

Section 8.4

Disadvantaged Community Impacts



Portions of this proposal contain confidential, proprietary, and/or commercially sensitive information that has been redacted from the "Public Version" of this proposal. Ørsted and Bay State Wind d/b/a Long Island Wind have submitted a "Confidential Version" of this proposal that includes the redacted information, which should be treated as a non-public record that is exempt from disclosure to the extent permitted under applicable laws and/or as expressly set forth in the Request for Proposals.

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List of Acronyms

CLCPA	Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
DAC	Disadvantaged Communities
EJ	Environmental Justice
M.A.P.P.	Multi-craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program
MW	megawatt
MWBE	Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise
NABTU	North America’s Building Trades Unions
NOWTC	National Offshore Wind Training Center
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
OREC	Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificate
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
SDVOB	Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business
WTG	wind turbine generator

8.4 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY IMPACTS

6.2.8.4 *Guidance related to Disadvantaged Community impacts is provided in Appendix B.2. The Submission must include both Confidential and Public versions of the Disadvantaged Community Impacts. Proposers are expected to explore how they can design their Project and associated investments to provide benefits to and reduce burdens on Disadvantaged Communities, or Tribal Nations, in accordance with the 2020 CES Modification Order and the Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan. All Proposers are required to fully detail the benefits and burdens associated with the impacts of the Project’s development on any Disadvantaged Communities that are hosting a Project or whose local economy, infrastructure, and air, water, and other natural resources are directly impacted by a Project, as identified through engagement with Disadvantaged Communities, and in accordance with the most recent relevant guidance per the Climate Action Council and Climate Justice Working Group. Proposers are further advised to review the New York State Disadvantaged Communities Barriers and Opportunities Report. Commitments to Disadvantaged Communities must align or reference those described in the Economic Benefits Plan, according to Appendix B.1 and will be incorporated in Section 6.05 of the Agreement.*

8.4.1 Overview

Rather than simply enumerate the benefits and burdens associated with the Project, we will share our understanding of Environmental Justice (EJ) broadly, our own values and vision on advancing equity, our EJ approach on existing projects both in New York and beyond, and how that experience has shaped the commitments in this Proposal. Acknowledging the difficulty and persistence required to “get it right,” our Proposal is reflective of a moment in time and will continue to evolve and grow as we practice transparency, listening and collaboration with all stakeholders, especially those who have been most disadvantaged by environmental injustice. Ørsted has been developing an understanding of New York EJ priorities for years and has emphasized building relationships on Long Island, where much of this Project’s infrastructure and benefits will be placed. Ørsted seeks to advance EJ through sensitive infrastructure design and siting, workforce development, and targeted investments that prioritize communities that have been most harmed by environmental injustice, supporting community-led sustainability projects, and inviting community participation to maximize equitable distribution of the Project’s benefits.

Environmental Justice

Guided by the *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act* (CLCPA), Ørsted will seek to invest or direct resources to Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) such that at least 35%, with a goal of 40%, of the overall benefits accrue to DACs. In support of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) objectives, the Project will seek to not disproportionately burden DACs and will prioritize reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants in DACs.

The Climate Justice Working Group has boldly pursued scoping and defining both the communities that should benefit from the CLCPA while further defining the definition of “benefit.” [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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At the federal level, the Biden Administration has established the *Justice40 Initiative* through Executive Order 14088.² With a similar goal and inspired by the CLCPA, *Justice40* seeks to ensure 40% of federal investments reach DACs, especially those relating to clean energy, energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable housing, workforce development, clean water, and legacy pollution.

The CLCPA and the *Justice40 Initiative*, both overall and their specific EJ commitments, were direct results of engagement and input by the EJ community, and it is important to acknowledge that the offshore wind industry and others would not be where they are today without their contributions.

These foundational statutes and policies help inform our EJ and equity goals in New York and beyond.

Our Values

Clean energy projects of the scale and size contemplated in the Proposal cannot and should not be successful if there is widespread community opposition. We know this well and acknowledge the discrimination, racism, redlining, and regulations that have prevented opportunity and wealth building for many primarily Black and brown neighborhoods throughout the history of our country and New York. It is likewise important to acknowledge including the disproportionate impact of climate change. We also recognize the impact of siting, pollution, health impacts, and legacy decisions that created the climate crisis that exists today. That is why we take an “inform,” “listen and learn,” and “collaborate” approach across the board, including with frontline communities. On numerous occasions, this feedback has led directly to stakeholder-driven changes in our organization's projects—from modifying our onshore footprint based on community feedback to altering our wind turbine generator (WTG) layout based on input from the fishing community—as described further in our Stakeholder Engagement Plan in Section 8.3.

A Comprehensive and Inclusive Approach

As demonstrated in the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan, provided as Attachment 8.3-1, we will plan to engage with groups ranging from small neighborhood associations to large statewide organizations and from town and county elected officials to U.S. Senators in an effort to listen and learn about the complex and unique needs in communities across New York State. In doing so, we aim to deliver solutions, commitments, and partnerships that reflect the range of perspectives in New York, and local guidance should be included whenever possible. Simply achieving EJ objectives in one or two locations alone is not enough—EJ approaches should be integrated across all aspects of the Project.

The next step after listening to local stakeholders is not action. Rather, it is regular dialogue and engagement. As outlined in the inaugural EJ gathering in 1991, the fifth and seventh principles of EJ affirm the right of self-determination and participation at every level.³ We have worked to do so with a range of EJ-focused organizations in New York that have stakes in the various footprints of the Project. We recognize that it is not always possible to find areas of agreement or paths to pursue in this stage, but we continue to engage in dialogue and work to find solutions to EJ challenges as we consider how best to move forward with a scope.

² Executive Order 14008: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-01/pdf/2021-02177.pdf>.

³ Principles of Environmental Justice: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html>.

Finally, after pursuing the previous two steps, we seek partnerships, agreements, programs, and other avenues of mutual agreement. Feedback, revision, updates, and constant dialogue are core pieces of our stakeholder plan broadly, with impacts to DACs a central focus of our plan.

We intend to take this approach throughout the life cycle of the Project to ensure continuous and consistent feedback. Given the importance of responding to and incorporating feedback, it is impossible to suggest we have identified, addressed, and responded to every issue that might arise within and around DACs for the Project. Our experience and knowledge suggest it is just as important to have an openness and process in place to address these matters broadly as it is to offer pre-conceived solutions to each matter specifically.

Because Long Island Wind will require infrastructure to be built or maintained on Long Island, Ørsted is committed to building up the capabilities of people and organizations who live and work in DACs to advocate for environmental justice, on their own terms. As described in more detail in Section 11, Ørsted will partner with Minority Millennials and WE ACT for Environmental Justice to develop a more robust, youth-led environmental justice movement on Long Island.

Our Approach on Existing Projects

As DaShanne Stokes once remarked, “If your actions don’t live up to your words, you have nothing to say.” While we continually strive to improve our EJ and equity achievements, the Project can be analyzed based not just on what we commit to but also what we have already achieved. A few of those initiatives are summarized below.

Ørsted has:

- Been designated the first energy firm with a science-based net-zero target as part of the Science Based Targets Initiative.
- Been ranked as the world’s most sustainable energy developer in the world by Corporate Knights (2019–2022, 2024).
- