hybrid service operations vessel, Empire Wind will reduce potential emissions from our operations in the New York City area," said Teddy Muhlfelder, vice president, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, Equinor.**

**"Edison Chouest Offshore will provide a state-of-the-art vessel ft for Empire Wind. We selected Edison Chouest in part for its extensive experience and expertise as a shipbuilder and we look forward to a collaboration beginning with construction and continuing through operations for the next decade or more" said Mette H. Ottøy, chief procurement officer, Equinor.**

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**[Big Apple seeks share of green boom as New York City pursues 'offshore wind vision'](#)**

Recharge News

By: Tim Ferry

5/12/22

New York City continued its expansion into offshore wind by offering another property up for potential development, part of a drive by the Big Apple to reap industrial benefits from the US sector's impending boom.

New York City Economic Development Corporation ( NYC EDC), a non-profit that leverages city assets for the good of local businesses and the community, issued a request for proposals (RfP) for a property in Staten Island, New York City, for use in maritime industries, including offshore wind. It follows another one issued in April that likewise pitched a Staten Island property for the use in offshore wind manufacturing.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (Nyserda) is spearheading New York's nation-leading drive towards 9GW of offshore wind by 2035, but New York City has also targeted the industry through its \$191m, 15-year Offshore Wind Vision Plan, released last year.

"NYC (New York City) is using local resources – programmatic, capital, land – to further leverage state and federal investments in offshore wind to ensure that NYC reaches its clean energy goals, and to maximise the economic development opportunities that OSW brings," Regina Graham, NYC EDC head of communications, told Recharge.

The industry is central to Mayor Eric Adams' recently released Economic Blueprint to drive investment and economic growth in the US' largest city, and is expected to generate over \$1.3bn in economic activity and 13,000 "family sustaining jobs" through targeted investments.

Graham told Recharge: "We see value in the industry both because of the opportunity to drive inclusive growth (connecting local businesses and talent to the burgeoning industry) and because it is a new "green economy" sector that helps us advance our economic development goals as we also advance environmental justice and climate change mitigation strategies."

New York City brings several key advantages to the sector, including proximity to current wind lease areas on the Atlantic coast that "create cost efficiencies and reduce transportation challenges for manufacturing operations, maintenance operations and staging/marshalling facilities," Graham noted.

Further, an estimated 50-60% of New York's offshore wind power will be fed directly to NYC through the state's downstate grid, eliminating the need for costly long-distance power transmission infrastructure.

The local density of skilled workers particularly in the building trades likewise "uniquely positions the City to meet talent demands from offshore wind developers for infrastructure construction", Graham said.

#### New York City and State collaboration

New York has already commissioned over 4GW of offshore wind, including the nation's second project to be fully permitted and enter construction, the 130MW South Fork Wind, and will auction off another up-to 4.2GW this summer.

The burgeoning sector is spurring massive investment into supply chain and port infrastructure, and this year New York governor Kathy Hochul announced \$500m in investment into offshore wind-related port and supply chain capacity investment, with New York City at its heart.

**The New York City-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) will serve as the manufacturing and staging hub for New York's flagship 2GW Empire Wind 1&2 projects as well as their 1.2GW Beacon Wind, with its owners, the joint venture (JV) of Equinor and BP, investing \$250m.**

"With this investment, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will soon be transformed into one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the nation," said Mayor Eric Adams when the agreement was announced in March. "This site will be the launch of a whole new industry for New York City."

The Arthur Kill Terminal on Staten Island is being pitched by a consortium including Apollo Capital, one of the key owners of Maryland-based US Wind, as another potential offshore wind hub.

Sites on the west shore of Staten Island where NYC EDC is offering its RfPs "are primed to leverage the broader dynamics happening in the development of the OSW industry, including Nyserda's upcoming procurements (both for its solicitations for energy credits and its port and manufacturing investments.)", Graham noted.

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[\*\*Empire Wind Selects Edison Chouest Offshore to Provide Plug-In Hybrid Service Operations Vessel\*\*](#)  
Business Wire

**By: Equinor**  
**5/12/22**

**Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and bp, has awarded a long-term service operations vessel charter agreement to US marine transportation provider, Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO). The plug-in hybrid service operations vessel (SOV) will be the first in the US offshore wind sector capable of sailing partly on battery power.**

The vessel will accommodate up to 60 wind turbine technicians and will be utilized for the safe and efficient operations and maintenance of the Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2 offshore wind farms. The charter agreement has a fixed period of 10 years, with commencement in the mid-2020s.

The US-flagged vessel will be Jones Act compliant and have its home port at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in New York. The SOV will be constructed with components from ECO's extensive supplier base across 34 US states. The supplier estimates that this will generate over 250 high-skilled US jobs during vessel construction. Edison Chouest Offshore is also dedicating considerable effort and resources to recruiting and training vessel crew from the New York region. ECO will operate the vessel from their New York office.

The plug-in hybrid vessel will be the first in the US capable of sailing on battery power for portions of the route. The SOV will sail into the port of SBMT on battery power, recharge the battery using shore power and sail out of New York Harbor. The hybrid vessel is certified to "tier 4 emissions standards", reaching the highest standard for marine applications.

**"Equinor and bp's agreement with Edison Chouest will generate ripple effects throughout the supply chain, creating jobs in numerous states across the country. With the first of its kind, plug-in hybrid service operations vessel, Empire Wind will reduce potential emissions from our operations in the New York City area. This is another critical step forward in the development of the offshore wind industry, while helping achieve critical state and federal climate goals," says Teddy Muhlfelder, vice president, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, Equinor.**

"Edison Chouest Offshore will provide a state-of-the-art vessel fit for Empire Wind. We selected Edison Chouest in part for its extensive experience and expertise as a shipbuilder and we look forward to a collaboration beginning with construction and continuing through operations for the next decade or more. This is an important step in our efforts to develop a domestic supply chain in the US for offshore wind," says Mette H. Ottøy, chief procurement officer, Equinor.

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**Heerema Joins Equinor and BP on US Offshore Wind Projects**

**Offshore Wind Biz**  
**By: Adnan Durakovic**  
**5/9/22**

**Equinor has, on behalf of the 50-50 partnership between Equinor and bp, selected Heerema Marine Contractors as a strategic supplier for the development of offshore wind projects on the US East Coast.**

Equinor and Heerema intend to enter into a Strategic Supplier Agreement for the transportation and installation services of wind farm foundations and offshore substations for the projects.

This agreement will include the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind wind farms and will cover a firm period of seven years.

Throughout this period, Equinor, bp as 50 per cent joint venture partner, and Heerema will collaborate as exclusive partners in the preparation and Jones Act compliant execution of the projects.

Together, Heerema and Equinor will focus on optimizing the economic benefits the projects can generate for the New York State communities, the Dutch company said.

"The award of this unique agreement is yet another chapter in a long history of working together globally with both Equinor and bp on often challenging offshore installation projects," Heerema's CEO Koos-Jan van Brouwershaven said.

"We are proud to be selected to join Equinor and bp once again in a frontier market and region. The future of offshore wind relies on strong forward-looking partnerships that recognize the need to secure transport and installation capacity."

**The 2.1 GW Empire Wind 1 and 2, and the 1.2 GW Beacon Wind are being developed by a 50-50 partnership between Equinor and bp. Equinor will be the operator through the development, construction, and operations phases of the projects.**

**Empire Wind, for which Equinor acquired the lease in 2017 and is developing it in two phases, is located 15-30 miles (24-48 kilometres) southeast of Long Island, in water depths of 65-131 feet (20-40 metres).**

Beacon Wind is located 60 miles (almost 97 kilometres) east of Montauk Point and 20 miles (32 kilometres) south of Nantucket. The lease was acquired in 2019 and has the potential to be developed with a total capacity of more than 2.4 GW.

"We are very pleased to have developed a contractual framework together with Equinor that enables true partnership. Together we have established a basis of mutual trust and transparency as core values, and I am excited to see the benefits of this innovative agreement materialize for both our client and Heerema," Heerema's Director Wind, Jeroen van Oosten, said.

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**Future of New York City power focus of Schneps Media's New York Energy Conference**

**AMNY**

**By: Ximena Del Cerro & Meaghan McGoldrick**

**4/29/22**

Leaders in politics and the energy industry gathered at City Tech on April 27 for the New York Energy Conference hosted by Schneps Media in partnership with National Grid.

The conference included two panel discussions with members of the energy industry, researchers, government officials, advocacy groups, developers, labor leaders and more focused on the future of energy in New York, and the many opportunities for and challenges in creating a green economy here.

"Energy affects all of us here in New York State and around the world and we're really thrilled to be able to have with us some great industry experts and elected officials, government officials, business and community leaders taking their time to discuss their expertise," said Schneps Media CEO Josh Schneps. "There are a lot of ideas, and a lot of work that is being done today and we have experts here to share it."

Panelists addressed two major topics — current initiatives and progress for New York's energy, and its future.

Keynote speakers included National Grid President Rudy Wynter and National Grid Chief Strategy and External Affairs officer Ben Wilson.

For event sponsor National Grid, a multinational utility company that delivers electricity and gas to New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, the end game is clear: "We want a reliable transition that leaves no one behind," said National Grid President Rudy Wynter in his opening address.

"We need to rise to the challenge because climate change is obviously an existential crisis, but we need to do so by making sure we leave no one behind, making sure that this transition provides the services that every home and business need," Wynter said, adding that "this conversation couldn't happen at a better time."

Last week, the utility company announced a plan to provide fossil fuel free heating across the Northeast by 2050 "with archivable milestones along the way." The plan is focused on using renewable natural gas and green hydrogen.

In 2019, New York state committed to the world's most ambitious climate goal when it passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and created the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan, which laid the groundwork for a 100% zero-emissions electrified economy that stops adding to climate change by 2040.

State agencies and private companies took on the task and, so far, have built hundreds of wind and solar farms to power businesses, vehicles and homes. By law, New York has just eight years to more than double the share of the electricity generated from wind, sun and water to 70 percent, from less than 30 percent today.

According to many of the 10 experts who participated in the New York Energy Conference, the city is not ready to make the shift yet, but the state's creation of wind energy is highly promising.

Ironically, to accomplish leaving fossil fuels behind, coal and gas are needed.

"The gas network is going through some drastic changes," said Donald Chahbazpour, director of regulatory strategy at National Grid's Future of Heat sector. "Gas will play a critical, integral role in enabling going where we want to go."

Experts seem to agree that New York's clean energy future is in the wind.

"New York City is sort of the center of the country for innovation in the [wind power] industry," said Julie Stein, senior vice president at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, a nonprofit

corporation whose stated mission is to “leverage the city’s assets to create good jobs and drive growth, ensuring equitable and sustainable development across all five boroughs.”

According to Stein, this year has gotten off to a great start with two projects that are currently underway. The first is the offshore wind port at the South Marine terminal announced by Mayor Eric Adams in March, which will bring about a third of the total for the state goal offshore wind generation: 3.3 gigawatts out of the night.

**The second is a substation for Empire One. In September 2020, British energy giant BP formed a partnership with Equinor to develop offshore wind and announced the acquisition of a 50% non-operating stake in the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects being developed off the shores of New York and Massachusetts.**

**Equinor also committed to establishing a \$5 million ecosystem fund to “bring more NYC residents into offshore wind careers, propel offshore wind innovation, and support a just transition.”**

And it's not just major utility companies that are getting on board. Michael Apuzzo, business manager of Plumbers Union Association Local 1, said that right now, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials is working to develop a hydrogen gas code to start development of piping that would facilitate a new, natural blended gas.

“Just like everything else when we started with wind and solar [energy], it took time to develop,” he said, adding that, while the union certainly has licensed plumbers who are trained to install these new pipes (“We’ve been doing this for over 130 years,” he told the crowd), “It just can’t happen as quick as everyone thinks it can.”

Though there are some things that certainly need to be done sooner rather than later, according to the experts.

“We’re in the era of these horrible storms that we had 1.95 inches [of rain] in Central Park — the highest recorded — and then a month later, it was 3 inches,” said James Gennaro, chair of the City Council’s Committee on Environmental Protection. “The city’s infrastructure, in regard to being able to assimilate stone water, the standard for the last 50 years or so has been 1.57 inches per hour — and that’s a lot.”

And though it's not enough to keep up with changing weather patterns, Gennaro said, there are remedies in the works.

“We just don’t have the ability to replace 7,500 miles of sewer lines with mains that would have [better capacity], that’s just not in the cards so we have to think outside of the box,” he said, adding that, something exciting is coming from the Adams administration and the Department of Environmental Protection. “I don’t want to spill the beans...but there are other ways that we can sequester water so that it doesn’t go into the [sewer] system.”

Speaking on the downside of what to do with end-of-life batteries, Patrick Hanley, chief operating officer of Viridi Parente — a point-of-use energy tech company revolutionizing the way energy is stored and used — said his team has already worked with another company to make recycling batteries more efficient.

"We didn't want to cause more problems by having [batteries] end up in landfills, so we partnered with a local company, Li-Cycle, that's able to take end-of-life batteries and recycle them by way that's about 95% they're able to reuse."

This, and other market trends, Hanley said, are "a demonstration" of where we as a city and state need to be right now.

On the topic of what's next for the city and the state in terms of energy, panelists from all walks of life broke down what that means for everyday New Yorkers.

"When we think about our gas business here in Brooklyn, we think about it in this context: How do we do our part, how do we decarbonize," said featured speaker Ben Wilson, chief strategy and external affairs officer for National Grid.

While hydrogen is "a great end destination," Wilson said, it will take time.

"So in the early stages, the transition will be more focused on renewable natural gas," he told the crowd. "Agricultural waste, food waste, landfill, wastewater treatment plants, there are thousands of these installations all over the United States — and they produce a very powerful greenhouse gas. We will capture that and we'll put it into gas networks and use it as fuel that is carbon-neutral and maybe even carbon-negative."

NYCEDC submitted a proposal last month for offshore wind programs that are water dependent to utilize the maritime opportunities in the Rossville site on the west shore of Staten Island, a 33-acre site. The project brings with it the promise of new jobs, according to City Council Minority Leader Joe Borelli, who represents the area.

"I think when we talk about generational change, this is gonna be one of the most significant generational changes for maritime purposes on the city's waterfront, and especially on Staten Island," the pol said.

When asked if carbon capture — a process that captures carbon dioxide emissions from sources like coal-fired power plants and either reuses or stores it so it will not enter the atmosphere — is achievable, panelist Uzi Dvorkin, an assistant professor at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, said that though it is vital, there is a need to be realistic as well as optimistic about what we can do to make efforts like this happen.

"Even right now when we have all of these optimistic ideas being put forward, we understand that it's literally impossible for us to achieve our climate goals without ensuring that there is a sequestration mechanism in place," Dvorkin said, "and the key bottleneck here is to make sure that this mechanism is scalable and cost-effective."

For National Grid, the focus remains on renewable natural gas.

"We are looking at things essentially, green hydrogen," said Pardhib Kiliti, director of technology and innovation at National Grid.

Also looking to keep green is Dave Lombino, managing director of external affairs at Two Trees Management Co., whose team is working to rebuild the storied Domino Sugar Factory in Williamsburg.

"That new building will be 100% electric," he said. "It's something we're excited about. Overall our entire portfolio, both new residential and commercial properties and our existing stock of early retrofitted industrial buildings that now serve as office buildings, we've come to the realization too late that we need to be cutting edge, and we need to be decarbonizing our buildings."

It's all about being open to new technologies, he said, adding that he learned a lot at the Schneps' conference — and that someday soon, he hopes Two Trees' entire fleet can be the best it can be for the environment.

North Brooklyn Councilmember Lincoln Restler echoed a need for sustainability, especially in his District 33.

"Ours is a waterfront district, so we are anxious about being deluged by that next big storm," said Restler, who released a roadmap for climate neutrality in his run for election and plans to release an updated plan soon. "We stretch from Gowanus all the way up to Greenpoint on the East River waterfront and we're trying to put out a tangible plan for the action we can take in our district to make ours a model in the fight against climate change."

"I think if we wait for Washington or some national agreement to come in to save the day, it's gonna be too late," Restler added. "We need to take action now."

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#### **High school students learn about careers in offshore wind**

**Spectrum News – NY1**

**By: Juan Manuel Benitez**

**4/5/22**

Clean energy is expected to power the future of the city and also the careers of thousands of New Yorkers.

Hundreds of high-schoolers disembarked in Red Hook on Tuesday to hear about the fast-developing green energy sector, including offshore wind power.

"Having future jobs open for you," said Catherine Murphy, a junior student at the New York Harbor School. "It's really, really cool."

"It's interesting how fast it's becoming popular," another junior at New York Harbor School, Liana Martin, noted.

The career fair, organized by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, is part of the city's efforts to phase out fossil fuels and embrace renewable energy.

The state expects to have a zero-emission electricity sector by the year 2040.

"Thanking the younger generation for pushing all of us my age and older from moving faster, moving faster into a green economy, a just transition," said Andrew Kimball, CEO of the New York City Economic Development Corporation. "We are making an investment in the future."

In March, Mayor Eric Adams announced the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will become one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the country, handling the construction of parts and bringing about 13,000 jobs to the city.

**Companies like Equinor are expecting to build offshore wind farms miles from the New York Bay and Long Island in the next few years.**

**"We need to develop our talent workforce for this industry to make sure New York stays a frontrunner within the offshore wind," Equinor's community engagement manager Alba Peña said.**

Other energy companies, like Rise Light and Power — the owner of Ravenswood, the largest power plant in the city — are trying to adapt to a zero-carbon future.

"That means transitioning old fossil fuel plants into hubs of clean energy," said Sid Nathan. Rise Light & Power's vice president of external affairs.

New York State has the goal of generating 9,000 megawatts of power from offshore wind by 2035, enough energy to power six million homes.

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**Maersk Wind Turbine Installation Vessel to Be Built to ABS Class**

**Offshore Wind Biz**

**Adnan Durakovic**

**4/4/22**

Sembcorp Marine will build the next-generation wind turbine installation vessel (WTIV) ordered by Maersk Supply Service to ABS Class, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) said.

**Two new feeder barges and two diesel-electric hybrid tugboat units will also be built to ABS Class by Kirby Offshore Wind (KOW), to supply the WTIV with towers and turbines for installation on Equinor and bp's Empire Wind 1 and 2 wind farms off the coast of New York, USA.**

"The new feeder solution equips Maersk Supply Service with a methodology that ensures a radically more efficient installation, which will in turn enable developers to release their supply chains more quickly and lead to faster revenue generation from their wind farms," said Jonas Munch Agerskov, Chief Commercial Officer at Maersk Supply Service.

"All of this will contribute to bringing down the levelized costs of offshore wind. The solution is also less weather dependent, allowing installation all year round. The feeder methodology has been designed in-house and patented by Maersk Supply Service and is a real credit to the innovation and hard work of the teams involved."

The jack-up is scheduled to be complete in 2025, with work on the Empire Wind project, and associated feeder barge services, expected to commence in late 2025 or early 2026.

"We have been carefully evaluating opportunities to enter the offshore wind industry for several years, and we are very pleased to partner with world-class operators such as Maersk, Equinor, and bp on a critical foundational project with a multi-year transportation agreement," David Grzebinski, Kirby's President and Chief Executive Officer, said.

"Kirby's participation in this renewable energy space will not only grow Company earnings and returns, but will also greatly enhance our ESG product and service offerings in the coming years. These vessels will create new American jobs, both during the construction phase at two U.S. shipyards, as well as for U.S. mariners once operations commence."

Empire Wind, for which Equinor acquired the lease in 2017 and is developing it in two phases, is located 15-30 miles (24-48 kilometres) southeast of Long Island, in water depths of 65-131 feet (20-40 metres).

The project's two phases have a total installed capacity of more than 2 GW.

**The 816 MW Empire Wind Phase 1 wind farm was selected in New York's first-ever offshore wind solicitation in 2019 alongside Ørsted and Eversource Energy's Sunrise Wind project.**

At the beginning of last year, New York selected the joint venture as the winner of the state's second offshore wind solicitation, in which the two partners participated with two projects: the 1,260 MW Empire Wind 2 and the 1,230 MW Beacon Wind 1.

"Maersk will use the Jones Act tugboats and feeder barges for transportation services for the offshore wind project components from South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to the Wind Installation Vessel for the Empire Wind project," said Christopher J. Wiernicki, ABS Chairman, President and CEO.

"With emissions in mind, it is great to see these global companies coming together to use the hybrid tugboats to support the continued build out to 30GWs and furthering the clean technology adoption in the U.S. Maritime sector. Moreover, this serves as an additional step in moving the offshore wind industry forward, with the development of the supply chain within the State of New York for the scale of these projects."

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#### [\*\*Sunset Park Daily: South Brooklyn Marine Terminal + IBX Gaps\*\*](#)

**Patch**

**By: Diane Witek**

**3/30/22**

Nothing says more about economic opportunity than jobs. Jacobs was selected by Empire Offshore Wind for the design of New York's South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT). The facility, located in Sunset Park, will see a redevelopment of more than 70 acres of underutilized property into a vibrant, working waterfront. "The contract award will bring direct jobs to the local community, leaning on Jacobs' expertise to advance these vital port facilities to support Empire Wind, Beacon Wind and the wider offshore wind industry," said acting Vice President Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, Equinor Renewables U.S. Teddy Muhlfelder.

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[\*\*Jacobs, top-rated engineering firm, chosen to detail-design Brooklyn wind turbine assembly facility\*\*](#)

**Brooklyn Eagle**  
**3/30/22**

Jacobs Engineering has been selected by Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and BP plc, for the detail design of the city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park.

The facility will serve as an operations and maintenance base and staging and assembly port for wind turbine installation.

**Operations at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) will support the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind farms that are in development of the coast of Long Island. Once completed, the projects are projected to reduce carbon emissions while providing clean energy to more than 2 million New York homes.**

The site redevelopment will transform more than 70 acres of underutilized property into a vibrant, working waterfront. Expected to be one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the nation, the site will contribute to New York's clean energy transition and provide direct economic benefits to the local community, including jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Engineering and design began in March 2022, with construction anticipated to start at SBMT during the second half of 2023. In January, the project was given a boost by a \$25 million federal grant secured by U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer. The facility was proposed in late 2020 by Schumer and other officials, then approved by the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority in 2021.

"Designing infrastructure to revitalize communities and help meet our future sustainability goals is at the core of our purpose," said Gary Morris, senior vice president of Jacobs Buildings & Infrastructure Americas, North Region. "We share the mission of New York City and State to meet critical climate adaptation needs and to accelerate clean energy options through development of the SBMT."

The architectural and engineering design services contract includes oversight for the modification of existing bulkheads to strengthen and accommodate heavy-lift operations, upland site redevelopment, coordination with ongoing remediation efforts, dredging, a new green operations and maintenance facility, new docking facilities for crew transfer and service operation vessels, utility upgrades, permitting and construction support.

All services will be led out of Jacobs' New York City office, supported by a team of local New York-based partners, many of whom live in the Brooklyn neighborhoods near the project site.

**"Following our recently announced agreement to transform the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, Equinor and BP are moving forward with this next step in realizing our offshore wind hub vision. The contract award will bring direct jobs to the local community, leaning on Jacobs' expertise to advance these vital port facilities to support Empire Wind, Beacon Wind and the wider offshore wind industry," said Teddy Muhlfelder, acting vice president of Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, Equinor Renewables U.S.**

Jacobs Engineering provides engineering, technical, professional and construction services for a broad range of companies, organizations and government agencies worldwide. Last year, Engineering News-Record, a trade publication, ranked Jacobs No. 1 in its list of Top 500 design firms in the world.

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**Shipping giant Maersk to make offshore wind vessel debut for Equinor-BP New York projects**

Recharge News

By: Bernd Randonwitz

3/29/22

**Maersk is entering the market for offshore wind installation with a firm contract from BP and Equinor's Empire Wind joint venture for a new vessel to serve the 2GW-plus lead-off two phases of the huge project off New York.**

The Danish shipping giant will build a Denmark-flagged, Singapore-constructed vessel for Empire Wind, which will remain at the installation site while US partner Kirby Offshore Wind will provide US-flagged feeder barges and towing vessels to stay in compliance with the Jones Act. The legislation, dating back to 1920, prevents foreign-registered vessels from transporting goods between two points on US territory.

"In signing this contract with Equinor and BP, we are ready to invest in Maersk Supply Service's first wind installation vessel and firmly establish Maersk Supply Service as an offshore wind contractor," said Steen Karstensen, chief executive of Maersk Supply Service.

The project, due in service from 2026, will feature Vestas V236-15MW turbines. When completed, Empire Wind 1 and 2 are slated to power more than one million New York homes.

The installation concept combines a new installation vessel design with a patented load transfer system that will enable safe transfer of cargo, Maersk said. The concept will utilise tugs and barges to transport turbine components out to the installation site, while the installation vessel itself will remain on location to carry out successive installations.

The split set-up will cut the actual turbine installation time by about a third, Jonas Munch Agerskov, chief commercial officer (CCO) at Maersk Supply Service, told Recharge, compensating developers for the additional cost of having to employ both installation vessels and feeder tugs and barges.

"When you have a jack-up and tugs, the total split becomes more expensive than just having a single jack-up. That being said, it is also a more efficient installation set-up, because it allows the jack-up to stay on the critical installation path at all points in time," Munch Agerskov said in an interview.

"That basically means, that if you take an average offshore wind farm of 100 turbines, depending on the distance from port, we would be between 30-35% faster than conventionally."

"When you do the whole day-rate time it takes to install an average turbine, and sum that up into the total cost or the developer, it ends up being a very attractive proposition... Overall, for the developer, it is still the more cost-efficient solution."

The faster developers can get electricity out of wind turbines, the better for the net present value of their projects, the CCO stressed.

"When you are able to install an offshore wind farm 30–35% faster, that means lot for the overall profitability of offshore wind farms."

Munch Agerskov added that the split installation-feeder barges concept in the US is also attractive as some projects are challenged by ports being behind bridges.

Maersk also said that it is looking into using green methanol for offshore installation vessels in the future. The first vessel will be built for dual fuel – so both be able to run on e-methanol and traditional fuel. Maersk Supply Service hope to be able to run on climate neutral fuel from day one of the operation, but it will depend on the availability of e-methanol in the market.

Maerk's installation vessel will be supported by two newbuilt tugs and barges from Kirby, which will transport the wind turbine components from the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to the Empire Wind lease area, located 15-30 miles southeast of Long Island, New York.

**"We are very pleased with having signed this agreement with Maersk, providing a state-of-the-art vessel for the landmark project in New York demonstrating industry collaboration with the US supply chain in providing new technology and solutions for the US offshore wind market," said Trond Gulichsen, project director at Empire Wind.**

**"The Maersk concept will ensure efficient installation of the Empire Wind turbines by using a dock-in feeder solution, which will improve safety by reducing the number of offshore lifts."**

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**GE to play role in New York's offshore wind farms**

**Albany Times Union**

**By: Larry Rulison**

**3/23/22**

General Electric Co. is going to play a role in the construction of electric grid infrastructure for New York's offshore wind farm projects.

**Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Norway's Equinor and London-based BP, is building three wind farms off the shores of Long Island under contracts with New York.**

GE Renewable Energy announced Tuesday that it had been selected by Empire Offshore Wind to build the required high-voltage electrical equipment, including an onshore substation, to bring electricity from the first wind farm, known as Empire Wind 1, to New York. Bond Civil & Utility Construction of Medford, Mass., is partnering with GE on the project.

Terms of the contract were not revealed, but most of the work will take place downstate. GE and Bond intend to open a Brooklyn office to manage the project.

**Empire Wind 1 will be built on 80,000 acres of ocean about 20 miles south of Long Island. It will generate enough electricity to power 500,000 homes.**

Although GE Renewable Energy is headquartered in Paris, GE is merging it eventually into GE Power, which is headquartered in Schenectady, as part of a new public company that will be spun off in 2024. GE employs several thousand people in Schenectady, including a large group of engineers and scientists in Niskayuna at GE Research.

**U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has been urging GE to become part of the supply chain of Empire Wind 1, hoping it will create jobs in New York state.**

The economic development impact from the three Empire Offshore wind farms is expected to exceed \$1 billion and provide enough electricity to power 2 million homes.

Equinor, which is majority-owned by the Norwegian government, is managing the project and will be building major equipment staging and assembly port facilities in Brooklyn and just south of the city of Albany in the towns of Bethlehem and Coeymans.

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**Schumer secures \$1.5 million for South End wind turbine training center**

**Albany Times Union**

**By: Larry Rulison**

**3/15/22**

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer of New York said he has secured \$1.5 million in federal funding for a new training center to be located in Albany's South End for wind turbine assembly jobs.

The Port of Albany is developing land on the Hudson River in the town of Bethlehem – located just south of the city line – for a large wind turbine tower assembly facility.

**The facility will be operated through a joint venture between Marmen of Canada and Welcom of Denmark to produce wind turbine towers for several offshore wind farms being built off the coast of Long Island by the Norwegian-based Equinor energy producer.**

The assembly site is expected to create 350 jobs or more once production ramps up and construction of the facility is completed.

In order to get the local workforce ready for the facility, a training center is being planned for Albany's South End neighborhood that is located next to the port. The South End is an economically disadvantaged neighborhood where the majority of residents are people of color. Schumer's \$1.5 million in funding would go toward that project as well.

Schumer also previously obtained a \$29.5 million federal grant to help pay for infrastructure requirements for the wind turbine facility, which is being built on land just south of the port.

"This earmark will help build the link between the offshore wind manufacturing planned at the Port of Albany and creating job opportunities in the South End of Albany and across all communities," said Rich Hendrick, CEO of the Port of Albany.

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**New York City to transform Brooklyn port into offshore wind hub**

**Axios**

**By: Rebecca Falconer**  
**3/4/22**

**New York City Mayor Eric Adams on Thursday announced plans to transform a warehousing and manufacturing port into an offshore wind farm hub.**

Why it matters: The facility, to be built at the city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, will be "one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the nation," per a statement from the mayor's office.

The wind farm will help New York City reach its climate goals of 100% clean electricity by 2040.

What they're saying: "This site will be the launch of a whole new industry for New York City that will support 13,000 local jobs over time, generate \$1.3 billion in average annual investment citywide, and significantly reduce our carbon footprint," Adams said in a statement.

"This is a transformative moment for New York City and our clean energy future — a future of sustainable power, good-paying jobs, and climate justice," he added.

**The big picture: The New York City Economic Development Corporation is partnering with wind-developer Equinor for the project, which will see the port upgraded and the terminal built out as an operations and maintenance base.**

**"The port will serve as a hub to support the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind farms," which will be located in the Atlantic Ocean, near Long Island, the city's statement notes.**

By the numbers: Both New York State and NYC have goals to obtain 70% of their electricity from renewables by 2030.

The city expects these initiatives to remove more than 34 million tons of CO2 from the environment — the equivalent of removing nearly 500,000 cars from roadways over a 15-year period.

It has committed \$191 million to offshore wind projects, according to the statement.

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**South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to become major offshore wind hub**

**New York Business Journal**  
**By: Liz Young**  
**3/3/22**

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, will become an offshore wind hub under a new agreement announced Thursday by Mayor Eric Adams.

**Offshore wind developer Equinor and its partner BP will upgrade and build out the city-owned terminal into a port capable of staging and assembling offshore wind technology components. The agreement was co-signed by the terminal operator, Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal LP, and the New York City Economic Development Corp.**

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will be one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the U.S. at more than 73 acres, according to Equinor and BP.

The project is part of a broader 15-year, \$191 million plan by the city to make New York into a destination for the offshore wind industry. The mayor's office estimated that the plan could create more than 13,000 jobs and generate \$1.3 billion in average annual investment, among other benefits.

In addition, this new hub will help New York as it works to reach its goal of 100% clean electricity by 2040, Adams said.

"This is an amazing opportunity for our city, and this is going to be an anchor location for not only green jobs, but green dollars to put in the pocket of everyday New Yorkers," Adams said at a press conference Thursday.

"In addition to creating jobs and economic growth, the wind capacity of this site will significantly reduce our carbon footprint, something we talked about over and over again," he added. "We're not just talking about it. We're going to be about it."

Equinor and BP plan to create an operations and maintenance hub and staging area at the terminal, with a total investment of \$200 million to \$250 million in infrastructure upgrades.

The port will be used as a staging facility for two projects that are expected to supply 3.3 gigawatts of energy, enough to power nearly 2 million New York homes:

- Empire Wind is about 15 to 30 miles southeast of Long Island and spans 80,000 acres.
- Beacon Wind is more than 60 miles east of Montauk Point and 20 miles south of Nantucket, Massachusetts, covering 128,000 acres.

The new offshore wind site is expected to support more than 1,000 jobs annually in the region, according to Equinor and BP.

**Equinor is also opening an offshore wind project office, adjacent to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Industry City, that will be the hub for Equinor and BP's regional offshore wind activities. That office will also house an offshore wind learning center where New Yorkers can learn more about the industry.**

NYCEDC in 2018 selected Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal — a joint venture between Industry City and Red Hook Terminals — as the leaseholder to reactivate the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

Now, under this agreement, Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal is entering into a sublease with Equinor and BP until 2054 for the operations and maintenance base and the onshore substation.

**Equinor and BP will have a 10-year term for turbine staging and installation activities with the option to extend the term for up to six more years.**

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[\*\*New York City inks deal for creation of offshore wind hub in Brooklyn\*\*](#)

**Reuters**

**By: Nichola Groom**

3/3/22

Two European energy companies on Thursday said they reached a deal with New York City to transform a Brooklyn port complex into an operations and staging hub for offshore wind projects planned in the region.

The agreement is the latest sign of corporate and government interest in offshore wind as a new domestic industry that will help reduce climate-warming emissions and create thousands of jobs. New York has a goal of developing 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035, enough to power up to 6 million homes.

**Norway's Equinor (EQNR.O) and Britain's bp said in a statement that they would spend up to \$250 million on upgrading the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The waterfront site was chosen because it is the only such facility in the New York City area that could accommodate the scale of offshore wind components, the companies said.**

The commitment to using the Brooklyn site and the Port of Albany was part of how the companies won contracts with the state earlier this year.

In a separate statement, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said the deal would support more than 1,000 jobs at the complex.

**Equinor and bp are partners in the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects that, combined, will one day be capable of producing enough electricity to power 2 million homes. They are expected to start operating between 2026 and 2028.**

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**Equinor, BP to Turn South Brooklyn Terminal to Offshore Wind Hub**

Bloomberg Law

By: Anton Wilen

3/3/22

**Equinor, BP has signed an agreement to turn the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal complex in Brooklyn, New York into a major regional hub for offshore wind.**

- Under the agreement, the terminal will transform into a offshore wind port capable of staging and assembling the largest, most sophisticated offshore wind technology components
  - **Equinor and BP will create an operations and maintenance hub and staging area at SBMT, with a total investment of \$200m–\$250m in infrastructure upgrades, while also pursuing the development of SBMT as a low-emissions facility**
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**Agreement finalizes deal to transform South Brooklyn Marine Terminal into wind energy hub**

Brooklyn Eagle

3/3/22

A long-talked-about agreement to transform the city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal into one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the nation was finalized on Thursday.

**It was signed by the New York City Economic Development Corporation; the energy development frm Equinor; Equinor's partner, bp; and Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, L.P.**

**The New York State Energy Research and Development Agency gave the go-ahead for the deal in January 2021, as reported by the Eagle at the time. In December 2021, Equinor announced the opening of its New York offshore wind project ofce at Industry City, also on the Sunset Park waterfront. Then, in January 2022, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-New York) secured a \$25 million grant to facilitate offshore wind development at the site.**

Heavy lift platforms will be built on the 39th Street Pier for wind turbine staging and installation for Equinor and other developers. Briefy speaking, wind turbines will be assembled from their component parts at the site, and then will be transported to the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind farms, where they will generate power. The Empire Wind farm will be located of the South Shore of Long Island, and the Beacon Wind farm will be at an offshore point between Montauk and Nantucket.

The Economic Development Corp. also partnered with Equinor and the community to support workforce training for a diverse pool of local residents to bolster opportunities for New Yorkers created by investments in offshore wind infrastructure.

The agreement expands the target of minority- and women-owned business enterprise (M/WBE) contractors based in and registered with New York City or New York State, with a 30 percent M/WBE participation goal; and will support technical assistance for M/WBE and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises to create more opportunities for participation in this sustainable growth industry. Additionally, the agreement ensures the development will be a low-emissions facility.

“With this investment, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will soon be transformed into one of the largest offshore wind port facilities in the nation,” said Mayor Eric Adams. “This site will be the launch of a whole new industry for New York City that will support 13,000 local jobs over time, generate \$1.3 billion in average annual investment citywide, and signifcantly reduce our carbon footprint.”

Equinor also committed to establishing a \$5 million ecosystem fund to bring more New York City residents into offshore wind careers, propel offshore wind innovation and support a just transition. Finally, the frm is working to establish an offshore wind learning center — accessible to the community — within its Brooklyn ofce, according to the Mayor’s Ofce.

The city has committed \$191 million to offshore wind projects — including \$57 million in support of SBMT and \$134 million in new investments. The city expects these initiatives to remove more than 34 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the environment — the equivalent of removing nearly 500,000 cars from roadways for 15 years — while creating 13,000 jobs related to offshore wind infrastructure across the fve boroughs, the Mayor’s Ofce said.

In 2018, NYCEDC selected Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal — in a partnership between Industry City and Red Hook Terminals — as the leaseholder to reactivate the underused South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. Under this agreement, SSBMT is entering into a sublease with Equinor and bp until 2054 for its operations and maintenance base, and its onshore substation.

Under the same agreement, Equinor and bp will have a 10-year term for turbine staging and installation activities with an option to extend the 10-year term for up to six additional years.

**"This agreement marks a major step forward in our commitment to New York State to both provide renewable power and to spark fresh economic activity, while creating enduring jobs," said Siri Espedal Kindem, president of Equinor Wind U.S. "With the support of NYCEDC, SSBMT, and our partners in the community, Equinor and bp are ready and eager to invest in the revitalization of SBMT— an historic port that will soon become a major part of New York's energy future."**

"After decades of advocating to bring offshore wind to South Brooklyn, UPROSE is happy to see this climate justice victory progress in a community with a legacy of fossil fuel pollution and health disparities," said Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of UPROSE, a Sunset Park-based environmental advocacy group. "UPROSE and the Sunset Park community have long fought to preserve the industrial character of New York City's largest industrial waterfront."

"I worked closely with Secretary Buttigieg to secure a critical \$25 million federal grant to facilitate the transformation of South Brooklyn Marine Terminal into one of the largest offshore wind power projects in the nation, and today I am proud to see it moving forward at full speed," said Schumer. "The federal investment will support good paying, green jobs for a community that has borne the burden of pollution, while helping New York State reach its emissions goals."

"The transformation of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal becoming one of the country's largest offshore wind port facilities is an exciting milestone for Brooklyn because of all it'll accomplish — from keeping industrial opportunities in the borough to creating more green jobs," said Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. "This is the forward, innovative thinking we should be seeing more of in the largest borough in New York City.

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#### [\*\*South Brooklyn Marine Terminal To Turn Into Renewable Energy Hub Off Sunset Park\*\*](#)

**Brooklyn Paper**

**By: Ximena Del Cerro**

**3/3/22**

Mayor Eric Adams announced on Thursday that the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) will be turned into an offshore wind energy port facility.

The project will transform the shipping, warehousing, and manufacturing space into an operations and maintenance hub for offshore wind farms.

The nonprofit quasi-governmental New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), along with Norwegian fossil and renewable energy company Equinor, its British partner BP, and the city-owned terminal operators will be in charge of the project.

NYC — as well as the state — has set goals to shift away from fossil fuels by creating and depending solely on a new, electrified economy by 2040. This comes after the Biden administration leased nearly half a million acres of the Atlantic Ocean for offshore wind development in January in the largest and most lucrative auction of its kind to date.

Fourteen companies competed for the rights to develop wind farms on six areas of the New York Bight, a shallow stretch of sea that runs between Long Island and southern New Jersey.

Bids rose to \$4.37 billion dollars. Bight Wind Holdings, a subsidiary of National Grid, won the rights to the largest tract for a whopping \$1.1 billion, or \$9,600 per acre. Other winning bids came from subsidiaries of oil and gas companies like Shell and Total, as well as international renewable energy companies like EDF Renewables. Only one U.S.-grown company, Invenergy, won the bidding for a lease.

When President Joe Biden stepped into office last year, he set a national goal of having 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power — enough to power 10 million homes — installed by 2030. Today, there are only two offshore wind farms in operation in the U.S. — the Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind pilot project — and they fulfill less than 1 percent of Biden's ambition.

NYC has committed \$191 million to offshore wind projects — including \$57 million for the SBMT transition.

Currently, there are five offshore wind projects in development, which are expected to power more than 2.4 million NY homes and bring a combined economic impact of \$12.1 billion to the state.

"I worked closely with Secretary Buttigieg to secure a critical \$25 million federal grant to facilitate the transformation of South Brooklyn Marine Terminal into one of the largest offshore wind power projects in the nation," said U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer. "The federal investment will support good paying, green jobs for a community that has borne the burden of pollution, while helping New York State reach its emissions goals."

**In September 2020, BP formed a partnership with Equinor to develop offshore wind and announced the acquisition of 50 percent non-operating stake in the Empire Wind off the NY and Beacon Wind projects at the Massachusetts offshore wind farms. Equinor also committed to establishing a \$5 million ecosystem fund to "bring more NYC residents into offshore wind careers, propel offshore wind innovation, and support a just transition."**

The company is also expanding the Port of Albany to build turbine towers that will be shipped down the Hudson River to Sunset Park and it announced the establishment of a community-accessible offshore wind learning center in its Brooklyn office.

NYCEDC stated mission is to "leverage the city's assets to create good jobs and drive growth, ensuring equitable and sustainable development across all five boroughs." The corporation committed to support a workforce training for diverse local residents including a goal of 30 percent participation from minority- and women-owned business enterprise contractors based in NYC or within the state.

Platforms for off-site wind turbine staging for Equinor and other developers will be built on the 39th Street Pier in Brooklyn. The agreement states the development will be a low-emissions facility.

The renewable energy industry is expected to support 13,000 local jobs over time and generate \$1.3 billion in average annual investment citywide.

Currently, five offshore wind projects are in active development, which will power more than 2.4 million NY's homes and bring a combined economic impact of \$12.1 billion to the state. Brooklyn's Sunset Park has long pushed to renew its industrial waterfront with green jobs.

"We will continue to advance an equitable recovery and make our environment healthier," said Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer.

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[\*\*Equinor and bp Sign Agreement to Transform South Brooklyn Marine Terminal Into Central Hub for Offshore Wind Industry\*\*](#)

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**3/3/22**

**Equinor, and its partner bp, today announced an agreement to turn the storied South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) complex in Brooklyn, New York into a major regional hub for offshore wind. Under the agreement, the terminal will transform into a world-class offshore wind port capable of staging and assembling the largest, most sophisticated offshore wind technology components for the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects and for the growing U.S. offshore industry on the East Coast.**

The agreement was co-signed by terminal operator Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SSBMT) and New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC).

The offshore wind projects on the US east coast are key building blocks to accelerate profitable growth in renewables and Equinor's ambition to install 12-16 GW of renewables capacity by 2030.

Equinor and bp will create an operations and maintenance (O&M) hub and staging area at SBMT, with a total investment of USD 200 – USD 250 million in infrastructure upgrades, while also pursuing the development of SBMT as a low-emissions facility. The port will become a cutting-edge staging facility for Equinor and bp's Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects that will supply 3.3 gigawatts (GWs) of energy—enough to power nearly two million New York homes—as well as become a go-to destination for future offshore wind projects in the region.

The redevelopment will inject the Sunset Park waterfront with substantial investment from the new renewable energy economy, creating new jobs and providing an economic boost to the community. Equinor and bp's activities at SBMT are anticipated to support over one thousand jobs annually in the region.

**"This agreement marks a major step forward in our commitment to New York State to both provide renewable power and to spark fresh economic activity, while creating enduring jobs," said Siri Espedal Kindem, President of Equinor Wind U.S. "With the support of NYCEDC, SSBMT and our partners in the community, Equinor and bp are ready and eager to invest in the revitalization of SBMT, an historic port that will soon become a major part of New York's energy future. New York has shown unflagging determination to become a focal point of the region's offshore wind industry, and this agreement offers tangible evidence that this vision is quickly coming to life."**

"We are enormously proud to lay the groundwork today for our vision of making New York City a nation-leading hub for the offshore wind industry. This agreement builds on the City's \$57M commitment to

reactivate SBMT as a key manufacturing and operations base and will help make New York a leader in climate resiliency as well as air quality through clean energy investments,” said NYCEDC Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President Lindsay Greene. “Working together with our partners at Equinor, bp, and SSBMT, we are also advancing economic recovery and increasing diversity in waterfront construction, by helping local minority- and women-owned business enterprises benefit from the growing offshore wind industry and take advantage of the green jobs of the future.”

Felipe Arbelaez, bp’s senior vice president for zero carbon energy, added: “Today marks the first of many positive ripple effects from this project – and we want them to reverberate far and wide. As we reinvent energy, we also want to help reinvent the communities that help deliver it by investing in the skills and capabilities needed. By creating this regional hub we are able to do just that and it brings us all one step closer to delivering this incredible offshore wind development.”

At approximately 73.1 acres, SBMT will be one of the largest dedicated offshore wind port facilities in the United States. It is the only industrial waterfront site in the New York City area with the capacity to accommodate wind turbine generator staging and assembly activities at the scale required by component manufacturers.

Equinor recently announced the opening of the New York offshore wind project office, adjacent to SBMT in Industry City, to serve as the hub for Equinor and bp’s regional offshore wind activities. The office will also be home to an offshore wind learning center that will provide New Yorkers an opportunity to learn about this growing new industry.

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#### [\*\*How Wind Farms Could Transform New York\*\*](#)

**New York Times**

**By: Anne Barnard**

**3/1/22**

Last Friday, six companies paid \$4.37 billion to lease ocean territory off the coasts of New York and New Jersey, aiming to build wind farms that could power two million homes. Here’s how those farms could transform some areas on land.

The energy-hungry, climate-conscious New York area looms large in the offshore wind market. Bidding for six seabed leases in the New York Bight — from Cape May to Montauk — yielded a record price of \$10,000 per acre.

Brooklyn’s Sunset Park has long pushed to renew its industrial waterfront with green jobs. Last year, the state selected Equinor, an energy firm, as a partner to rebuild the neighborhood’s port as a wind-turbine assembly and service hub.

**Equinor is also expanding the Port of Albany to build turbine towers that will be shipped down the Hudson River to Sunset Park on barges, as New York State angles for a central role in the nascent East Coast wind market.**

But there’s competition from New Jersey: The state is funding the building of a wind-industry port on the Delaware River. Demand for wind power could be high enough, analysts say, to support multiple sites in the region.

New Jersey, and the developers of a port on Staten Island's Arthur Kill, tout their unobstructed routes to sea. Special vessels could carry 50-story turbines that are standing up. From Brooklyn, those turbines need to lie flat to clear the Verrazano Bridge.

New York City lacks the space to make enough renewable energy to reduce its climate risk. Invenergy and EnergyRe, partners in an effort to deliver wind and solar power from upstate, won one of the new leases: They may also someday bring electricity in from the ocean.

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**COWI scores contract for Empire Wind project**

**4C Offshore**

**By: Tom Russell**

**2/15/22**

**COWI has been awarded a contract by Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and BP, to will deliver a turnkey design for the wind turbine foundations for the Empire Wind 1 and 2 projects off the coast of Long Island, New York.**

**Empire Wind is located 15-30 miles southeast of Long Island and spans 80,000 acres, with water depths of between 65 and 131 feet. The lease was acquired in 2017 and is being developed in two phases (Empire Wind 1 and 2) with a total installed capacity of more than 2 GW (816 MW + 1,260 MW).**

COWI will provide over 100 experts to work on all aspects of the wind turbine foundation design, from the tower interface to the seabed fastening – including steel, geotechnical and electrical design for the project as well as engineering support for fabrication, transportation and installation.

The development spans 80,000 acres and is in water depths ranging from 65 to 131 feet. The project calls for the detailed engineering of 138 foundation with diameters of approximately 30 feet and lengths up to 330.

Greg Matzat, Market Director, Offshore Wind & Renewables at COWI, commented: "We're thrilled to be supporting Equinor and BP on one of the largest offshore wind projects in the US. It's developments like this that really excite us, a complex engineering project, at the head of the development of a new industry in the US, that has huge social benefits and will help New York and the US achieve their renewable energy Goals. The offshore wind industry in the US is booming, and we see great potential here for our engineers to continue providing innovative solutions for our clients."

The announcement adds Empire Wind to COWI's offshore wind portfolio in the US, as it previously won a seven-year contract for Vineyard Wind in Massachusetts. The company has also secured numerous other projects on both coasts with respect to marine terminals, site assessments, geotechnical analysis, turbine and offshore substation foundation designs.

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**New York takes early lead as large-scale offshore wind starts rolling in the US**

**Canary Media**

**By: Maria Gallucci**

**2/1/22**

New York's first offshore wind farm is set to start construction this month, kicking off what state and federal officials hope will be a boom in offshore wind development after years of delays.

Onshore construction work for the 132-megawatt South Fork Wind farm will begin in early February, starting with a new electrical substation on the east end of Long Island, according to the project's developers. A subsea cable will later connect the 12 turbines standing in federal waters to Long Island's grid, supplying enough power for roughly 70,000 typical homes every year.

Once completed, potentially by late 2023, the \$2 billion project will be only the third of its kind in the United States — which trails far behind countries in Europe and Asia when it comes to offshore wind.

"This is a trailblazing project, certainly for New York but also for the industry," said Jennifer Garvey, the New York market affairs manager for Ørsted. The Danish energy giant is jointly developing the project with Boston-based energy provider Eversource.

South Fork Wind is "widely seen as a harbinger for the state's broader offshore wind goals," she told Canary Media.

New York aims to build 9 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2035, enough to meet about 30 percent of the state's total electricity needs. For densely populated areas like Long Island and neighboring New York City, the ocean represents one of the few available areas for installing large amounts of renewable energy capacity to meet demand from millions of households.

**More than 4.3 gigawatts of offshore wind projects are already under development in New York, including the planned 1.2-gigawatt Beacon Wind farm and the 2.1-gigawatt Empire Wind project, which is divided into two phases. Norwegian energy firm Equinor is developing both projects and recently opened an office in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood, where the company is building a hub for wind turbine assembly and maintenance.**

New York Governor Kathy Hochul (D) has pledged to invest \$500 million to upgrade ports and expand manufacturing and supply-chain infrastructure to support the massive buildup of offshore wind. "We must harness the potential of offshore wind to fuel our economy forward and meet our ambitious climate goals," the governor said in a January statement.

Six other East Coast states are accelerating long-simmering efforts to install turbines off their own shores: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Virginia. As with New York, leaders in those states say they want not only to boost clean energy locally but also to claim a share of the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic development that's expected to follow when the fledgling industry takes off.

As U.S. lags, China leads global offshore wind boom

To date, the United States has put just two wind projects in the water: a 30-megawatt wind farm near Block Island, Rhode Island, and a 12-megawatt pilot project in coastal Virginia. Together their combined capacity equals roughly one-tenth of 1 percent of the global total.

Worldwide, some 200 offshore wind farms totaling nearly 34.4 gigawatts were spinning at the end of 2020, according to the latest count by the International Renewable Energy Agency. Nearly three-quarters of that total is in the U.K. and the rest of Europe. Then last year China surged into the lead on offshore wind, reportedly adding a record 16.9 gigawatts in 2021 alone as developers sought to secure government subsidies before they expired. (Full global figures from 2021 are not yet available.)

The United States has been slow to follow suit over the last decade, and earlier attempts to build offshore wind farms — including most notably Cape Wind in Massachusetts — were ultimately abandoned. Initially, states and federal agencies lacked the needed permitting processes and regulations, creating major roadblocks for developers. Utilities and investors were wary of backing the novel and expensive technology, while litigious opponents worked to keep turbines away from waterfront communities and commercial fishing zones.

Now, that's starting to change, experts say. The cost of building and operating offshore wind farms has steadily declined worldwide as more projects have risen from the water. In the U.S., new state and federal policies to promote offshore wind development are providing much-needed certainty to developers, utilities and financial backers.

Last year, President Joe Biden's administration set the nation's first offshore wind goal to install 30 gigawatts of capacity by 2030, or enough to power more than 10 million homes for a year. To help meet that target, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management — which regulates energy development in federal waters — this month will sell leases to develop 480,000 acres off the New York Bight, a triangular area in the Atlantic Ocean between the eastern tip of Long Island and New Jersey.

"That's a very good signal to the industry that this is happening," said Chelsea Jean-Michel, a wind energy analyst at BloombergNEF. "The U.S. is an attractive market right now because we have this transparency in leasing and we have this government support, in terms of permitting to speed things along."

The Biden administration has awarded final approval to two commercial-scale offshore wind farms: New York's South Fork Wind and the 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The latter wind farm, developed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Avangrid Renewables, is expected to be operational in 2024.

Still, BloombergNEF expects the United States will fall about 4 gigawatts short of its 2030 goal, owing to the long development timeline for offshore wind projects. Jean-Michel said the time between when a developer secures an offshore wind lease and when the turbines begin to deliver power to the grid is generally about eight years — a period that involves mapping wind resources, conducting environmental reviews, and securing dozens of permits from village councils up to federal agencies to lay cables, build substations and install turbines.

"Because of all these different pieces of the puzzle, we're looking at 2022 as being one of the last years to commission a project [to begin operation] by 2030," she said.

New York's first offshore wind farm

The South Fork Wind farm will have taken a decade to develop by the time it's operating late next year. The longer timeline partly reflects some of the early growing pains that projects faced as government agencies and utilities developed their offshore wind policies in real time.

South Fork Wind will stand about 35 miles east of Montauk Point, the easternmost tip of Long Island. In 2013, the company Deepwater Wind secured commercial offshore wind energy leases for the project, which was initially proposed as a 90-megawatt, 15-turbine wind farm. Four years later, the Long Island Power Authority signed a 20-year agreement to purchase power from South Fork Wind, clearing a significant hurdle for the project's development.

Deepwater Wind also built the nearby Block Island offshore wind farm, which became the first of its kind in American waters when it began operating in 2016. Ørsted later acquired the Rhode Island-based developer and took over its offshore wind portfolio, which includes the proposed 880-megawatt Sunrise Wind project, also near the eastern tip of Long Island.

South Fork Wind has since expanded to a 132-megawatt project using a dozen 11-megawatt turbines.

The project has long faced opposition from commercial fishing organizations in New York and Rhode Island, who say they're worried the turbines will disrupt fishing activities and disturb nurseries for fish species, including the Atlantic cod. In its final environmental impact statement for the project, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said that while wind farm construction and operation is unlikely to harm marine species in the long term, it may have "major" adverse impacts for individual fishing operations, depending on where and what they fish.

Environmental groups, labor unions and faith-based organizations have expressed strong support for South Fork Wind over the years.

Jessica Enzmann, a senior organizer for the Sierra Club on Long Island, said the project reflects a shift away from polluting, fossil-fuel-fired power plants and toward a cleaner, job-creating industry. Ørsted has noted that its South Fork Wind project will require not just assembling and installing turbines but also producing steel and components for turbine foundations, laying sea cables and underground transmission lines, building onshore electrical equipment and expanding port operations.

"We're going to be cutting emissions, mitigating climate change and...bringing a tremendous amount of economic opportunity in the form of jobs and community benefits," Enzmann said of New York's nascent offshore wind industry.

"The just transition of workers is a necessary part of having our electric sector become renewable," she added.

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**[BP, Equinor formalize US offshore wind partnership](#)**

Offshore Mag

1/29/22

**bp and Equinor have completed the formation of their strategic US offshore wind partnership.**

**This includes bp's \$1.1-billion purchase from Equinor of a 50% interest in two major lease areas off the US East Coast. The new partnership is expected to develop up to 4.4 GW through two projects – Empire Wind and Beacon Wind – and together pursue further growth in the US offshore wind market.**

The completion of the partnership follows the recent success of the Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1 projects in being selected to provide New York state with 2.5 GW of power. This is the biggest US offshore wind award to date, bp said. Together with the existing award to supply 816 MW from the Empire Wind 1 development, this represents a total commitment to provide 3.3 GW of renewable offshore wind energy to the state of New York.

The execution of the procurement award is subject to the successful negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Dev Sanyal, bp's executive vice president of gas and low carbon energy, said: "We see significant opportunities by rapidly growing bp's offshore wind business, making a major contribution to our strategic goals and developing assets that will provide long-term, stable returns."

**The Empire Wind lease area, awarded to Equinor in 2016, is 15-30 mi (24-48 km) southeast of Long Island and has a total area of 80,000 acres (125 sq mi). Its two phases of development have a potential generation capacity of 2 GW.**

The Beacon Wind lease area covers a total area of 128,000 acres (200 sq mi), about 20 mi (32 km) south of Nantucket and 60 mi (97 km) east of Montauk Point. When fully developed its two phases are expected to have a total generating capacity of 2.4 GW.

According to bp, the staffing levels for the projects will evolve over time so that, once in operation, they will be staffed equally from both companies.

bp said it plans to become an integrated energy company. The company aims to grow its net renewable generating capacity from 2.5 GW in 2019 to 20 GW by 2025 and to around 50 GW by 2030. Also, the company said it aims to increase annual low carbon investment 10-fold by 2030 to around \$5 billion a year.

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**Schumer secures \$25M for wind technology hub at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal**

**Brooklyn Daily Eagle**

**By: Jaime DeJesus**

**1/28/22**

On Thursday, U.S. Sen. Majority Leader Charles Schumer secured a \$25 million federal grant to facilitate offshore wind development at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal 35th Street Pier Expansion Project.

The announcement was made at the terminal, along with U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of UPROSE, a Sunset Park-based grassroots community-based organization working on climate change.

The funds were awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Grant program.

Schumer said he advocated for the funding several times, speaking with U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Back in December 2020, Schumer joined other officials at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to call for a new hub to upgrade port infrastructure to support offshore wind development.

**Soon afterward, in January 2021, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority approved the plan, which would be done by the energy firm Equinor. The wind turbines would be assembled at the Brooklyn waterfront facility, then installed at “wind farm” sites off the coast of Long Island.**

I am proud we secured this massive \$25 million federal investment to help the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal reach new heights, boost the local economy, and blow a gust of new life into our fight against climate change,” said Schumer.

“This project is a true win-win-win that will create hundreds of good-paying union jobs, including for residents of this frontline Brooklyn community, boost New York’s clean-energy manufacturing sector, all while combating climate change in big, bold ways. Brooklyn has the wind at its back with this announcement, and the future looks very bright,” said the senator, a lifelong Brooklyn resident.

Upgrades to the port are expected to bring in 344 jobs and the offshore wind activity is estimated to create 3,274 full-time jobs.

The wind turbine assembly center would generate more than 1,500 megawatts of clean energy here in the city, positioning New York to play a significant role in the offshore wind supply chain that would create thousands of jobs across the state.

“Today, we were able to celebrate a huge victory for New York,” said Williams via Twitter. “A brand new green energy manufacturing hub is coming to Sunset Park — bringing jobs, cleaner air, and a just transition to this community. Thank you to all of our federal and local partners who joined us in this fight.”

Schumer added that the Sunset Park Terminal can position New York State to manufacture offshore wind technology while leading the way in clean energy deployment.

“This site is primed to be up and running quickly with investments like this one, providing New York a critical foothold in the offshore wind supply chain and its tremendous opportunities for new jobs,” he said.

“An honor to stand with [Schumer] and environmental justice advocates to announce nearly \$25 million in federal funding to advance the SBMT expansion project,” Velazquez said. “This victory for the community brings us one step closer to a sustainable working waterfront and jobs in Sunset Park.”

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[\*\*Sunset Park Daily: Adopt Edison & More + Subway Safety + Wind\*\*](#)

**Sunset Park Patch**

**By: Diane Witek**

**1/18/22**

One of the largest clean energy procurements in the U.S. so far is happening right here in Brooklyn's Sunset Park. Equinor and BP were chosen to provide New York State with offshore wind power. "Once complete, Empire Wind 1, Empire Wind 2, and Beacon Wind 1 will produce enough electricity to power around 2 million New York homes." Equinor recently announced the opening of a New York project office located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, opposite the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The wind farms will help generate more than \$1 billion in economic output to New York State. That includes investments in ports and infrastructure.

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**Power sale contracts finalised for 2.5 GW of wind off New York**

**Renewables Now**

**By: Veselina Petrova**

**1/17/22**

**The purchase and sale agreements (PSAs) for the Empire Wind Phase 2 and the Beacon Wind projects were finalised last week to bring clean power to the state of New York from an installed capacity of close to 2.5 GW.**

The two projects were provisionally selected last January in an offshore solicitation held by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The finalisation of the PSAs was a condition to formally close the award process and enables the start of project execution.

**The 1,260-MW Empire Wind 2 and the 1,230-MW Beacon Wind 1 developments are owned by a joint venture between Norway's Equinor ASA (NYSE:EQNR) and BP Plc (LON:BP). The partners will get payments from NYSERDA once their projects receive all needed permits and begin power supplies to New York. Customers' bills will be impacted by around USD 0.95 (EUR 0.83) per month, the agency said.**

**The Empire Wind 2 will add 1,260 MW of offshore wind capacity. It will be installed 15-30 miles (24km-48km) southeast of Long Island, within the 80,000-acre Empire Wind lease area that Equinor secured in 2017. The Beacon Wind 1, meanwhile, will be located within the Beacon Wind lease area east of Montauk Point and south of Nantucket, Massachusetts, which covers 128,000 acres and can accommodate over 2,400 GW of turbines. Beacon Wind 1 will have a capacity of 1,230 MW. Both projects include port upgrades to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, representing public and private funding commitments of USD 644 million.**

Empire Wind 2 is planned to be commissioned in 2027, followed by Beacon Wind 1 in 2028.

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**With more Long Island waters up for grabs, New York selects second offshore wind farm**

**WSHU (NPR LI)**

**By: J.D. Allen**

**1/17/22**

New York has picked the state's second offshore wind project in the same week that federal regulators announced plans to auction more waters off the south shore of Long Island.

**The state's decision moves two offshore wind projects by developers Equinor and BP forward. They received provisional approval by the state in January 2021. Together the Empire Wind 2 and Beacon**

**Wind projects are expected to generate 2,500 megawatts. That's enough to power at least 400 homes in a year.**

It would further the state's renewable energy goal to develop 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035.

"We have a legacy of manufacturing. It's in our DNA. We know how to build steel, we know how to build with our hands and make projects that will sustain whatever Mother Nature throws our way," Governor Kathy Hochul said. "By advancing these significant offshore wind projects, we can maintain our cadence for developing projects that will spur much-needed green job creation and investment. No state has felt the impacts of climate change more than New York."

The goal is to limit the state's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Research shows that climate change will make the Northeast hotter and wetter, and create more extreme weather events.

Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said advancements in renewable energy will give New York a head start.

"I think it was pretty disturbing for us to realize that six tornadoes touched down last September [on Long Island]. That was another first in history," Esposito said. "So whether it's rising sea levels, tornadoes, touching down hurricanes, we're on the front lines, and we need to act."

**Equinor, a Norwegian-based energy company, is already developing an offshore wind project, Empire Wind, about 30 miles off the coast of the south shore of Long Island. The company has upcoming surveying work scheduled through March off the coast of Long Beach, Lido Beach, and in Reynolds Channel, as well as in select onshore areas. The surveys will "assess the seabed and potential landfalls for laying export cables that carry the renewable power from offshore wind turbines to the electrical grid," a spokesperson said.**

**"The U.S. is a core market for Equinor's offshore wind business and the U.S. East Coast is one of the most attractive growth markets for offshore wind in the world," the company said in a statement. "We are currently in the process of evaluating potential new opportunities on the East Coast in line with our strategy of delivering profitable growth within renewables."**

The announcements follow the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's final sale notice to auction off more than 480,000 acres in the New York Bight. Those are waters between Long Island and New Jersey. The auction will be held on February 23. It will allow offshore wind developers to bid on six lease areas in the Bight.

The auction would further the federal government's renewable energy goal of 30,000 megawatts from offshore wind by 2030. Hochul said "unlocking this opportunity" has been long sought after "the Trump Administration that did not see the vision as clearly" as the Biden administration.

"Hats off to Governor Hochul for taking a huge step towards lowering energy bills for New York households, creating thousands of good-paying jobs and advancing President Biden's goal of a robust offshore wind industry in America," U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement Friday.

New York is expected to launch its third statewide solicitation for at least 2 gigawatts of new projects early this year. Hochul promised, in her recent State of the State address, an additional investment of \$500 million in offshore wind infrastructure. She is required to submit her 2022 budget proposal next week.

"I have to say, with all the reference to Bob Dylan, 'the answer my friend, is blowing in the wind.' So that's what we're talking about here today," Hochul said.

#### **Building New York's wind farms**

The Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind projects are expected to become operational by 2028 once they obtain all required permits and approvals and complete construction.

Some of the wind turbine towers will be built in the Port of Albany and Brooklyn through a partnership with the state. Part of New York's master plan for the offshore wind industry includes public and private funding of \$644 million to develop port infrastructure in Albany. The plan also includes more than \$287 million to build an offshore wind staging and assembly facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal for projects off Long Island's South Shore. Electricity customers will ultimately pay for the spending through an additional charge of about \$0.95 per month on their energy bills.

"They will initiate this new [master] plan to look at the next frontier of offshore wind development," Julie Tighe, president of the New York League for Conservation Voters. "And ultimately, offshore wind will help us reduce our reliance on power plants, which are all too often polluting our environmental justice frontline communities."

New York is also infusing a lot of cash into developing the workforce for the renewable energy industry. Officials announced the first round of competitive awards under the state's \$20 million Offshore Wind Training Institute, the largest public investment of its kind in the nation.

"We can and will overcome the challenge of climate change, and we'll do it one clean energy worker at a time," U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said. "It's that combination of the private sector, and the government partnership, and the partnership with labor that makes this all work. And so you've got the secret sauce, you've got all of the ingredients. We want to take this example, and bring it across the country."

The training institute will certify and train 2,500 New Yorkers beginning this year to support both offshore and onshore renewable energy projects, through a partnership between the SUNY Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University on Long Island.

The governor said this is an opportunity not only to develop more jobs but to also diversify the offshore wind workforce.

"We do this, yes, to protect the future, but also to give people, particularly who had been so hard hit by this pandemic, an opportunity to transition into jobs, and it's up to all of us to ensure that the training opportunities are there, and that's why we have an offshore wind training institute right on Long Island," Hochul said. "And we're going to continue leaning hard into this, as well as opening the door for opportunities for women — I don't see as many women as I want to see in these industries — as well as people of color."

The state's first offshore wind project

South Fork Wind, by developers Eversource and Orsted, are in the permitting stage, with final approvals expected to be just days away. Construction is set to begin next month, according to Ken Bowes, the head of offshore wind permitting for Eversource.

Developers Orsted and Eversource have two of the five offshore wind farms that are moving through the evaluation and permitting process in New York.

They selected Melville-based Haugland Energy Group for the project's first construction contract to build the 4-mile underground cable that connects to an electrical substation in eastern Long Island. The company also did the cable work for the Block Island Wind Farm, the first offshore wind project in the country off the coast of Rhode Island.

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**Full 'green' ahead for Port of Albany offshore wind development facility**

**Spotlight News**

**By: Michael Hallisey**

**1/15/22**

Gov. Kathy Hochul stood alongside U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, Congressman Paul Tonko and other elected officials from the Port of Albany on a cold Friday morning to announce the finalization of contracts between the New York state Energy Research and Development Authority and Empire Wind Offshore LLC and Beacon Wind LLC on Jan. 14.

**Each contract a 50-50 partnership between Equinor and bp, for the Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects, representing a key milestone in the advancement of offshore wind development in New York.**

"We know what it takes to build and sustain for the future, it's in our DNA as New Yorkers," Hochul said. "By advancing these significant offshore wind projects, we can maintain our cadence for developing projects that will spur much-needed green job creation and investment. No state has felt the impacts of climate change more than New York state, and now more than ever, we can continue to lead the way with our ambitious, nation-leading vision to transition to a renewable energy and a cleaner, greener future."

The \$350 million wind tower assembly facility will expand the Port of Albany's current footprint, pushing south down the Hudson River shoreline into the Town of Bethlehem. Town Supervisor David VanLuven, who was in attendance for the press conference, said he was excited to see the prospective benefits of green energy development coming out of Bethlehem.

"People sometimes think of Bethlehem as a sleepy little community," he said, "but from here we have the promise of 500 jobs in the Port of Albany, another 1,500 jobs coming from Plug Power. The future of Green Energy is unfolding right here in our town."

Friday's announcement formally closed the state's second offshore wind competitive solicitation and also includes the first awards for the state's Offshore Wind Training Institute. Coupled with this week's issuance of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Final Sale Notice for the New York Bight and the

State of the State announcement of a nation-leading \$500 million investment in offshore wind ports, manufacturing and supply chain to be integrated within NYSERDA's 2022 solicitation, these events represent a significant step forward in advancing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goal to develop 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035.

Also announced today were the first round of competitive awards under the State's \$20 million Offshore Wind Training Institute, the largest public investment in offshore wind workforce development by any state in the U.S. Through a partnership between the State University of New York's Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University on Long Island, the training institute aims to advance offshore wind training programs and the educational infrastructure needed to establish a skilled workforce that can support the emerging national offshore wind industry. The Institute will certify and train 2,500 New York workers beginning this year to support both offshore and onshore renewable energy projects.

"Hats off to Governor Hochul for taking a huge step towards lowering energy bills for New York households, creating thousands of good-paying jobs, and advancing President Biden's goal of a robust offshore wind industry in America," U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm said. "We can and will overcome the challenge of climate change, and we'll do it one clean energy worker at a time."

The governor's office said the average bill impact for customers will be approximately 0.8 percent, or about \$0.95 per month. Total project costs, including a cost-effective average all-in development cost of \$80.40 per megawatt-hour, are approximately 7 percent lower than those of NYSERDA's 2018 awards.

**The 1,260-megawatt Empire Wind 2 and 1,230-megawatt Beacon Wind projects were provisionally awarded in January 2021 as a result of NYSERDA's second offshore wind competitive solicitation. Expected to enter into commercial operation in 2027 and 2028, respectively, the projects are anticipated to strengthen New York's economy and further drive investments in ports to directly support offshore wind projects while establishing New York as the hub of the offshore wind supply chain. NYSERDA payments to the projects will commence once they obtain all required permits and approvals, complete construction, and begin delivering power to New York.**

The final project contracts include both public and private funding commitments, including \$644 million in port infrastructure and \$357 million in the nation's first offshore wind tower manufacturing facility to be built at the Port of Albany. Another \$287 million is earmarked for an offshore wind staging and assembly facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, and more than \$8.9 billion in anticipated in-state spending. More than 5,200 jobs are anticipated to be created, backed by prevailing wage and project labor agreement commitments.

"We know New York's potential for offshore wind development is tremendous. Today's exciting news will play a pivotal role in expanding this industry, creating good-paying jobs, training the energy workforce of the future, and helping address our most pressing climate challenges," said Tonko. "Thanks to all involved in this forward-thinking announcement that invests in our region and pushes New York further down the path to becoming a powerhouse of wind manufacturing."

The Port of Albany extension initiative was part of the bid Equinor submitted in response to the NYSERDA's offshore wind energy solicitation, which sought up to 2.5 gigawatts of offshore wind and multi-port infrastructure investment plans.

The construction of an offshore wind tower/TP manufacturing facility at the Port of Albany is expected to provide an immediate economic boost to the area as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, creating new employment opportunities as early as the second half of 2021.

"Today's announcement sets Equinor and bp on the path to provide over 3.3 GWs of offshore wind power for New York," said President of Equinor Wind US Siri Espedal Kindem. "It also offers a large-scale, tangible demonstration of the incredible economic activity and carbon reduction potential being driven by New York's green energy transition. We are proud to help lead the growth of this exciting industry in New York."

#### Offshore Wind Training Institute

Hudson Valley Community College was named among the first two winning proposals that will receive a combined \$569,618 to support early training and skills development for disadvantaged communities.

Hudson Valley Community College is to help build a strong pipeline for the Capital District's offshore wind initiative. The Troy-based community school recently began offering a two-year associate degree in welding and fabrication and will focus student recruitment efforts on priority populations in urban and rural disadvantaged communities, providing full or partial scholarships to participants.

Foundational welding skills training will be provided by the Capital Region Educational Opportunity Center, a division of HVCC with additional non-credit training and certifications be provided at the college's main campus. The college will also partner with regional manufacturers building turbine components to provide a skilled workforce pipeline of welders and fabricators, aiming to train 75 individuals, including 65 from priority populations and disadvantaged communities.

"Hudson Valley Community College is committed to helping supply the workforce for New York State's clean energy future," said Penny Hill, Dean of Economic Development and Workforce Initiatives for HVCC. "In addition to those trained in welding and fabrication, the college is ready to provide other educational opportunities to support the offshore wind industry. We look forward to partnering with manufacturers to provide job training and build stronger, more resilient communities."

New York State has five offshore wind projects in active development, the largest portfolio in the nation. This initial portfolio totals more than 4,300 megawatts and will power more than 2.4 million New York homes and is expected to bring a combined economic impact of \$12.1 billion to the state. The projects are also expected to create more than 6,800 jobs in project development, component manufacturing, installation, and operations and maintenance. Achieving the State's 9,000 megawatt by 2035 goal will generate enough offshore wind energy to power approximately 30 percent of New York State's electricity needs, equivalent to nearly 6 million New York State homes, and spur approximately 10,000 jobs.

Friday morning's announcement from the Port of Albany was the first leg of a regionwide tour that included stops to the University at Albany and Hudson Valley Community College. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was said to be in Washington, D.C. at the time of the morning press conference, but later joined Hochul throughout the day's tour.

**"As we celebrate New York's innovation in clean energy this week in Albany, I'm thrilled to announce this key partnership between the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Empire Wind Offshore LLC and Beacon Wind LLC," she said. "This marks another milestone in our state's**

leadership and innovation in clean energy and offshore wind development. I look forward to continuing our great work to bring clean energy jobs and technology to New York."

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**State signs contracts for two previously awarded offshore wind farms**

Newsday

By: Mark Harrington

1/14/22

New York state on Friday said it finalized contracts for two of the largest offshore wind projects to power the state grid, with pacts that Gov. Kathy Hochul said will bring billions in new investments while costing customers around \$1 a month.

**The two projects, by Norway-based Equinor, had been awarded a year ago, but the state hadn't signed the contracts, as Newsday reported earlier this week. Equinor, during that year, had decided to scrap a previous plan to use massive concrete foundations dropped onto the ocean floor to support the turbines, which are just under 1,000-feet tall.**

Instead, it has decided to pile-drive foundations into the ocean floor, a move that some environmentalists criticized because of potential impacts on whales and other wildlife. Equinor has said the work will take into account those concerns.

In all, the state's contracts for offshore wind now number five projects in "active development," Hochul's office said, with just over 4,300 megawatts, or enough to power some 2.4 million homes.

"We're going to create the necessary ecosystem so that all of the supply chain can be made right here," Hochul said Friday morning at the Port of Albany, home to a planned offshore wind tower manufacturing plant.

Hochul's announcement Friday came amid a flurry of wind-energy activity this week, including the federal government's decision to hold a lease auction for six new wind-energy areas in the waters off Long Island and New Jersey in a section of the Atlantic known as the New York Bight. U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm attended Hochul's announcement.

And construction on Long Island's first contracted wind farm to power the South Fork could start this week with the awarding of a multimillion-dollar contract to Melville-based Haughland Energy to build the land-based portion of that 130-megawatt project's cable and substation infrastructure, employing more than 100 union workers.

**Signed the Equinor contracts activates the company's plan to build a wind-tower manufacturing facility in the Port of Albany, paid for with public-private funding of about \$357 million. Equinor also will build an offshore wind-staging and assembly facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.**

In all, Hochul's office said, \$8.9 billion will be spent and more than 5,200 jobs created as part of the two projects, which will feed the New York electric grid at a Long Island Power Authority connection point in Long Beach and another via Long Island Sound into Queens.

The state said average customers' bills will be affected by about 0.8% as a result of the new energy sources when they are in service by the mid-2020s, a calculation officials said amounted to 95 cents a month. Energy from the facilities will cost \$80.40 a megawatt hour. The two projects have a combined output of some 2,490 megawatts, a critical component of the state's goal of 9,000 megawatts of wind energy by 2035.

Hochul last week announced a \$500 million investment in offshore wind ports, manufacturing and supply as part of her State of the State address.

The state also is advancing a plan for an offshore wind training institute. The first round of competitive awards under the \$20 million plan includes a grant of \$569,618 to Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, and LaGuardia Community College in Queens to "support early training and skills development for disadvantaged communities and priority populations," Hochul's office said.

Stony Brook University and Farmingdale State College, which are partnering with the state in the training institute, already have or soon will have certificate or degree programs for offshore wind training. And Suffolk County Community College plans programs with a \$10 million grant from Orsted.

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#### [\*\*Equinor and bp Achieve Key Step in Advancing Offshore Wind for New York\*\*](#)

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**1/14/22**

**Today, at an event with U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, New York Governor Kathy Hochul, and U.S. Representative Paul Tonko, Equinor and bp announced the finalization of the Purchase and Sale Agreements (PSAs) with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), for Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1. The PSAs set the terms under which these projects will supply homegrown, renewable power to New York and inject significant economic investments into the state's economy.**

The finalization of the PSAs concludes the contracts awarded in January 2021, when Equinor and bp were selected to provide New York State with offshore wind power in one of the largest renewable energy procurements in the U.S. to date.

**Once completed, Equinor and bp's portfolio of active offshore wind projects (Empire Wind 1, Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1) will produce enough electricity to power about 2 million New York homes, and will help generate more than \$1 billion in economic output to New York State. This includes investments in ports and infrastructure that will reinforce New York's position as the regional offshore wind industry hub—and a leading example of economic activity driven by the energy transition.**

The offshore wind projects on the US east coast are key building blocks to deliver on Equinor's ambition to install 12-16 GW of renewables capacity by 2030. Equinor expects to deliver these projects within the return guidance communicated at the last Capital Markets Update in June 2021. The completion of the PSA represents a major milestone and enables the start of project execution for the Equinor-bp partnership.

**"Today's announcement sets Equinor and bp on the path to provide over 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind power for New York. It also offers a large-scale, tangible demonstration of the incredible economic activity and carbon reduction potential being driven by New York's green energy transition," said Siri Espedal Kindem, President of Equinor Wind US. "We are proud to help lead the growth of this exciting industry in New York."**

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA, said, "Offshore wind is bringing unprecedented investment to New York State, and we are proud to further cement ourselves as the offshore wind hub of the nation. Meeting our nation-leading offshore wind goal of 9,000 megawatts by 2035 will be an essential economic driver for the state, and these projects will help transform our energy system while providing thousands of family-sustaining jobs to bolster our growing green economy."

Felipe Arbelaez, bp's senior vice president for zero carbon energy, added: "These are world class assets and we are moving quickly and safely to get them producing the energy people need in the way that they want it – all the while creating positive ripple effects for the surrounding communities and industry. Today's milestone is a critical step forward and we will continue to work hard to deliver the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects, providing clean energy and stable returns for decades to come."

The PSAs agreed to with New York State finalizes the terms under which Equinor and bp will provide generation capacity of 1,260 megawatts (MW) of renewable offshore wind power from Empire Wind 2, and another 1,230 MW of power from Beacon Wind 1, while making substantial investments in New York's infrastructure. The projects include port upgrades to transform South Brooklyn Marine Terminal into a major staging and assembly facility for the industry, as well as an operations and maintenance base for the projects. Equinor recently announced the opening of a New York project office located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, opposite the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The partnership will also invest in the Port of Albany, making it America's first offshore wind tower and transition piece manufacturing facility.

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**Letter: Equinor is Delivering on its Commitments to New York**

**Albany Times Union**

**By: Scott Lundin**

**12/28/21**

Equinor has partnered with New York since 2017 on its historic transition to renewable energy. Our Empire Wind project will power over one million New York homes from wind turbines located south of Long Island, generating clean energy and providing substantial investments in infrastructure, jobs and communities.

**Equinor's willingness to keep its commitments was recently questioned ("Offshore wind project developer needs to keep its word," Dec. 10) based on the turbine foundation type selected for Empire Wind. The fact is that our commitment to New York has never been stronger.**

**Equinor's winning bid proposed several project concepts, including a base case using gravity-based foundations (GBS) if feasible. We then spent three years, millions of dollars, and countless hours studying its application within the particular characteristics of our offshore lease area. Ultimately, GBS was found not to be technically and commercially feasible. Monopiles became the preferred foundation type, in keeping with all other Northeast offshore wind projects. Equinor has not changed the level of**

**planned investment in New York. We have not walked away from our commitments. On the contrary, using GBS would jeopardize our ability to deliver Empire Wind to New York.**

We agree that offshore wind should not come at the expense of endangered species like the North Atlantic right whale. We will stand up an effective plan for mitigating underwater sound impacts during project construction—and do so in consultation with environmental and other stakeholders. Equinor embraces transparency and collaboration. Only by working together can we deliver this project and secure the jobs, economic opportunity, and renewable energy that offshore wind can provide.

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**Schumer lines up nearly \$30 million for turbine plant at Port of Albany**

**Albany Times Union**

**By: Larry Rulison**

**12/20/21**

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer said Monday that the Port of Albany will receive \$29.5 million in federal funding to help build a plant at the port that will be used for the assembly of offshore wind-turbine towers.

**Schumer has been pushing to help secure the money for the project, which would create hundreds of new jobs and involves three well-known wind energy companies, Marmen of Quebec, Welcon of Denmark and Equinor of Norway, that will operate the facility as a joint venture.**

In a phone interview Monday, Schumer said the money was vital to the project, giving the companies involved a major signal that it would receive the government support required in the industry, which can be volatile even as it grows rapidly. The money will be used to prepare the site to be able to handle such heavy parts and manufacturing.

"It's transformational," Schumer said of the port project. "It's going to be one of the most significant economic development projects in Capital Region history."

That's because as the wind energy sector grows, there is going to be a massive need for wind turbine towers, the long poles that hold up wind turbines in the sky. The U.S. is just now starting to develop its offshore wind capabilities compared to Europe where the offshore wind market is more mature.

Schumer wrote several letters and made a call to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to lobby for the grant, which will come through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The money is part of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill that Schumer steered through the Senate and was signed by President Joseph Biden.

The offshore wind turbine towers, which are typically made outside the United States and are much larger than traditional wind turbines used in the countryside, will supply wind farms that Equinor is preparing to build off the coast of Long Island under a contract with the state. Once assembled at the port, the completed towers would be floated down the Hudson River.

**Equinor informed federal regulators two months ago that the first of the wind farms to be built will take longer-than-expected to complete due to regulatory constraints.**

However, Equinor, which is now partnering with the British energy company BP on the wind farms, said last month it plans to have the Port of Albany facility completed by 2023 with 330 workers initially. The facility is considered a coup for the Capital Region's efforts to attract and grow clean tech and renewable energy companies.

The assembly plant is planned for a piece of land that is actually just south of the Port of Albany's existing operations in the town of Bethlehem that sits on the Hudson. Schumer said the plant could eventually employ 550 people.

Rich Hendrick, CEO of the Port of Albany, said the money is essential to get the project started.

"This funding comes at a pivotal time for the Port of Albany's offshore wind project and would not be possible without the strong support from Sen. Schumer," Hendrick said.

General Electric Co., which has renewable energy operations located in Schenectady and Niskayuna, makes wind turbines, including the larger offshore models. Schumer has pushed GE to consider making the turbine blades in New York state as well.

Regardless, the Port of Albany project would also be able to attract other wind energy manufacturing work beyond just what Equinor is planning.

"There's going to be a demand for wind turbines regardless of what happens," Schumer said.

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**Offshore wind developer Equinor cuts ribbon to office in Sunset Park**

**Brooklyn Daily Eagle**

**By: Jaime De Jesus**

**12/7/21**

**The ribbon was cut at Industry City as offshore wind developer Equinor announced the opening of its New York offshore wind project office at the massive Sunset Park waterfront complex on Tuesday.**

**Equinor operates two lease areas, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind. The projects are expected to provide New York State with 3.3 gigawatts of energy.**

In attendance were His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Haakon of Norway; Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre; representatives of Equinor Wind US and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); local leaders and more.

Equinor's office at Industry City is around 10,000 square feet and is across the street from the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The company's plan, as reported in the Eagle earlier this year, will transform that facility into a hub for staging and assembling wind-power equipment. The Marine Terminal stretches from 29th to 36th Streets on the Brooklyn waterfront.

The renovation of the office space will begin early next month, with an opening anticipated within the second quarter of 2022.

Equinor Wind US President Siri Espedal Kindem discussed how happy she was to grow the company's U.S. offshore wind initiative here, thanks to the support of New York State and the people in the community.

**"The office is the cornerstone for our vision of developing an exciting new industry in New York, in the United States, and beyond," she said. "Going forward, the success of this industry must not only be measured by the amount of renewable power it provides, but also by the impact it has in sparking fresh economic activity and creating enduring jobs. We are thrilled to be taking on this important work."**

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Randy Peers was in attendance at the ceremony.

"Equinor's investment in Brooklyn and in wind energy for New York City is unprecedented," he told the Eagle. "It's a win-win scenario, producing alternative energy on the road to combating climate change, while also producing good-paying, career-oriented jobs for Brooklynites. We are so excited to have Equinor as part of the Brooklyn community."

Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of UPROSE, a Sunset Park-based grassroots community-based organization working on climate change and racial justice, discussed the importance of this collaboration.

She said that to truly operationalize a just transition, unconventional partnerships must be created that genuinely work with community leadership and support frontline community-led priorities.

"Too often, we see frontline communities like Sunset Park get left out of these large billion-dollar infrastructure projects that impact our community," Yeampierre said. "We need clean energy but we also need accessible workforce training, education, resources and direct investments to strengthen social cohesion and build long-term community wealth."

A look at the office before it undergoes renovations next year. Eagle photo by Jaime DeJesus  
As Empire Wind and Beacon Wind offshore wind projects develop and progress over the coming years, it is estimated that the office will be staffed by 20 employees.

"Equinor's investments and partnership are critical vehicles for advancing our climate and clean energy goals, and we look forward to continuing our shared efforts to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to truly change the energy system and create thousands of family-sustaining jobs," said Doreen M. Harris, president and CEO of NYSERDA.

Phil Cochrane, head of state affairs and third-party advocacy for bp Americas, spoke at the event.

"What you see here today is the commitment of Equinor, bp and our project to be a good neighbor," he said. "We see an opportunity that will not only bring clean energy to this area, but it will help revitalize and grow a workforce, a skillset of people and together make this a great community. Our company believes we do have to tackle climate change."

At the Brooklyn site, according to a statement from the company published in the Eagle in January, Equinor will "invest in port upgrades to help transform SBMT into a world-class offshore wind staging and assembling facility and become the operations and maintenance (O&M) base both for Equinor and other project developers going forward."

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[\*\*Equinor Announces Opening of New York Offshore Wind Project Office in Sunset Park, Brooklyn\*\*](#)

**Business Wire**

**By: Equinor**

**12/7/21**

**Equinor today announced the opening of the New York offshore wind project office, located in Sunset Park's Industry City neighborhood adjacent to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The project office will serve as the hub for Equinor and bp's large-scale offshore wind operations in the region, including Empire Wind and Beacon Wind. Together, Empire Wind 1 and 2 and Beacon Wind 1 are poised to provide 3.3 gigawatts of renewable power to New York, enough to power approximately 2 million homes. Empire Wind and Beacon Wind are being developed by Equinor and bp through their 50/50 strategic partnership in the US.**

The opening of the project office marks a significant milestone in Equinor's commitment to bringing an exciting new industry to the state and region that is set to last for decades. The event was attended by His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, and the Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre. In addition, Doreen Harris, President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization and co-chair of the Climate Justice Alliance, Eden Chan, student at Macaulay Honors College and Shore Corps Leader for the Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE), and Phil Cochrane, Head of State Affairs & Third Party Advocacy, bp Americas, spoke at the event.

**"We would not have achieved this exciting benchmark in the growth of our U.S. offshore wind initiative were it not for the support of New York State and the people in this community," said Equinor Wind US President, Siri Espedal Kindem, who presided over today's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "The office is the cornerstone for our vision of developing an exciting new industry in New York, in the United States, and beyond. Going forward, the success of this industry must not only be measured by the amount of renewable power it provides, but also by the impact it has in sparking fresh economic activity and creating enduring jobs. We are thrilled to be taking on this important work."**

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA said: "As New York solidifies its place as the nation's leader in offshore wind, we are pleased to see Equinor affirming its commitment to our state and its workforce. Equinor's investments and partnership are critical vehicles for advancing our climate and clean energy goals, and we look forward to continuing our shared efforts to seize this once in a generation opportunity to truly change the energy system and create thousands of family-sustaining jobs."

The New York project office will support the development of Empire Wind and Beacon Wind. The office will also be home to an offshore wind learning center that will provide New Yorkers an opportunity to learn about this growing new industry. As the projects progress over the coming years, around 20 dedicated staff members will be based in the office. The office will be built out by a local New York contractor and is set to open for day-to-day operations in 2022.

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[\*\*Vestas named preferred supplier for Empire Wind\*\*](#)

**4C Offshore**

**By: Tom Russell**

**10/18/21**

**Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and bp, has selected Vestas as its preferred supplier for wind turbine generators for the Empire Wind I and Empire Wind II offshore wind farms.**

The deal would see Vestas deliver 138 V236-15MW wind turbine generators with a total generating capacity of around 2 GW - for the two Empire Wind developments. Each rotation of a 15 MW turbine is expected to be capable of powering a New York home for about 1.5 days.

**"We are delighted to select our preferred supplier for what will be the largest contract in the Empire Wind project. The turbines have the highest rated capacity available in the market today, which is a great fit for the high ambitions we have in this project. We have chosen the technology which will provide the best value for Empire Wind from the world's largest turbine manufacturer. This is state of the art technology moving the boundaries of wind energy production," said Arne Sigve Nylund, executive vice president for Projects, Drilling & Procurement in Equinor.**

"The selection of a preferred turbine supplier for New York State's Empire Wind I and Empire Wind II offshore wind projects is providing a clear signal that the advancement of New York's nation-leading 9 gigawatts goal of offshore wind by 2035 is on pace to deliver clean energy for New Yorkers," said Doreen M. Harris, president and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

"Through the utilization of New York's various ports, these types of partnerships will tap into local companies and manufacturing to further establish New York as the hub for the nation's offshore wind industry."

**"Through this preferred supplier agreement, we are leading the development of a rapidly growing offshore wind industry in the US. This is just a starting point as we continue to progress the projects and harness the local supply chain. Empire Wind is a flagship offshore wind development, shaping the future of this industry. Today's announcement brings us one step further, as we work together with our partner bp, the State of New York and NYSERDA, and all stakeholders to develop Empire Wind, which will play an important role in producing renewable electricity to deliver on critical climate ambitions for the state, the nation and Equinor's target of reaching net zero by 2050," said Siri Espedal Kindem, president of Equinor Wind US.**

Felipe Arbelaez, bp's senior vice president of zero carbon energy, added: "Major renewable energy developments like Empire Offshore Wind not only deliver clean energy to power homes, but also build important supply chains and create jobs. Empire I and Empire II can be transformational for how New York State gets its energy. bp and Equinor together have the technical and commercial abilities to get these important projects moving forward -and moving fast. We continue to seek opportunities to build out our business as we pursue our net zero ambition, and support cities such as New York on their net zero journey."

The tower sections for Empire Wind will be manufactured at Marmen and Welcon's new plant in Port of Albany and will be supplied by Vestas. The tower manufacturing plant is expected to be operational by the end of 2023 and is anticipated to create up to 350 direct local jobs. The plan is for towers to be transported down the Hudson River to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT). At SBMT staging of the turbine components is planned to take place before transport offshore to the Empire Wind lease area for installation, contributing to several hundred renewables jobs in New York.

The turbine supply and service and warranty contract awards are conditional upon final agreement on the contract conditions and signing of the Empire Wind II purchase and sales agreement between Empire Offshore Wind LLC and NYSERDA.

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**New York City Unveils 15-year, \$191M OSW Plan**

**RTO Insider**

**By: Michael Kuser**

**9/26/21**

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio on Thursday announced a 15-year, \$191 million plan to make the city a manufacturing and staging center for the offshore wind industry.

The city's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) developed the Offshore Wind Vision plan to help meet the state's goals of 100% clean electricity by 2040 and carbon neutrality by 2050, hoping to create more than 13,000 jobs and generate \$1.3 billion in average annual investment.

"New York City is stepping up to confront the climate crisis with bold action," de Blasio said in a statement. "Investing in our offshore wind industry isn't only a win for our planet, it also means thousands of new jobs and affordable, clean power for New Yorkers. This plan will have a dramatic impact on our fight against climate change and will help set us on the path towards a clean energy future."

The plan focuses on sites and infrastructure, business and workforce, and research and innovation. The city committed to developing infrastructure to support construction and operation of offshore wind farms, and promoting efforts to build, stage, install and maintain wind turbines.

In addition, the EDC will make offshore wind a priority public-private investment area through its Public-Private Impact Initiative Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI), and it will launch an offshore wind-focused accelerator, according to the plan.

The plan will "reduce emissions while creating good green jobs," said U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY). "The mayor has long understood the way transforming our energy system will drive our economy to new heights."

**The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) is being transformed into a world-class OSW port to be operated by Equinor, developer of the 1,260-MW Empire Wind project. Equinor will establish a \$5 million fund to ensure that low-income communities, people of color, and New Yorkers from environmental justice communities reap benefits from the new investment. (See NY Builds OSW Ports in Brooklyn, Albany, Long Island.)**

Activities at SBMT will include a 30% participation goal for minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBE), and any future site development will also contain a goal of at least 30%, according to the plan. To further support M/WBEs, the city will invest in a program that provides education, networking and resource support to businesses with an interest in offshore wind.

"We have the infrastructure in place to create wind manufacturing hubs right here in Brooklyn, such as South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the Red Hook Container Terminal," Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams said in a statement.

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**Leaders look to foster LI as 'wind supply chain powerhouse'**

**Long Island Business News**

**By: Adina Genn**

**9/20/21**

Leaders on Long Island continue to advocate fostering the region into a "wind supply chain powerhouse."

At an industry conference on Friday at LIU Tilles Center, leaders assembled from government, wind energy companies, labor and environmental groups, and local manufacturers. The aim of the conference was to see to it that the region "emerges as the premier source of wind energy" across the nation, according to a press release about the conference.

"Long Island's offshore wind resources are abundant and must be harnessed so that clean, affordable, and renewable power can be delivered to fight climate change, provide high-paying, high-skilled union jobs, and make money for New York businesses," Rep. Tom Suozzi, who organized the conference, said in a statement.

Suozzi has long advocated this effort.

**New York has already selected five offshore wind projects that will power over two million NYC and Long Island homes. Projects slated include Empire Wind, via Equinor, which is 14 miles from Jone Beach, as well as Empire Wind 2, as well as Beacon Wind nearly 60 miles from Montauk.**

And while some in the commercial fishing industry and environmentalists have questioned the impact turbines would have on the region, others say the technology would benefit the climate.

"Communities across Long Island are recovering from mudslides, record rainfall, and flash flooding from the remnants of Ida," said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment."

The time to act to fight against climate change is now. Offshore wind is a keystone tool needed to fight climate change and battle these devasting impacts," she said. "Successfully transitioning to renewable energy will take meaningful collaboration which means bringing together environmentalists, labor leaders, and industry to plan for a new green economy based on clean, renewable offshore wind."

The effort is expected to help power the region's economy, bringing jobs.

"The labor movement, government, industry leaders, and environmental groups have worked together to bring offshore wind to the Atlantic Coast," Liz Shuler, president, AFL-CIO, said in a statement. "Our progress shows that the way to respond and adapt to the climate crisis is through a high-road strategy with good, union jobs. From raw materials to offshore wind turbines and their key components, as we continue to scale up offshore wind, we must ensure that we are creating union jobs in the United States,"

"We are prioritizing a local supply chain for offshore wind and believe it is one of the most critical aspects to development of not only our projects, but the industry as a whole," Siri Espedel Kindem, president, Equinor Wind – US, said in a statement. "Of course, a big component of this is working in partnership with local communities, suppliers, and labor unions and engaging them in future opportunities as we build and harness this supply chain, and forums like this one help everyone connect and work together toward shared renewable energy goals."

"New York's offshore wind program is helping to trailblaze the offshore wind industry in the United States," said Peter Lion, senior advisor, Offshore Wind, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, said.

"Not only is New York setting an example for other states to follow, but we are sending clear messages to businesses, manufacturers and suppliers that New York State is open for business and with that comes a tremendous opportunity for partnership and collaboration to stimulate the economy and create high-quality jobs for New Yorkers," he added.

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**Long Island suppliers, unions seek lift from wind-power**

Newsday

By: Ken Schachter

9/17/21

With offshore wind power projects on the horizon, Long Island manufacturers and unions are angling for a role in the emerging industry.

"We want everyone to benefit from this," including business, environmental and organized labor constituencies, said Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi (D-Glen Cove), who organized a wind-power conference on Friday to bring local suppliers into the mix.

As climate change leads to drought, fires and floods, he said, the transition to carbon-free energy production is urgent, he said. "This is real life and death."

**One of the panelists, Siri Espedel Kindem, president of Equinor Wind US, a unit of Stavanger, Norway-based Equinor ASA, said that regional subcontractors have a wide range of opportunities such as construction, transportation and cable fabrication.**

"It's not all about the wind turbines," he said, "but also the infrastructure that has to be built."

Panelist Ross Gould, vice president for supply chain development at the nonprofit Business Network for Offshore Wind, said the 8,000 components that go into an offshore wind turbine provide ample opportunity for suppliers.

Tom Montalbene, president of Roman Stone Construction in Bay Shore, a manufacturer of concrete products for infrastructure, sees wind power as an attractive market.

"We're looking to get a piece of this," he said at the conference held at LIU Post's Tilles Center for the Performing Arts.

New York has five offshore wind projects in active development, according to the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency.

**Empire Wind, an 819-megawatt installation by Equinor and partner BP about 14 miles off Jones Beach, is expected to begin commercial operation in 2024.**

**Empire Wind 2, a 1,260-megawatt installation nearby, also is under development by Equinor, with commercial operation expected in 2026.**

**NYSERDA also chose Equinor for a third contract, Beacon Wind, a 1,230 megawatt project 60 miles off Montauk Point.**

**The state agency estimates Beacon Wind and Empire Wind 2 will produce more than 5,200 "direct" jobs and total economic activity worth \$8.9 billion in statewide labor, supplies, development and manufacturing.**

Offshore wind power projects have faced criticism from the commercial fishing industry, which has voiced concerns about safety and maritime congestion in prime fishing lanes.

But panelist Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said that wind power faces political pushback at a time when development should be accelerating.

"The naysayers are coming out" despite evidence of climate change such as droughts, fires, floods and ocean acidification, she said. "We need to put our finger on the fast-forward button."

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#### [Equinor appoints consultants for US offshore projects](#)

**Renews Biz**

**6/30/21**

Planning consultants Karp Strategies has been contracted by Equinor to support the offshore wind developer's efforts across New York State and New England.

Karp Strategies will support Equinor in fulfilling its \$47m (€39m) commitment to community benefits in New York and ensuring a just transition to renewable energy by centring community needs in the development process across its Northeast US portfolio.

The first focus of the partnership will be New York, where Equinor won the state's bid for two of the largest renewable energy procurements in the US to date.

Karp will concentrate on Empire Wind, an 80,000-acre offshore wind development off the coast of Long Island and the Rockaways that will power one million New York homes.

Also under its remit is Beacon Wind, a 128,000-acre site between Montauk Point and Nantucket that will power more than one million homes across the Northeast.

Karp Strategies managing principal and chief executive Rebecca Karp said: "This is a pivotal moment for offshore wind in the US.

"At the dawn of a new industry, now is the time to ensure that we're building the ecosystem in a way that works for the regional economy, lays the foundation for a local renewable energy supply chain, and positions New Yorkers and New Englanders to take advantage of the jobs and economic stimulus that these projects will provide.

"We look forward to partnering with Equinor, a global leader in this space, in positioning the Northeast US to reap the benefits of offshore wind for decades to come.

**Equinor US' head of public affairs David Marks added: "New York is positioned to become the hub of a thriving offshore wind industry in the US and Equinor is committed to centering communities at the heart of offshore wind development in New York State.**

"Karp Strategies will provide critical support in making sure we execute an equity-driven community benefits plan that delivers for local residents and the region."

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**Empire Wind Project Public Hearings In City of Long Beach**

**Patch**

**6/30/21**

Please be advised, public hearings for the offshore wind farm project, Empire Wind, will take place virtually tomorrow, June 30 at 5pm. Additional meetings are planned for July 8 at 5pm and July 13 at 1pm.

**The project developer, Equinor, has two contracts with New York State to provide over 2,000 megawatts of offshore wind power from the turbine field and plans to construct up to 174 wind turbines off the Long Island coast by 2027. The developer has included Long Beach as a possible site where offshore cables will make land to bring the wind energy to the Long Island and New York City power grids.**

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**How an offshore wind company made peace with fishermen**

**E&E News**

**By: Benjamin Storrow**

**6/25/21**

**In January of 2020, a team of engineers and permitting specialists from Equinor ASA, the Norwegian oil giant and offshore wind developer, gathered with about 30 fishermen in the conference room of a DoubleTree by Hilton hotel near the Philadelphia airport. They came equipped with maps of the New York Bight — a shallow stretch of ocean sandwiched between Long Island and New Jersey — and a collection of red markers.**

Their goal: Find a way for wind turbines and commercial fishing vessels to coexist.

What began at the DoubleTree 16 months ago has started to bear fruit. In a filing released by federal regulators this week, Equinor outlined a proposal to remove a series of turbines at the northern tip and center of its Empire Wind project in the New York Bight.

The move represents an attempt to reduce the impact of the 2,000-megawatt development on fishermen. The project calls for building up to 174 turbines, which could power more than 1 million homes. But it is located in a 79,350-acre triangle in waters between New York City, Long Island and New Jersey, which is prime fishing grounds for scallopers, clammers and squid boats, among others. Many fishermen have raised concerns about Empire Wind's impact on their business.

Equinor and fishing industry representatives heralded the proposed layout as a significant development. While it does not remove all the disagreements between the two sides, it has the potential to defuse an increasingly bombastic relationship between wind developers and fishing captains and serve as a model for other projects.

It also arrives at a crucial juncture. President Biden is pushing for a rapid build-out of America's offshore wind industry, as part of his plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a new generation of green jobs. Yet his success will depend in part on the ability of regulators and developers to address concerns from commercial fishermen, who have opposed plans to build a first round of projects along the East Coast.

**"I have been concerned for a while that there is a growing narrative that offshore wind and fishing can't coexist, and I think that is inaccurate," said Scott Lundin, head of U.S. permitting and environmental affairs for Equinor. The hope, he said, is that Equinor's work with fishermen can change the narrative by pointing to collaborations like the one that began at the DoubleTree.**

**"Some of these initial projects have been really challenging for a lot of different reasons," he said. "But that doesn't mean that these two industries are diametrically opposed and cannot work together because I think that they can and I think that they will. But I think it's just going to take some time for people to sort of come to realize that."**

Annie Hawkins, who leads the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, a fishing group, said the negotiations with Equinor represented a marked difference from other developers. The Norwegian company is the only developer thus far to consult fishermen on individual turbine siting, she said.

"Is it a solution to all the problems, and if we do this there are no impacts? Absolutely not. Is it a potentially good, effective way to minimize some of the impacts? Yes," Hawkins said. "It does highlight that there are things we can do working together to minimize the impacts."

RODA remains concerned about federal regulators' permitting process for offshore wind projects, and the group would like to see Equinor spell out its plan for impact payments to fishermen. Still, the organization intends to inform regulators it supports Equinor's process, Hawkins said.

"You'll see a very different comment letter from RODA," she said, referring to the public comments the group intends to submit to regulators.

Biden has set a goal of building 30,000 MW of offshore wind capacity along the East Coast by 2030. That represents a massive build-out compared with the 42 MW of total capacity installed at two small facilities in Rhode Island and Virginia today.

The Biden administration has moved quickly to speed up the permitting process for a slew of projects that languished in the federal government queue during the Trump years. In May, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a final permit for Vineyard Wind, an 800-MW project off Massachusetts. The bureau issued a draft environmental study for South Fork Wind, a 132-MW project off Rhode Island, in January, and it has announced it would begin environmental reviews for three projects along the Eastern Seaboard with a combined capacity of 3,800 MW.

Equinor's Empire Wind is the largest of those three in terms of its energy production. BOEM announced last week it was initiating an environmental review of the project. The company initially called for turbines to be laid out in straight lines at least .65 nautical mile apart.

But the outline released as part of Equinor's construction and operation plan contains several notable changes. The plan includes a 9,000-acre "open area" without turbines in the middle of the project's northwestern section. Instead, turbines would be placed around the project's perimeter. Another change calls for relocating three to five turbines from the project's western tip toward the center of the project area. Further turbines could be relocated from the western flank to the center of the development if Equinor is able to procure turbines with a generating capacity in excess of 12 MW.

The moves are primarily intended to accommodate trawlers, which tow long nets to reel in squid, scup, mackerel and other species.

The changes are the product of monthslong negotiations that began at the DoubleTree in Philadelphia. Equinor representatives started that day with a presentation about the technical considerations involved in siting turbines. Fishermen then took red markers to the maps of the bight to identify problematic turbine locations.

"We literally had people drawing things and running it by each other," Hawkins said. "We walked out of there with a couple good ideas."

Both sides described the workshop as cordial and informative. Fishermen were interested to learn that developers need to provide sufficient space between turbines to prevent one tower from blocking the wind needed by another. Equinor learned about the importance of the Cholera Banks, the western tip of the project area where squid boats mass to chase their catch.

**"I hope this is a good demonstration," Lundin said. "It is a tough conversation. It requires compromise."**

Still, both Lundin and Hawkins were hesitant about formally incorporating Equinor's approach into the federal government's permitting process for other projects. Some of the compromises made by the Norwegian company owed to the layout of the project, Lundin said.

Shipping lanes were less of an issue because there are existing lanes adjacent to the project area. Equinor also was able to reconfigure the turbine layout because the project is not contiguous to another development.

Off the coast of New England, that could prove more difficult. Developers there have agreed to lay out a series of adjacent projects in a 1-mile-by-1-mile grid in a bid to establish predictable transit between

turbines for mariners and fishermen. Moving turbines as Equinor did in the New York Bight would require coordination and agreement from multiple companies.

Hawkins, for her part, said her concern about formalizing Equinor's approach in regulation is that developers simply would count the number of workshops as evidence of their efforts to work with fishermen. More important than the number of meetings, she said, are the results they produce, adding, "There is plenty of work to be done."

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**[Video Simulation Shows What Empire Wind Project, Off Long Island and N.J., Will Look Like From Shore](#)**

**CBS New York**

**By: Carolyn Gusoff**

**6/22/21**

Offshore wind power is coming to New York for the first time, and it would be the largest wind farm in the nation to date.

**As CBS2's Carolyn Gusoff reports, a video simulation of what's called the Empire Wind Project, off Long Island and New Jersey, shows what it will look like from shore.**

Winds of change off Long Island, where offshore wind turbines will one day bring clean energy. To visualize the nation's first large scale offshore wind farm, with its 174 turbines, the developer created a simulation from Jones Beach, which has some relieved they're further offshore than first proposed.

"I actually don't think that it would be so bad," one person said. "You have the cargo ships out there. I'd rather look at wind turbines than the cargo ships."

"I'm all for it. I have solar panels on my roof," said another person.

"They're going to be so far out, especially with the haze we have," another person said.

Not everyone likes the view, which is coming in four years.

"I would hope in time they can find modifications of it so it wouldn't be so apparent when you're looking in the water," one person said.

"Doesn't look great," another person said.

"It's going to kill an awful lot of birds," another person said.

But beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"I understand that we're actually going to have to see sometimes a little dot on the horizon in order to save the planet," said Adrienne Esposito of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "I'm going to think of it as a beacon of hope for the future, for cleaner air, energy independence, and keeping our energy dollars here at home in America."

The site off Long Beach is one of five under consideration off Long Island and the one closest to the shore, at 15 miles. Each wind turbine is more than 950 feet tall. In New York terms, that's the size of the Chrysler Building.

The public can weigh in through virtual hearings in the next 30 days.

The scallop industry objects to its placement.

"Fishermen can't fish in a wind farm, and so building a wind farm on fishing grounds takes those fishing grounds out of play for the fishermen," said David Frulla, an attorney for the scallop industry. "You are looking at people losing their livelihoods."

"Frankly, the biggest threat to our fishing industry is climate change," Esposito said.

The Bureau of Energy Management invites comment before impact studies are launched.

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**The Empire Wind Farm would be some 19 miles off Long Branch, New Jersey.**

**Simulation shows what proposed windfarm would look like off Jones Beach**

**News12 Long Island**

**6/22/21**

The first visual simulation of a proposed windfarm off of Jones Beach shows how the view from the shore would change.

**The project, known as Empire Wind, plans to provide more than 2,000 megawatts of offshore wind power from the turbine field. The windfarm would be located 15 miles offshore.**

The images of the windfarm were released by project developer Equinor.

"Our energy infrastructure's not invisible. Just like you can see the Port Jeff power plant Barrett or the Northport power plant you'll be able to see a little bit, a little bit of the wind farm on the horizon," says Adrienne Esposito, of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "That's a small price to pay for saving the planet."

It's set to be constructed on around 80,000 acres off our island's coast.

The developer says 174 turbines will be built through 2027.

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**Equinor releases video simulation of wind farm from Jones Beach**

**Newsday**

**By: Mark Harrington**

**6/22/21**

The first visual simulation of what an offshore wind farm will look like from Jones Beach has been released by project developer Equinor, showing the turbines clearly visible at 15 miles from shore.

**The simulation, released as part of the company's recently submitted construction-and-operation plan for the massive project known as Empire Wind, is available on the federal government's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management website here.**

Equinor has two contracts with New York State to provide over 2,000 megawatts of offshore wind power from the turbine field, to be constructed on around 80,000 acres off the Long Island coast. Some 174 turbines will be built through 2027.

The turbines will be more than 951 feet tall, to the tip of the blades, Equinor has said. For comparison, the Chrysler Building in Manhattan is 1,046 feet tall.

In addition, Equinor's plans detail the specific locations of four possible sites in Hempstead Town where offshore cables will make land to bring the wind energy to the Long Island and New York City power grids.

The sites include two in Long Beach, including Riverside Boulevard and Monroe Boulevard, and/or two possible sites at Lido Beach Town Park, according to the plan, available here.

The cables will eventually make their way to a LIPA substation in Oceanside, according to the plan.

A second simulation of the appearance of the turbines from the New Jersey shore is available here.

Equinor said onshore ports to stage the turbine construction could include Homeport Pier or Howland Hook Marine Terminal, on Staten Island, and/or the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Brooklyn. "Empire has not yet finalized the selection of facilities," the plan notes.

Public hearings about the project will take place virtually starting June 30 at 5 p.m. For more information about the meetings and to register to speak, see BOEM's web page on Empire Wind here. Additional online meetings are planned for July 8 at 5 p.m. and July 13 at 1 p.m.

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**Biden advances another offshore wind farm — this one in N.Y.**

**E&E News**

**By: Heather Richards**

**6/17/21**

The Biden administration has begun an environmental review of a proposed wind farm off the coast of New York, the latest in an accelerating race to raise the first fleet of turbines in the northeast Atlantic.

**Empire Wind, a joint venture between oil giants Equinor ASA and BP PLC, would create enough wind energy to power 1 million homes. The proposal calls for 174 turbines in the New York Bight, a shallow-water region between New York and New Jersey.**

This is the fifth offshore wind project to progress this year, as the Biden administration chases a goal to decarbonize the U.S. electricity grid by 2035. The administration says this push, which includes permitting 16 offshore wind farms by the end of President Biden's term, will generate some 80,000 jobs.

Biden has committed to advancing the offshore wind sector, in keeping with a pangovernment focus on responding to the warming climate. That effort is expected to help drive a historic boom for the industry in the United States, where just seven offshore wind turbines currently spin.

"As coastal states look to offshore wind to help fulfill their clean energy goals to combat climate change and create good-paying jobs, BOEM is working diligently to evaluate environmental and multiple use considerations while engaging with our government partners, industry, other ocean users and key stakeholders," said Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Amanda Lefton in a statement.

Lefton is a former energy adviser for the state of New York, where the 2,000-megawatt Empire project will also be key to reaching the state's climate target of 9,000 MW of offshore wind power by 2035.

"Clearly this is a really important project for New York and the entire industry writ large because of its size," said Joe Martens, executive director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance.

Empire 1 and 2 are projected to create an average of 880 jobs annually over an eight-year development process. Once they are online, operations and maintenance would support about 300 long-term jobs, according BOEM.

The two parts of the project will be constructed separately and electrically isolated, with two separate substations at sea to divert the wind energy into high-voltage export cables headed for land. One cable would carry power to an onshore point in Brooklyn and another to Long Island.

**Originally, the Empire project was advanced by Equinor alone. The Norwegian power firm won two solicitations rounds with the state of New York.**

In part, this wind farm proposal was approved because Equinor's plans include a push to bring a manufacturing facility to the port of Albany and upgrades to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, which will serve as an offshore wind hub for the developer.

Economic development and boosting underserved communities are part of the point system New York uses in choosing its offshore wind projects.

Then BP bought a 50% stake in Equinor's U.S. projects last year as part of the oil supermajor's promise to decarbonize and a target to help support 50 gigawatts of renewable energy by the end of the decade.

An Equinor spokesperson said the company was pleased by the progress announced today.

"We will continue to closely engage with federal officials, state regulators and a wide range of interested stakeholders as we work together in completing one of the largest offshore wind projects in the US," the spokesperson said in a statement.

A unique turbine layout?

There is some hope that the Empire project made new inroads with one of offshore wind's persistent critics: commercial fishers.

The developer met with regional fishing groups several times during its planning process to weigh sharing space with fishermen in the busy New York Bight.

The bight is home to overlapping fisheries, as well as being one of the most trafficked ports in the northeast Atlantic for other marine activity.

The construction and operations plan that the Biden administration is reviewing is said to have an unusual turbine layout designed as a compromise with fishermen.

"I'm going on faith here that what I heard is going to be in there," said Annie Hawkins, executive director of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, who had not yet seen the final construction proposal but applauded the collaborative effort that went into a "unique" layout to address the needs of the power company and of fishing interests.

David Marks, head of communications and public affairs with Equinor Wind US, said the company "made significant adjustments" to the project plans due to feedback from fishermen.

Marks said Equinor worked with RODA "on an Empire Wind layout that allows fishing as much as feasible, balancing wind development with fishing needs."

The Bight is likely to only get busier as more offshore wind projects are proposed and built to meet New York's climate targets.

The Biden administration could hold an additional offshore wind lease auction in the Bight as soon as this year. It released a proposed sale notice last week and will release final details in the next few months.

The sale and the Empire Wind announcement are the latest in a series of offshore wind actions the administration has taken since Biden's inauguration.

Last month, the Interior Department approved the construction plan for Vineyard Wind off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., the likely first full-scale offshore wind project to begin construction in the United States. The administration has invited industry proposals for offshore wind interest in the Gulf of Mexico and committed to accelerating the first offshore wind offerings in the Pacific.

It also has recently begun the review process for Ocean Wind, a project proposed off the coast of Atlantic City, N.J., and Revolution Wind, a wind farm planned off the coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

In January, the Trump administration began the environmental review process for the 15-turbine South Fork Wind project off the coast of Long Island, N.Y.

Together, the wind farms are among 14 proposals that companies have submitted to BOEM.

The activity follows a political and environmental bottleneck during the final years of the Trump administration that irked wind developers and set the Vineyard project back more than a year.

For Martens, in New York, the advancement of the Empire project is welcome news from Washington that the perspective on offshore wind has shifted.

"This is another clear signal that the Biden administration is holding to their commitment to keep the process moving," he said.

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**Wind Farm Near Long Island Advances With Environmental Review**

Bloomberg

By: Jen Dlouhy

6/17/21

**Federal regulators are beginning an environmental review of the Empire Wind development planned near the coast of New York and New Jersey, a critical step in advancing the offshore wind venture proposed by Equinor ASA and BP Plc.**

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is publishing a notice of intent outlining its plans to prepare an environmental impact statement on the Empire Wind LLC construction and operations plan

Empire Wind would involve two wind facilities in federal waters approximately 12 nautical miles south of Long Island, N.Y., and 17 nautical miles east of Long Branch, N.J.

Empire Wind has a potential installed capacity of more than 2 gigawatts

The public will now have 30 days to comment on the scope of the environmental review

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**NOTE: BP's \$1.1 Billion Deal Marks First Step Into Offshore Wind**

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**Equinor pledges to increase renewables investments**

reNews Biz

6/15/21

**Equinor is stepping up investments in renewables and low carbon solutions to more than 50% of gross annual investments by 2030, as part of its strategy to accelerate its transition away from fossil fuels.**

Equinor said it expects gross investments in renewables of around \$23bn from 2021 to 2026, and to increase the share of gross capital expenditure for renewables and low carbon solutions from around 4% in 2020 to more than 50% by 2030.

The energy company has also pledged to reach a 20% reduction in net carbon intensity by 2030 and a 40% reduction in net carbon intensity by 2035, as part of its strategy.

These interim ambitions form part of Equinor's aim to be a net zero company by 2050.

Based on early low-cost access at scale, Equinor expects to reach a installed renewables capacity of 12–16GW (Equinor share) by 2030.

Equinor is adjusting expected project base real returns to 4–8% and "remains determined" to capturing higher equity returns through project financing and farm downs.

Early access followed by targeted farm down is an integrated part of the value creation proposition, the company said.

**So far, Equinor has divested assets of \$2.3bn, booked a capital gain of \$1.7bn and expects to deliver nominal equity returns in the range of 12–16% from the offshore wind projects with offtake contracts in the UK and US.**

"Our strategy is backed up by clear actions to accelerate our transition while growing cash flow and returns.

"We are optimising our oil and gas portfolio to deliver even stronger cash flow and returns with reduced emissions from production, and we expect significant profitable growth within renewables and low carbon solutions.

"This is a strategy to create value as a leader in the energy transition", said Anders Opedal, Equinor president and CEO.

By 2035, Equinor said it aims to develop the capacity to store 15-30 million tonnes of CO2 a year and to provide clean hydrogen in three to five industrial clusters.

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#### **Equinor Stays with MMT on Beacon Wind**

**OffshoreWIND Biz**

**By: Adnan Durakovic**

**6/4/21**

**Equinor has selected Sweden's MMT to carry out the 2021 export cable route surveys for the Beacon Wind wind farm offshore Massachusetts, US.**

The project is led by MMT's team based in Providence – MMT US Inc.

Having commenced in April to complete in July, MMT, the Ocean Infinity company, is conducting a combination of geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, and benthic surveys along the export route of the Beacon Wind sites 1 and 2.

This contract is in addition to the offshore survey work awarded to MMT in 2020 which completed in May 2021.

**The Beacon Wind offshore wind farm is located 20 miles south of Massachusetts and 60 miles off the coast of New York.**

**When complete, Beacon Wind 1 will provide 1,230 MW of offshore wind power to the State of New York.**

Beacon Wind is being developed by Equinor and bp through their 50/50 strategic partnership in the US.

**Equinor acquired the Beacon Wind lease in 2019. The site has the potential to be developed with a total capacity of more than 2.4 GW.**

In January, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) selected Equinor and bp as the winners of the State's second offshore wind solicitation.

Apart from Beacon Wind 1, the consortium was also successful with the 1,260 MW Empire Wind 2 project in this solicitation round.

Equinor is already developing the 816 MW Empire Wind Phase 1 wind farm which was selected in New York's first-ever offshore wind solicitation in 2019 alongside Ørsted and Eversource Energy's Sunrise Wind project.

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**Energy giant to hold forum with fishermen over cross-Sound cable route**

Newsday

By: Mark Harrington

5/4/21

A European energy giant on Wednesday will hold a forum for concerned North Shore fishermen to outline the plan for a power cable route that will extend across the Long Island Sound.

The meeting, which is closed to the media, will address concerns by some fishermen that the route could complicate trap and trawl fishing in the Sound and elsewhere, Newsday has confirmed.

**The route, as proposed by Equinor, the Norwegian energy giant, will extend more than 150 miles from windmills in the waters off Massachusetts to an electrical station in Astoria, Queens, traversing the entire Long Island Sound. It will cross over or under a dozen other power or communication cables that have operated in the waters for decades with few problems, Equinor said. Some longtime fishermen acknowledged this, saying the buried cable is unlikely to pose problems. The cables will be buried 4 to 6 feet deep for the entire route, Equinor has said.**

**This week, Equinor released a map of the proposed route for its latest project, known as Beacon Wind. The company says the route was hammered out after meeting with individual or small groups of fishermen over the past half year. The 1,260-megawatt project, awarded a contract by New York State in January, promises to power more than 1 million homes.**

Fishermen weigh in

One of the fishermen who has met with Equinor in the past about the cable route, John German, who fishes from Mount Sinai Harbor, said he doesn't believe there will be conflicts.

"I don't see how it's going to affect us," said German, who is president of the Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association. He said the new cable will run approximately parallel to a fiber-optic cable installed in the waterway nearly two decades ago. "They're not putting the windmills in the Sound."

Arthur Ketchmer, a Mattituck fisherman who operates a trawler on the Sound, said he had not become aware of the planned cable until a few weeks ago. "Anything they put in the water is a problem," he said.

He's opposed to wind turbines on the water, which could force impacted fishermen to compete in the Sound. "I'm asking them not to put these windmills up."

Phil Karlin, a Riverhead fisherman who fishes in conch pots and with trawl nets, said he had never been contacted and was opposed to the idea of cables impeding where he might fish. But he said the fact that the cable will be buried up to 6 feet beneath the surface would mitigate his concerns. "If it's 6 feet [under the sea bottom] I don't think it's going to bother anybody," Karlin said.

Longtime wind-energy opponent Bonnie Brady, executive director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, accused Equinor of holding back information about the cable route, information she said is essential to help avoid conflicts with fishermen during survey and cable-laying work, as well as after it has been installed.

"The problem is they've already come up with the pathway and fishermen be damned," she said. Asked how this cable would be different from at least three other high-voltage electric cables already installed across Long Island Sound, from Long Island to points in Connecticut and Westchester, Brady said she'd look into it.

#### **Equinor 'Open' to refining route**

Scott Lundin, director of permitting for Beacon Wind, said meeting with fishermen has been difficult during the COVID pandemic, but that the company continues to refine the route.

"As we learn more, there's every expectation that we can get information" that could refine the cable route, he said. "The only way to do that is to talk to people and collect data. With COVID, it's been a little harder."

He noted that the project, slated for completion by 2025-27, will entail years more planning, survey work, permit applications, public forums and approvals.

**Julia Bovey, director of external affairs at Equinor, said the company has been meeting with fishermen in small groups for months, and their input helped shape the cable route. She said Equinor is "very much open" to altering the route, and has not finalized, much less filed, its construction and operation plan.**

Long Island Sound, once a thriving lobster fishery, has become considerably more lucrative for whelk, black sea bass and other bottom fish. The lobster fishery is closed part of the year and considered in poor condition, at least in points west of Mattituck. Indeed, German, the Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association leader, said his bigger concern lately is the state's plan, with little notice or input, to put size limits on whelk for the first time in the fishery's history.

"We've had the same conch regulations for 300 years," said German, who noted whelk are considered a predator species that prey on threatened Long Island Sound lobsters. At one point fishermen were forbidden from returning caught conch to the water, he noted. "I don't know why they need to change the regulations now."

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[\*\*Sunset Park Pols Kick Off Earth Week at Nabe's Future Offshore Wind Hub\*\*](#)

**Brooklyn Paper**

**By: Jessica Parks**  
**4/20/21**

Sunset Park advocates and elected officials kicked off Earth Week on Monday by celebrating the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal's position on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

"Today we are here to honor the progress that Sunset Park and Brooklyn's working waterfront are making in the path to a greener future," said Sunset Park Congressmember Nydia Velazquez. "This victory for the community brings us one step closer to a working, sustainable waterfront by creating a production hub for the offshore wind industry in New York City."

A years-long fight to revitalize the southern Brooklyn neighborhood's waterfront has culminated with the terminal playing an integral role in the development of three incoming offshore wind farms off of New York's coast — serving as a wind-turbine assembly plant that is projected to create 1,200 jobs in the community.

"This project is well suited to meet the goals set out five years ago by Sunset Park waterfront planning and jobs passport to maximize the waterfront's potential as an economic hub of traditional and innovative industry, job creation and workforce development," Velazquez said.

The plan was announced in January after the project's operator, Norwegian energy company **Equinor**, was given the go-ahead by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to build two offshore wind farms off the coast of Long Island and named the Sunset Park marine terminal as their new assembly site.

Politicians and community leaders lauded the \$200 million in funding authorized by the energy development authority to reconstruct the terminal's dilapidated 39th Street pier into one that can support wind turbines that are said to be as tall as the Chrysler Building. The state funds will be matched by private funds to complete the project.

"We applaud NYSERDA for moving \$200 million to jumpstart the offshore wind industry in the state and transform SBMT into a wind port," said Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of environmental justice organization Uprose.

Yeampierre called the coming port "a necessary investment to position Sunset Park — an environmental justice community at the frontlines of the climate and COVID crisis — to become a regional clean energy hub and [use] our industrial sector to build climate adaptation, innovation and resilience."

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, located west of Industry City on First Avenue, will serve as the staging, installation and maintenance hub for the offshore wind equipment of **Equinor's** two Empire wind farms, located about 50 miles off the coast from the Verazzano Bridge, and for a third incoming farm off the coast of eastern Long Island. The three wind farms are projected to generate enough energy for the state to power more than 1.8 million homes for a year.

"Right here will live a wind-turbine staging, an installation facility, operation-maintenance facilities and a substation to support the Empire and Beacon wind projects off the coast of Long Island," said Rachel Loeb,

acting president of the city's Economic Development Corporation, which played a crucial negotiating role in the initiative.

The 73-acre space will allow turbines for the three farms to be assembled concurrently. Assembly is expected to begin in about three years after permitting and a necessary reconstruction of the 39th Street pier, where dredging and bulkhead construction will allow it to withstand the massive turbine components it will handle.

"That will be the main birthing area for receiving the vessels with the largest components and all of that area has to be upgraded," said Mike Stamatis, operator of Sustainable-SBMT, a consortium consisting of Red Hook Terminal Enterprises and Industry City and the marine terminal's leaseholder.

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal is the first of its kind in the United States, according to pols, who hope it will be looked at as a role model for the future development of climate infrastructure by other city and state governments across the country.

"New York has the opportunity and the investment necessary to be a global green energy leader," said Congressmember Jerry Nadler, who represents a slice of Sunset Park containing the marine terminal.

With a new industry comes completely new jobs and skills not previously done by any New Yorkers, stakeholders stressed, adding that a multimillion-dollar fund will be created to train Sunset Parkers for these green jobs.

"Specifically, there is going to be a \$5 million fund to make sure that the residents of Sunset Park get an opportunity to train and compete for the jobs that will be created in their front yard, and that they will fully participate in the transition from a carbon-based economy to one that is green and sustainable," Loeb said.

Through its construction and in its function, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will also support the city's small businesses by utilizing local supply chains with a focus on women- and minority-owned businesses.

"Our partners also agreed to a high participation M/WBE goal, and they will support local businesses so that they can learn how to participate in the offshore wind supply chain," Loeb said. "It's a community benefits package that we are really proud of."

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#### New York's offshore wind farms: jobs, green energy, and future economic potential

News 10 ABC (Albany, NY)

4/14/21

New York estimates six million homes will be powered by offshore wind (OSW) turbines creating 9,000 kilowatts of green energy and 30% of the state's electricity load within the next 14 years. To do this, the nation's first offshore wind tower manufacturing plant will be built in the Port of Albany.

OSW projects are set to generate thousands of jobs and put billions of dollars into infrastructure, said New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) President and CEO, Doreen Harris at an Offshore Wind Virtual Summit on Tuesday.

Harris and other summit participants including Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, County Executive Dan McCoy, and international OSW developers spoke about the years of work it took to get to this point in making the state's commitment to green energy a reality.

Harris said she was pleased to see the state advancing its OSW goals. "It's such an exciting time to see this all coming together and I'm very excited to hear more about these details today," she said.

Three out of the five active OSW projects in New York are being developed by Equinor Wind, U.S. LLC. New England Market Lead, Beth Treseder said the OSW tower manufacturing facility at the Port of Albany puts the state in a good position to play a part in other OSW projects along the East Coast.

"The impacts of this manufacturing facility really can't be overstated. It will support offshore wind development along the East Coast; it responds to New York's commitment to clean energy; it positions the region to play a key role in the growing offshore wind industry; and perhaps more importantly it will introduce long-term, sustainable jobs," she said.

#### OSW projects in New York

Project name	Developer	Energy capacity	Projected operation date
Beacon Wind	Equinor Wind U.S. LLC	1,230-megawatts	2028
Empire Wind 1	Equinor Wind U.S. LLC	816-megawatts	2024
Empire Wind 2	Equinor Wind U.S. LLC	1,260-megawatts	2026
South Fork Wind Farm	Ørsted	130-megawatts	December 2022
Sunrise Wind	Sunrise Wind LLC	880-megawatts	2024

"If you had said to me back in 2012 when I took office as county executive that this is going to be our future, I probably would have laughed at you. And I would have said yeah, okay, sure, let's move on," said Albany County Executive, Dan McCoy.

McCoy talked about how the Port of Albany OSW manufacturing plant was going to open up opportunities for a community in need of good-paying jobs.

"It's not just about jobs. It's about quality of life and it's about changing the outcome for people in different communities that don't have opportunities," he said.

Construction on the OSW manufacturing plant is set to begin in 2022 and start operating in either late 2023 or early 2024, said Port of Albany CEO, Rich Hendrick. The facility will produce 150 OSW towers each year, generating 500 construction jobs and 300 long-term jobs for highly skilled workers.

New York doesn't just want to fulfill ambitious green energy projects, it also wants to have a hand in training skilled workers.

The state made a \$20M investment to train workers in OSW development. The State University of New York (SUNY) in conjunction with Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University will educate 2,500 students at the Offshore Wind Training Institute.

"As we rebuild the post-COVID economy, we must focus on up-and-coming industries that are primed for growth," said SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras. "I want to thank Stony Brook University and Farmingdale State College for lending their top-of-the-line facilities and the expertise of their faculty to this important effort. With their help and Governor Cuomo's leadership, we will train thousands of workers annually for high-paying green energy jobs and play a critical role in New York's economic recovery."

Tuesday's OSW summit was hosted by the Center for Economic Growth of the Capital Region.

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**APEM to conduct further surveys for Beacon Wind**

**4C Offshore**

**By: Tom Russell**

**4/7/21**

Following an initial 12 months of digital aerial marine wildlife surveys, Beacon Wind has commissioned APEM Inc for a further 12 surveys.

**Beacon Wind is an offshore wind project located 60 miles east of Montauk Point, New York and 20 miles south of Nantucket, Massachusetts in BOEM Lease OCS-A 0520. It is being developed by Equinor and bp through their 50/50 strategic partnership in the US.**

Once complete, it is estimated that Beacon Wind will provide power for over 1 million households in the US northeast from the 128,000-acre site. The initial phase of the project is due to commence commercial operation around 2028.

**Beacon Wind commissioned APEM to design and deliver digital surveys to assess the abundance and distribution of birds, marine mammals, turtles, sharks, and rays present in the lease area over the course of a full year. The data from the surveys will provide the information required for conducting impact assessments and are consistent with the survey guidelines for providing avian, marine mammal, and sea turtle information for renewable energy development on the OCS.**

In December 2019, APEM began a series of 16 surveys that were designed to capture data on the use of the area by all marine wildlife, including the threatened and endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). During this time, 193,000 high resolution images were captured, of which 3,890 contained objects of interest e.g. examples of marine wildlife.

APEM's approach to digital aerial surveys delivers industry leading high resolution 1.5cm pixel images using the latest camera technology, which is essential to ensure accurate species identification. Highly skilled image analysts identified upwards of 60 species during this time from all of the major marine megafauna groups.

The second year of surveys has now commenced and will run through October 2021 and continue to provide further baseline data of the lease area.

APEM Inc President Dr Stuart Clough said: "Empire Wind was APEM's first developer project on the US east coast, so we are really pleased to have been retained to provide surveys for the Beacon Wind project using the same industry leading approach. Our grid-based survey design provides statistically robust abundance and distribution data across the whole of the lease area plus a buffer which will underpin the impact assessment process required for the construction and operations plan."

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**Nexans Secures Preferred Supplier Agreement with Empire Offshore Wind Project**

**North American Windpower**

**By: Matthew Mercure**

**3/31/21**

**Nexans, a global company in the cable and optical fiber industry, has signed a preferred supplier agreement (PSA) with Empire Offshore Wind LLC to connect the Empire Wind offshore projects to the onshore grid.**

The turnkey projects cover the full design and manufacturing, as well as the laying and protection of over 300 km of export cables that will deliver energy to over 1 million homes.

"We are excited to be a trusted, long-term supplier on the development of the Empire Wind projects and to participate in placing New York on the way towards reaching 70% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030," says Christopher Guérin, CEO of Nexans. "This partnership demonstrates the value of our end-to-end model and supports our investments in U.S. offshore wind and the new Aurora cable-laying vessel."

**Empire Wind is being developed by Equinor and bp through their 50/50 strategic partnership in the U.S. Empire Wind is planned for an area of 80,000 acres, in federal waters, an average of 33 km south of Long Island, east of the Rockaways.**

Two cable systems will connect the offshore substation for Empire Wind 1 to landfall and substation in Brooklyn, N.Y. In contrast, Empire Wind 2 will link to Long Island by three parallel cables.

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**Port of Albany picks design team for \$300 million-plus offshore wind complex**

**Albany Business Review**

**By: Robin K. Cooper**

**3/24/21**

The Port of Albany will pay up to \$6.9 million to two engineering and design firms as it prepares to construct a \$300 million-plus wind tower assembly plant on the banks of the Hudson River in Bethlehem.

The port commission Wednesday selected Moffatt & Nichol, a California engineering firm with 40 offices around the world, to provide final design and construction support for marine facilities at the port. Moffatt & Nichol could be paid up to \$2.21 million.

Part of the job will include designing a wharf capable of handling 6,000 pounds per square foot, about five times stronger than the majority of the port's existing docks.

The port commission also selected McFarland-Johnson Inc. of Binghamton to assist with engineering, bid review and construction administration for the proposed wind tower manufacturing and assembly plant. The firm will be paid up to \$3.1 million for its work.

McFarland-Johnson also was selected to assist with permitting and provide infrastructure design and engineering services for the project. The firm will be paid up to \$1.59 million for that work.

Engineering and design are critical components of the port's race to construct a \$300 million to \$400 million wind tower complex on the 81.6-acre former Beacon Island property it acquired in November 2018.

The project is a signature piece of the port's growth strategy. It also is part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal of making New York home to the largest offshore wind program in the United States. The plant is expected to be designed, constructed and ready for production by the end of 2023.

**New York is working with Equinor Wind US LLC to build two offshore wind farms off the coast of Long Island. Part of those plans prompted Marmen, a Quebec machining and fabrication company, to team up with Welcon of Denmark to operate a wind tower plant at the Port of Albany.**

"It's no small accomplishment to get to this point," said port chief executive Rich Hendrick. "My staff has been in lockstep since the board of commissioners told us to go ahead and get it."

Industry players expect the port's offshore wind project will bring up to 350 wind tower assembly and support jobs to the port. The offshore wind expansion in Bethlehem will include up to five buildings, totaling an estimated 600,000 square feet of assembly, storage and office space, making it large enough to house 12 football fields.

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**Wind Energy Company Moves Forward With Large-Scale Long Island Offshore Program**

**WSHU Public Radio**

**By: Maya Brown**

**2/9/21**

**Energy company Equinor plans to advance what New York Governor Andrew Cuomo calls the largest offshore wind program in the country off the coast of Long Island.**

Developers this week say construction on the Empire Wind Farm project off of Long Beach is scheduled to begin in 2023.

**The company also won approval in January to build two additional projects in Long Island waters, including the Empire Wind Farm 2.**

Equinor spokesperson Julia Bovey said that would help the state meet its overall renewable energy goals.

"We have a total of \$47 million in workforce development. And in New York, that can be innovation. It can be direct community benefits, job training, other ways that we can help speed the energy transition," Bovey said.

Bovey said the combined Empire Wind Farms would have the capacity to produce up to 2,000 megawatts of renewable energy.

Adrienne Esposito is the executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

"Wind power has blown into Long Island like nothing else we've ever seen," Esposito said. "We currently have five wind farm proposals off of our coastlines. And, you know, if you think about it, five years ago we had zero. And also in the United States of America, I think it's worth noting we only have one offshore wind farm."

**Equinor also got state approval to build another offshore wind farm about 50 miles off of Montauk Point called Beacon Point, which is expected to produce about 1,230 megawatts of renewable energy.**

The new offshore wind farm will first undergo a federal review process to secure permits over the next five to seven years. Equinor would be required to complete several surveys to review the project's environmental and social impact before construction can begin.

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**NY Builds OSW Ports in Brooklyn, Albany, Long Island**

RTO Insider

By: Michael Kuser

2/7/21

New York offshore wind developers have begun constructing the port facilities needed to build and operate their projects after the state completed the nation's largest wind procurement last month.

**With the state's 2.5-GW award to Equinor in January, New York has contracted nearly half of the 9 GW targeted for construction by 2035. Equinor and its partner, BP, will develop an additional 1,260 MW for their Empire Wind project in the New York Bight in addition to 1,230 MW for Beacon Wind, to be situated 60 miles east of Montauk.**

**The contract commits Equinor to develop the Port of Albany for tower manufacturing, including using the nearby Port of Coeymans for turbine foundation manufacturing, and to transform the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) into an assembly and operations and maintenance hub. (See NY Awards 2.5-GW Offshore Deal to Equinor.)**

Partners Ørsted and Eversource Energy are building an operations and maintenance base at Montauk Harbor for the 132-MW South Fork Wind project. The companies are also developing a similar O&M base at Port Jefferson for their 816-MW Sunrise Wind project, as well as a facility in nearby East Setauket to serve both projects. (See BOEM Sees Moderate Impacts from South Fork OSW Project.)

For the Port of Albany, the developer has contracted with Marmen, a Quebec-based onshore wind turbine manufacturer, and Welcon, a Denmark-based manufacturer of OSW towers.

**"That's the premise of the Port of Albany, to combine one large manufacturer from Europe and another one from Quebec, who's done more onshore than offshore, with the port itself in developing the site and the fabrication for towers and transition bases,"** Anders Hangeland, Equinor head of East Coast development, told RTO Insider. **"That's bringing the best of prior experience in North America with the offshore experience from Europe in those two suppliers."**

"The offshore wind projects will furthermore leverage almost \$3 of private funding for every \$1 of public funding for a combined \$644 million investment in resilient port facilities in the Capital Region and Brooklyn," NYSERDA CEO Doreen Harris said on Wednesday as she announced the release of the agency's 2021 Strategic Outlook.

#### A Fluid Process

Ports like SBMT and Albany had long been on the state's radar as potential ports, Michael Lee, president of environmental planning and engineering firm AKRF, told RTO Insider. Lee's firm spearheaded a project to make Port Cortlandt an OSW hub to use some of the industrial waterfront property near the imminently closing Indian Point nuclear power plant.

"The procurement process had the ports independent of the wind bids, then New York officials merged them last summer and made ports part of the total wind energy bids," Lee said. "In a COVID world, it was very tough, so those who had an existing relationship were able to pull it together."

NYSERDA originally said it would provide \$200 million in grants toward ports development but changed it to \$100 million in grants and \$100 million in loans, with the private sector to come up with \$444 million. "All of this stuff is building blocks," Lee said. "Step one is a port, and ... you need to build the towers; you need to build the foundations, and COVID really restricted a lot of the abilities to get people to decide to do things."

**Equinor has not yet selected a turbine supplier, for which the contract doesn't specify a certain date, but it is a normal part of the development process and the company will make the decision "when it makes sense," Hangeland said.**

**"Bringing offshore wind from Europe, where it's already a well-developed industry, to the U.S., which is an undeveloped area for offshore wind, is a question of how much can you build and manufacture on the East Coast itself, and how much would you need to transport from Europe," he said.**

Do European OSW contracts include similar development clauses?

"Obviously, as you see an industry developing, all the important pieces that make that industry viable develop, so in the beginning you have a bigger need for establishing such incentives," Hangeland said. "As Europe has become more mature on this, all the different pieces needed to establish an OSW farm are in place, so incentives, whether on local content or on price, have gradually gone down as the industry has matured."

#### Location, Location

Lee was impressed that the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal building, a staging facility, is behind a bridge — the Verrazzano-Narrows.

"To date, you'll see all of the facilities on the Northeast coast or even what they've done in Europe, they like to build these things beyond any bridges," Lee said. "I've heard there are videos to show how they can put this stuff on vessels and get it out underneath a bridge."

Hangeland, however, said the height of barged material had already been considered in the planning, logistics and due diligence.

"If you look at how New York is central to all these markets, the SBMT is important because these are very big pieces of equipment and you can't transport this stuff hundreds of miles," Lee said.

Interstate cooperation around New York hasn't happened like it has in the Mid-Atlantic, where some of the states are coming together, so most of the discussions have been state-by-state, but it was hard to discuss anything last year when "New York was slammed," he said.

The governors of Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia in October agreed to collaborate to promote their states as a hub for the OSW industry. (See Md., NC, Va. to Team up on Offshore Wind.)

Another positive for the Brooklyn facility is that it's an open port, so "it can be used for multiple contractors. Towers can be used for multiple contractors. They're all independent of a particular technology, so I think it's pretty strategic," Lee said.

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**South Brooklyn Marine Terminal To Become A Wind Turbine Assembly and Maintenance Plant, Bringing 1,200 Jobs To Sunset Park**

**Bklyner**

**By: Audrey Carleton**

**1/25/21**

Elizabeth Yeampierre estimates that her team at UPROSE – the Brooklyn community-based environmental justice organization she oversees – has been advocating for the creation of green jobs along the industrial waterfront of Sunset Park for over two decades.

"I found a flyer the other day at UPROSE that was dated '97 or '98," said Yeampierre, who's served as executive director to the Sunset Park-based organization since 1996.

So, it felt like a long-deserved victory when on Jan. 13 the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) approved plans to transform the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) into a wind turbine assembly and maintenance plant, answering the calls of groups like UPROSE and bringing with it over one thousand green jobs to the area.

"This community vision of taking the industrial waterfront so that it could start building for climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience is not new," Yeampierre said. "These are victories that don't happen overnight."

The state is contracting with Norwegian energy company Equinor to create the Sunset Park wind energy hub, which will service two offshore wind farms to be built off the coast of Long Island.

The two farms are slated to be up and running between 2027 and 2028, but the construction of materials and improvement projects at the SBMT will begin sooner, Doreen Harris, president and CEO of NYSERDA told Bklyner. She estimates that the two farms will generate enough energy to power 1.3-million New York homes – and developing, operating, and maintaining them will create 1,000 short-term and 200 long-term jobs within the Sunset Park community and 5,200 jobs overall.

The plan is part of a broader set of sweeping renewable energy investments across the state that Governor Andrew Cuomo announced last Wednesday in his annual State of the State address. Part of a strategy to build New York's green economy, the plan also includes the development of solar and hydroelectric projects, building electrification investments and battery storage projects across the state.

Outside of Brooklyn, the state also plans to increase wind turbine manufacturing capabilities at ports in Albany, Rensselaer, and Long Island and will launch an Offshore Wind Training Institute at SUNY Stony Brook and Farmingdale State College, expected to prepare at least 2,500 New Yorkers for highly-skilled and specialized jobs in the renewables industry.

For Yeampierre and her team at UPROSE, the creation of a green jobs hub in Sunset Park is the culmination of years of environmental justice and anti-displacement advocacy. The group, supported by organizations like the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) and New York Renews, has taken the lead in advocating at the state level for investments in renewable jobs along the waterfront of the community they serve.

The organization has long supported efforts to maintain the industrial character of the SBMT, the city's largest industrial waterfront, from the threat of development. Most recently, the organization helped lead the fight against a rezoning proposal for Industry City that opponents feared would spur gentrification.

In 2019, UPROSE crafted The Green Resilient Industrial District (GRID), an alternative proposal for the development of the Sunset Park waterfront which called for the creation of renewable infrastructure manufacturing sites and green job training centers in the area. UPROSE submitted the GRID proposal to NYSERDA as a model to inform the eventual creation of a renewable jobs hub in Sunset Park. The Industry City rezoning project was withdrawn by the owners in September of 2020.

In crafting the GRID waterfront proposal, Yeampierre says it was essential to maintain the historically industrial nature of the Sunset Park waterfront to prevent the loss of working-class jobs within the local community. According to a 2016 report by the Office of the New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, manufacturing accounts for 11.3% of private-sector jobs in Sunset Park, the highest concentration in any neighborhood in the city.

"You've got people that are working on the waterfront," Yeampierre says. "We come from that – we don't want them to lose their jobs. What do we replace that with? Well, that's a just transition."

An NYSERDA spokesperson told Bklyner it's sought community input from the earliest stages of the SBMT's design, and plans to continue to work closely with advocacy groups like UPROSE throughout the construction and hiring process, the logistics of which are still being confirmed.

**Julia Bovey, director of external affairs at Equinor Wind US, says the company has partnered with the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYC EDC) in making a series of commitments to hire and invest in training locally, including working with Workforce1 to recruit from the neighborhood and conducting outreach to schools to invest in workforce readiness in the renewable economy. Summer Sandoval, the energy democracy coordinator at UPROSE, says her team plans to continue working with the community to hold the company accountable to these commitments and to ensure that local residents are given priority to any new jobs the wind energy hub creates.**

**"When Equinor first identified the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal as a potential site for our offshore wind work and first reached out to local leaders, around 2017, we learned that the community had been fighting for years to preserve SBMT for marine industrial jobs and they had long been organized around advocating for that vision," Bovey said. "We have worked hard to align with the community's clear vision for the area, and we're committed to continuing that close coordination and consultation."**

Yeampierre believes investing in clean energy will also reduce some of the environmental health burdens Sunset Park residents face. The region is home to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, three peaking power plants, and a waste transfer station, the emissions from which she says place residents at disproportionate risk of respiratory illness and COVID-19. Having grown up in the South Bronx, another industrial community with high asthma rates, Yeampierre keeps environmental health top of mind in fighting for climate justice.

"I grew up in an [environmental justice] community, and ... I share all of the underlying health conditions that a lot of people in my community do, because of toxic exposure," Yeampierre says. "A facility like this does more than just reduce carbon, it also removes the dependency on the extractive economy, which affects us in so many different kinds of ways, but particularly our health."

The investments put New York well on its way to accomplishing goals laid out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), a piece of statewide legislation passed in July, 2019 that set legally-binding emissions standards that are widely considered the most ambitious in the country. The Act calls for 70% of New York's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030, and strives to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2050.

Harris, who oversees NYSERDA, says the energy generated from across all renewable projects the state announced Wednesday will move over 50% of New York's economy to renewables.

"At this point, it has the potential to actually accelerate and exceed our goals in the CLCPA," Harris said.

She says the two wind farms off Long Island alone – supported by ports like the SBMT – represent the largest production of offshore wind in the U.S. "That, in and of itself, is amazing and significant," Harris says.

Yeampierre echoes the sentiment.

"I can't believe that we have something like this coming to Brooklyn, and that other communities all over the country are going to realize that this is something they can do as well," Yeampierre said.

"New York is kicking butt," she added, with a laugh.

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**Climate activists celebrate Brooklyn wind turbine plant**

**City & State New York**

**By: Karina Piser**

**1/20/21**

In a major victory for climate activists, New York City's largest industrial waterfront is poised to become a hub for offshore wind and renewable energy, thanks to a partnership announced last week between the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Norwegian energy company Equinor. Equinor, whose manufacturing proposal also includes an upgrade project at the Port of Albany, will partner with British oil giant BP.

NYSERDA has committed to \$200 million in upgrades the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal that will be matched by private investment from Equinor and BP – a total of \$400 million to improve 73 acres of mostly unused space. The port, which is slated to be completed by 2025, will serve as a wind turbine manufacturing space, an undertaking that will create at least 1,200 local jobs, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The agreement constitutes the largest single procurement of renewable energy by any U.S. state, positioning New York as a leader in national efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The turbines, which will be sent to offshore wind farms off the Long Island coast, will generate 3.3 gigawatts of energy for New York. That's a year's worth of energy for some 1.8 million homes.

The plan will not only advance New York's goals in fighting climate change, but also presents an opportunity to restore waterfront manufacturing in New York City, offering a model for the rest of the city's coastline moving forward.

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal is located on New York Harbor, between 29th and 36th streets and below Second Avenue, on the border of Brooklyn's Greenwood Heights and Sunset Park neighborhoods. It is run by both Industry City and Red Hook Container Terminal under a lease from New York City's Economic Development Corporation. Previously an active container terminal and general cargo facility, the only major tenant today is Sims Metal Management, which operates a recycling and waste transfer facility – including, as of 2015, the city's first commercial-scale wind turbine.

"One of the obstacles to developing offshore wind in the U.S. is, there haven't been these types of manufacturing facilities available," said Nilda Mesa, adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and the former director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability. "And so to develop one here bodes well for the future."

In recent years the South Brooklyn waterfront has emerged as a flashpoint in debates over development and sustainability. Some progressive neighborhood activists who have long pushed for the city to invest in this section of waterfront to reduce carbon emissions and create green jobs – rather than expand retail and luxury real estate, as has been the fate of historically similar areas such as Tribeca and DUMBO – are celebrating the plan.

"This is an example that another world really is possible," Elizabeth Yeampierre, the president of Uprise, a Sunset Park-based advocacy organization that promotes for racial and environmental justice and sustainable development, said at a press conference Thursday. "New York City is going to position itself

as a leader on climate justice, and it's going to send a message to other industrial waterfront communities that have been surrounded by petrochemical industries, waste transfer stations and power plants, they're going to show that it's not only possible to bring in infrastructure, but to reduce carbon, coal pollutants, but to hire people and pay them decent wages."

Uprose and other community groups have been at the forefront of efforts to deploy the waterfront toward New York's ambitious emission-reduction goals. With the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the state aims to make 70 percent of its energy renewable by 2030 – and to improve the area's resilience to climate-related events.

New York is behind schedule on its ambitious climate plans, but "this is a major step in the right direction," said Mesa. "It's not possible for New York state to reach its climate goals without New York City being a significant part of the equation," she added. New York City makes up 40 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

The project, Mesa added, will make the state a leader in national efforts to pursue offshore wind. "Many people say that the Northeast of the U.S. is like the Saudi Arabia of wind," she said. "And it has not been fully developed. This is an industry that is about to take off."

Tension over the waterfront's future escalated last summer after a years-long battle over the future of Industry City, which sits adjacent to the marine terminal. A rezoning proposal, which the owners scrapped in September, would have expanded the 35-acre complex, which previously housed heavy manufacturing but now features retail, offices, storage and restaurants. The rezoning, activists like Yeampierre argued, would have come at the expense of green industry and high-paying climate jobs to serve the working-class, immigrant communities in the area. Sunset Park is home to immigrant communities from South and Central America, as well as Brooklyn's largest Chinatown.

"Had the rezoning had gone through, it would have severely limited the supply chain and expansive impacts that offshore wind will bring to Sunset Park," said Summer Sandoval, energy democracy coordinator at Uprose. Down the line, Uprose would like to see "manufacturing and decommissioning of wind turbines somewhere on the waterfront," as opposed to having parts imported from abroad. "The long-term opportunities would have been much more difficult," she said.

Randy Peers, the president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, disagreed that Industry City's expansion would have conflicted with the Equinor-NYSERDA plan. Peers, who supported the Industry City's rezoning, said the plan "shows we can have mixed uses that could coexist and benefit the community at large."

While he celebrated last week's plan, he remains disappointed about how the rezoning played out. Given that Industry City is one of the managers of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, "they were clearly willing to promote clean energy all over the waterfront. Both of these things could have happened, and the community would have benefited much more." Whether Industry City will bring a new rezoning application in light of the development remains to be seen. A spokesperson for Industry City did not immediately respond to questions from City & State.

Job creation was a major sticking point in the battle over Industry City's expansion. Activists argued that the rezoning would exacerbate gentrification in an increasingly rent-burdened community and do little to

help local business owners or provide blue-collar employment in a neighborhood that has been hit hard by the pandemic.

**Although the jobs created by the Equinor project will likely be higher paying than the retail and service-industry jobs Industry City promised, it is not yet clear how many will go to locals.**

**"We're making sure we're able to develop a mechanism that ensures local hiring, because at the end of the day, we're dealing with a corporation, and want to make sure they're going to do what they say they're going to do," said Yeampierre, noting the possibility of a community benefits agreement between local groups and Equinor. Although the plan is still nascent, Uprose is currently speaking with local unions, with the goal of "prioritizing local hires, and facilitating meaningful engagement to support a community that has been economically devastated by COVID." As part of preliminary agreements, Equinor has agreed to target 30 percent participation from New York's MWBE Campaign, and support minority-owned businesses in the area.**

"People living in the neighborhood will have more disposable income, because they'll have good jobs. It will be a ripple effect," said Mesa. With more people working in the area, there will be a new demand for small businesses, she added. "People will need a coffee shop, a grocery store, a shoe repair shop," she said. "There's a big difference between jobs created in small businesses, versus chains that come in from the outside."

At least in the short term, the pandemic's impact on tourism and real estate will require New York City to "diversify its economic base," Mesa noted, stressing that the project will create jobs even in the lead-up to its completion.

Even as activists applaud the plan, some express skepticism about the role of private partners – especially BP. "We have one of the world's largest polluters, with a 50 percent stake in the product," said Jorge Muñiz Reyes, who works with the neighborhood coalition Protect Sunset Park.

Indeed, BP – along with Exxon, Chevron, and Shell – is a top polluter; together, the four companies are responsible for more than 10 percent of the world's carbon emissions since 1965. But after years of mounting pressure from climate activists, it has worked to change its image, announcing last February that it would aim to eliminate or offset all of its planet-warming emissions. Although it offered few details at the time, its targets exceeded those made by other oil giants. Critics, however, have previously questioned BP's public relations offensive as "greenwashing."

Yeampierre isn't too worried about BP's involvement. "These things are never going to happen without businesses that have a history of extraction," she said, adding that, often, that means a "history of bad behavior." None of that, she said, should detract from the goal of "moving toward renewable energy and a just transition. We want this. We know what they've done. Our responsibility is to push them to do right."

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**[NY Expands Offshore Wind Projects, Bringing Wind Hub To Brooklyn](#)**

**Gothamist**

**By: Sydney Pereira**

**1/17/21**

Governor Andrew Cuomo plans to vastly expand offshore wind farms along Long Island, a move expected to create 2,600 jobs across the state. Along with the new turbines, the project will launch manufacturing and assembly hubs at ports in Albany and New York City's Sunset Park, as part of a contract with Equinor, a Norwegian-based energy company that specializes in oil, gas, wind, and solar.

"With this plan, New York state will now have five active port facilities serving the offshore wind industry—more than any other state," Cuomo said Wednesday during the third of his week-long state of the state addresses, outlining a host of "green economy" projects.

**Equinor won a separate contract to build a wind farm off Long Island in 2019—called Empire 1—that is still in development. The company will now partner with BP, the British oil-and-gas giant, to add two additional sections called Empire 2 and Beacon 1. Equinor agreed in September that BP would be a 50% partner in the new projects, and the deal was expected to close early this year. Ninety turbines will be built 20 miles off Jones Beach and 60 miles off Montauk Point, which Cuomo claimed won't be visible from shore.**

**The Port of Albany project is projected to create 500 construction jobs and 300 highly-skilled full-time jobs to build the 450-foot-tall turbine towers. The Sunset Park facility will serve as an assembly, operations, and maintenance site for the turbines, where 1,000 short-term and 200 long-term jobs would be created, according to Equinor. The company claims this facility at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal would be the "largest dedicated offshore wind port" in the nation at about 73 acres.**

Environmental activists lauded the announcement due to its investment in a neighborhood that is nearly 70% Hispanic and Asian. UPROSE, an environmental justice group in Sunset Park, has been fighting to recreate Brooklyn's industrial waterfront as a haven for renewable energy jobs.

The wind hub announcement concludes a broader push against the controversial rezoning of Industry City. After mounting resistance, developers withdrew an initial proposal for a 35-acre retail and manufacturing complex, which critics said would fuel displacement. The developers countered that the project would have created 20,000 jobs in the area. Councilmember Carlos Menchaca, a strong opponent to the Industry City rezoning plans, celebrated Cuomo's offshore wind expansion on Thursday. And Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "New York is one step closer to a cleaner environment and a more sustainable community for all."

As early as 1998, "we were talking about a green port," Elizabeth Yeampierre, the executive director of UPROSE and co-chair of the Climate Justice Alliance, said in a phone interview.

"The vision was that we would use the industrial sector to build for climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience," she said, while acknowledging the unusual partnership of activists, two oil-and-gas multinational companies, and a state agency. But, she added: "I think that this project does more than provide us with renewable energy and jobs. It also models how New York City should be moving forward in addressing climate change."

Yeampierre said UPROSE is working with unions on developing the workforce. A part of the governor's announcement includes a \$20 million training institute at SUNY Stony Brook and Farmingdale State College for wind and renewable energy careers.

New York State Energy Research & Development is awarding \$200 million in funds for the project, while private funders will supply another \$200 million. Both new offshore wind farms will bring 2,490 megawatts of wind energy, building on 816 megawatts committed by Equinor already.

The project is intended to help New York State meet its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2050, set by climate legislation passed in 2019. By 2030, the state aims to reach 70% renewable energy under the law, called the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The legislation also requires 35% of green energy funds to be invested in low-income, communities of color, with goals to reach 40%.

**Anders Opedal, the CEO of Equinor, called the projects a "game-changer for our offshore wind business in the U.S."**

Before developing the wind farms, Equinor must study wind conditions and the seabed to prepare for the actual construction of the turbines and their foundation. Construction at the site closer to NYC and then off Montauk would begin in 2023 and 2025, respectively, and last for three to four years, the company said.

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**2 More Wind Farms Coming Off Long Island Coast, Cuomo Says**

**Long Island Press**

**By: Timothy Bolger**

**1/14/21**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo proposed Wednesday two more offshore wind farms off the coast of Long Island as part of a broad increase in renewable energy planned across New York State.

**One will be located more than 20 miles off Jones Beach, the other will be more than 60 miles off Montauk Point, and each will have more than 90 turbines for a combined output of about 2,500 megawatts, the governor said.**

"Don't worry, neither will be visible from the shore," Cuomo said Wednesday in part three of his four-part State of The State address, which was broken up into chunks this year.

He called it the largest production of renewable energy by any state in U.S. history.

The transmission line for the turbines off Jones Beach will connect on land at Oceanside and the line for the Montauk wind farm will travel 200 miles under the Long Island Sound to Astoria, Queens.

**The state previously started on the 880-megawatt Sunrise Wind Project, located east of Long Island and the 816-megawatt Empire Wind Project, located 14 miles southeast of Manhattan.**

To support the effort, Cuomo also announced the state is investing \$20 million in a new Offshore Wind Training Institute at SUNY Stony Brook and Farmingdale State College that will begin certifying and training individuals this year.

"We will train 2,500 workers beginning in the summer of 2021," he said. "But we won't only be training for wind and solar projects. The evolution to green energy will involve replacing home heating and cooling

systems in approximately 130,000 buildings with heat pumps and geothermal heating. We will train workers for those positions also."

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**Green Energy Project To Transform Port Of Albany, South End**

**WAMC Northeast Public Radio**

**By: Dave Lucas**

**1/14/21**

Officials are celebrating the selection of the Port of Albany as the first offshore wind tower manufacturing site in the United States.

"Can we, rewind the clocks, fast forward them and make today New Year's Day, please? I think the reason you see us all assembled is we're all pretty desperate for good news, and it couldn't get any better than this!"

Democratic State Assemblywoman Pat Fahy is lauding hundreds of new green energy jobs coming to the Port of Albany, where the nation's first offshore wind tower manufacturing facility is set to be constructed. The goal is to manufacture 150 offshore wind towers annually. In his State of the State address, Governor Andrew Cuomo said the facility will lead to 500 construction jobs and 300 long-term jobs for highly skilled workers.

Officials say the Port's 80-acre Town of Bethlehem expansion site will be transformed into a world class manufacturing facility and maritime operation. State Senator Neil Breslin hailed the move as critically important at a desperate economic time.

"It's going to be jobs and jobs for a lot of folks that are within almost walking distance. It's a tremendous, tremendous boost."

Albany County Legislator Carolyn McLaughlin says the project presents tremendous opportunities for South End residents, as the project partners have committed to supporting local workforce development, training and recruitment programs for the nearby environmental justice community.

"It's so important. The training facility is gonna be an educational opportunity for young people to get them interested in the sciences again, and to bring it to the forefront. That's the kind of stuff that we, as community leaders, gotta put out there. It's not just about the job, but we wanna prepare you for the job so you can keep the job, long-term and grow your family here in this community."

Albany County Executive Dan McCoy has concerns about people who live near the port.

"First and foremost that's always been my concern with the bomb trains and the tractor-trailers that have gone through there. I know Mayor Sheehan and the councilwoman and the legislator have addressed that with traffic patterns and stuff like that to get 'em away from these neighborhoods. And a lot of it is gonna be boat traffic that's gonna go down the Hudson, so they won't see as much here. But it is something that we've gotta continue to work with. We got the most the most environmentally-friendly project going, we gotta be the same way to the neighborhood."

First Ward Common Councilor Sonia Frederick addressed concerns about residents living in the nearby Ezra Prentice complex.

"Something I'm going to along with other elected officials is continue to advocate for the decommissioning of South Pearl as a truck route. In order to do that they're going to develop that inner port road, but we gotta keep pushing and advocating for that decommissioning because that increased traffic is not going to be good for the community."

Components of the project will include a new state-of-the-art wharf, a new bridge, new and improved internal roadways and more than 600,000 square feet of manufacturing space in four buildings.

**Marmen, an onshore wind turbine manufacturer based in Quebec, and Welcon, a Denmark-based manufacturer of offshore wind towers, will participate in the project along with Equinor Wind.**

Albany Port District Commission Chairperson Georgette Steffens:

"We sat down four years ago and said 'What should we do? What is? We are landlocked, you know what we have a certain type of industry, how do we diversify? Should we grow, should we expand?' And through that strategic planning process, it brought us to today. It was a very, you know, step by step. Finding federal and state grants, finding advocates and supporters like we have behind us, and it's brought us to today. And I just want to say we are thrilled to be working with Equinor and Marmen and we are ready to go."

With total project investment pegged at upwards of \$350 million, construction is expected to begin in 2022.

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**N.Y. announces 'game-changer' for renewables**

E&E News

By: David Iaconangelo

1/14/21

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) announced the largest-ever award of offshore wind contracts by a U.S. state yesterday as part of a broader plan to scale up renewable power over the next decade.

The announcement came in the third installment of a multiday series of State of the State speeches from Cuomo, who called the energy transition a "prime economic opportunity and a pressing moral imperative." The state has a mandate of procuring 70% of its power from renewables by 2030 and 100% from carbon-free sources by 2040.

**Two offshore wind projects proposed by Equinor and BP were selected by energy officials to produce nearly 2,500 megawatts of power. Known as Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind 1, the projects would provide electricity for over 1 million homes, according to the companies. They would add to an existing venture, Empire Wind 1, being pursued in New York by the two oil and gas majors.**

**Anders Opedal, CEO at Equinor, called the newest awards "a game-changer for our offshore wind business in the U.S."**

Officials at the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency said the two new projects would create more than 5,200 jobs. Some of those might involve training at an offshore wind institute hosted by two state colleges, which is aiming to prepare about 2,500 workers for industry jobs.

Equinor also won the rights to remake two ports located in Albany and Brooklyn. The first will host the country's first facility to manufacture offshore wind turbine towers, while the Brooklyn site will be used as a base for assembling the turbines and maintaining them once they've been installed.

The port upgrades will draw from up to \$200 million in state funds intended to help leverage matching amounts from the private sector. The Brooklyn port was a priority for environmental justice advocates and members of Congress, who have pushed for the largely inactive site to be converted into a renewable energy hub that would employ people from underserved neighborhoods nearby (Energywire, Nov. 13, 2020).

"This is a climate justice victory — this is what the industrial waterfront of the future looks like," said Elizabeth Yeampierre, an executive director at Latino community-based organization UPROSE and co-chair of the Climate Justice Alliance.

Overall, the state has so far issued approvals for close to half of its 9,000-megawatt goal for offshore wind, although those projects will still need to go through the thornier process of securing federal permits.

Cuomo also greenlighted new onshore solar and wind projects amounting to 2,200 megawatts, building on the 4,315 megawatts of large-scale renewables already in development in the state.

Gavin Donohue, president of the Independent Power Producers of New York called the announcement "welcome news" and an aid for the state's economic recovery. The group counts fossil fuel companies among its members but has largely supported the state's focus on solar and wind build-out.

The state's unprecedented construction of wind and solar is central to its 70% renewables goal by 2030. As of 2017, about 28% of the state's power came from renewables — and most of that was imported hydropower.

But the renewable push has produced backlash among some officials and residents in New York's rural upstate, which is close to having a zero-carbon grid but will serve as the host for solar and wind generation for the fossil fuel-heavy New York City area. Another new initiative, announced by Cuomo in his speech, involves a request for proposals for transmission lines that would help transport power from upstate areas and Canada into the downstate region.

One state budget watchdog group, known as the Citizens Budget Commission, has also registered skepticism about New York's ability to reach its renewable power goals, calling them "likely infeasible" in a 2019 report (Climatewire, Dec. 10, 2019).

The Citizens Budget Commission did not respond to E&E News' inquiries in time for publication. But its executive director, Andrew Rein, was questioned in a New York Post interview about how the costs of new infrastructure and transmission might affect New York's multibillion-dollar budget shortfall.

"I think there's a lot to know that we don't know yet," he told the newspaper.

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**Brooklyn Waterfront Lands Key Role in State's Offshore Wind Push**

Bloomberg News

By: Will Wade and Josh Saul

1/13/21

**New York is poised to become a hub for offshore wind energy with the state on Wednesday tapping Norwegian giant Equinor ASA to build two projects in the Atlantic and develop an aging Brooklyn waterfront site into a port to handle massive turbines.**

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal will be one of the largest dedicated offshore wind port facilities in the U.S., at about 73 acres (30 hectares), with capacity for turbine staging and assembly, according to the company.

**Equinor will pay for upgrades to the terminal, which will service as much as 3.3 gigawatts of offshore wind built and operated by the company and its partner, BP Plc. That's enough to power about 2 million homes.**

**"We have big plans for the U.S. East Coast," Siri Espedal Kindem, president of Equinor Wind U.S., said in an interview. "This fits so well into the energy transition."**

U.S. states up and down the East Coast are pushing to build sprawling wind farms in the Atlantic Ocean to bring clean energy to dense coastal cities. The turbines, which are as tall as skyscrapers and can each crank out enough power for a small town, are seen as key weapons in the fight against global warming.

Reinvigorating the 1960s-era site in Brooklyn has been a key goal for New York City, which has already invested at least \$115 million in recent years to upgrade it. Governor Andrew Cuomo said Wednesday he wants to make New York a "global wind energy manufacturing powerhouse." The terminal will create 1,200 jobs, he said in his state of the state address.

**New York selected Equinor to provide nearly 2.5 gigawatts of offshore wind power to the state in one of the biggest renewable-energy awards ever.**

The company previously won approval to provide New York with 816 megawatts from a project south of Long Island that's expected to go into operation in the mid-2020s. One of the new projects will be adjacent to that site, with 1.3 gigawatts of capacity that will go into service in 2027. The other project, east of Long Island, will have 1.2 gigawatts and be done in 2028, Kindem said.

**The Equinor plans are subject to negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement, according to the statement.**

The state also announced plans for a factory 150 miles up the Hudson River from New York City at the Port of Albany to manufacture offshore wind towers.

"This is part of a major wave of multiple thousands of megawatts that are projected to go in from New England down to Virginia and the Carolinas," said Kit Konolige, a Bloomberg Intelligence utilities analyst. "It's a very ambitious project."

New England and New York are focused on building offshore wind, in part, because there isn't room near large cities to build large solar or wind farms on land.

"They've decided that offshore wind is the way to go even though it's clearly the most expensive," Konolige said.

The cost of power from an offshore wind farm over its entire lifetime is about \$115 per megawatt-hour, based on projections for projects that would go into service in 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. A new natural gas plant, meanwhile, is about \$37 per megawatt hour.

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**Equinor secures massive New York offshore wind contract**

**POLITICO Pro**

**By: Marie J. French**

**1/13/21**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the state has secured contracts for 2,500 additional megawatts of offshore wind and will back the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and Port of Albany as hubs for the industry.

**Cuomo provided few details in his latest State of the State address on Wednesday, but Equinor's projects appear to have won. The governor mentioned a 200-mile transmission cable running from a wind project off Montauk through the Long Island Sound, which matches Equinor's Beacon Wind proposal.**

The company also has been the main proponent of investments in the marine terminal and the Albany port. Their other project, Empire Wind II, is off Jones Beach, matching Cuomo's description.

"Don't worry, neither will be visible from the shore," Cuomo said of the offshore wind turbines. "This is the largest production of renewable energy by any state in United States history."

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority issued its second solicitation for offshore wind projects last year, after a delay created by the pandemic. Cuomo also indicated awards have been made for the state's latest large-scale, onshore renewable subsidies.

These awards are an expected part of the state's process aimed at achieving 70 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and are paid for by electric customers on their utility bills.

Cuomo said the state will now have five offshore wind ports, with each state dollar matched by three from the private sector. The total public-private investment is \$644 million.

He said that there will be 500 construction jobs and 300 full-time jobs created at the Port of Albany, where 150 wind turbines will be manufactured annually, and 1,200 jobs at the marine terminal in Brooklyn.

Equinor already secured a contract in New York's first offshore wind round: the 816 MW Empire Wind project.

**Equinor also has signed a memorandum of understanding with the New York City Economic Development Corporation promising that its projects will target involvement from minority and women-owned businesses. The company also has made job training commitments for the communities surrounding the terminal and throughout the city.**

Mayor Bill de Blasio last year pledged to invest \$57 million in the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to support offshore wind production. The money had previously been included in the Economic Development Corporation's budget to reinvigorate the terminal as a maritime port. The city said at the time the port would create 500 jobs in 2023.

Equinor previously promised to invest \$60 million in port upgrades as part of the bidding process, with an unspecified amount reserved for the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

Cuomo also announced a new offshore wind training institute to be established at Stony Brook University and Farmingdale State College on Long Island. He said the state will invest \$25 million and that 2,500 workers would be trained beginning in the summer of 2021.

Training would also be available for HVAC heat pump and geothermal systems.

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**Hundreds of jobs coming to Albany as part of New York's clean energy plan**

**Albany Business Review**

**By: Chelsea Diana**

**1/13/21**

The Port of Albany is getting hundreds of new clean energy jobs and the country's first offshore wind tower manufacturing facility as part of New York's plan to make itself the center of the country's green economy.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the project — part of New York's \$26 billion public-private partnership plan to build about 100 renewable projects — on Wednesday during his third virtual State of the State address. The speeches this week have touched on everything from how to reopen restaurants and art centers to what the post-Covid economy will look like.

"We will establish the nation's first offshore wind tower manufacturing facility at the Port of Albany, transforming a brownfield into a state-of-the art factory for wind towers," Cuomo said during Wednesday's speech. "Materials will be delivered by rail and the finished product will be shipped out by river to offshore sites, taking advantage of a fast-paced and growing market like the East Coast. The Capital District will become a center for this emerging technology."

**Cuomo said the project will create 500 construction jobs and will employ 300 workers who will build 150 of 450 total wind turbine towers for the project. The project will support the Scandinavian power company Equinor's plans to develop an offshore wind farm south of Long Island.**

Port of Albany chief executive Rich Hendrick has been positioning the port to take advantage of the state's burgeoning offshore wind industry for years.

Hendrick has been working on transforming the former Beacon Island site into a wind turbine assembly and shipping hub amid Cuomo's bid to make New York a leader in offshore wind generation. New York has a goal of developing 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind developments within the next decade.

"I'm very excited about it. We've been working hard to land that for the region and all the work that Megan Daly [director of economic development] did leading it and everybody else, basically working seven days a week on it, has proved to be what we're looking for," Hendrick said. "It's been a three-year piece of work and I can't be happier for the port and future. It's what we wanted, something that would build the Port of Albany long into the future."

Cuomo announced the Port of Albany project — along with dozens of other renewable energy projects — as part of his clean energy agenda for 2021. Here's his four-point plan:

Identify and start building enough projects that will generate clean energy to reliably support all of the state's energy needs.

Stop importing green technology and equipment from other countries and create the manufacturing capacity here in New York.

Build the transmission capacity to connect the places where renewable energy can be generated with the places where the energy is consumed.

Create the research and development capacity that will allow green businesses to compete.

Other projects include a 20-megawatt solar project in Saratoga, a 20-megawatt solar project in Washington County, and a plan to update the state's grid system including building a 100-mile line from Marcy to New Scotland in Albany County and a 50-mile transmission line from Rensselaer County to Dutchess County.

"These projects will not only create power, but bring needed economic opportunity to struggling parts of our state," Cuomo said. "They will be accelerated by a new siting process and create nearly 11,000 jobs in upstate New York alone."

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#### [\*\*Wind Turbine Hub Coming To Brooklyn Marine Terinal, Cuomo Says\*\*](#)

**Patch**

**By: Anna Quinn**

**1/13/21**

A highly-anticipated offshore wind facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal has officially gotten the go-ahead from the state.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo revealed in his State of the State address on Wednesday that an offshore wind turbine hub at the Sunset Park port is on his list for renewable energy projects coming to the state in 2021.

The announcement comes after pleas from elected officials — most recently U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams — for the state to select the marine terminal for its wind port development program.

The Brooklyn hub is one of three wind turbine projects Cuomo unveiled in a \$29-billion green energy program he says will help the state recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Altogether, our offshore wind and land-based renewable projects will reduce carbon emissions by almost 16 million metric tons per year, attract nearly 26 billion in direct investment and create over 17,000 good paying jobs," he said. "This will help stimulate the state's economic recovery from the pandemic while leading the way to the new green energy economy."

The Brooklyn project will include a wind turbine staging facility and an operations and maintenance hub. It will create 1,200 new jobs, Cuomo said.

He also announced two new wind turbine farms Long Island will add to 68 current solar and wind projects already underway.

The city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal was one of 11 ports around the state that was pre-qualified to be considered for up to \$200 million in loan and grant funds from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The funds would be matched by private firms looking to build and operate turbines across the metro area.

**At least one wind company, Equinor, which was behind an offshore wind facility near Jones Beach, has expressed interest in building the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal site.**

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**Equinor Selected for Largest-ever U.S. Offshore Wind Award**

Business Wire

By: Equinor

1/13/21

**Today, Equinor was selected to provide New York State with offshore wind power in one of the largest renewable energy procurements in the U.S. to date.**

**Under the award, Equinor and incoming strategic partner bp will provide 1,260 megawatts (MW) of renewable offshore wind power from Empire Wind 2, and another 1,230 MW of power from Beacon Wind 1 – adding to the existing commitment to provide New York with 816 MW of renewable power from Empire Wind 1 – totaling 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of power to the State. The execution of the procurement award is subject to the successful negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement, which the partnership looks forward to finalizing together with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).**

As part of the award by NYSERDA, the companies will partner with the State to transform two venerable New York ports – the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) and the Port of Albany – into large-scale offshore wind working industrial facilities that position New York to become an offshore wind industry hub.

"These projects will deliver homegrown, renewable electricity to New York and play a major role in the State's ambitions of becoming a global offshore wind hub. The U.S. East Coast is one of the most attractive growth markets for offshore wind in the world. The successful bids for Empire Wind 2 and Beacon Wind

1 represent a game-changer for our offshore wind business in the U.S. and underline Equinor's commitment to be a leading company in the energy transition. These projects will also create value through economies of scale and support our strategic ambition of becoming a global offshore wind major," says Anders Opedal, CEO of Equinor.

**"Together, Equinor and the State of New York will create a robust offshore wind supply chain capable of manufacturing, assembling, and staging these projects at scale. As Equinor works to expand its renewable energy presence across the United States and the globe, New York's leadership clearly illustrates the transformative benefits of offshore wind on climate goals and economic activity alike. We are looking forward to developing Empire Wind and Beacon Wind together with local authorities, communities and our incoming partner bp in growing this new industry," says Siri Espedal Kindem, President of Equinor Wind U.S.**

Taken together, these offshore wind projects will help the State's economic rebound and strengthen disadvantaged communities while helping the State achieve its nation-leading renewable energy goals.

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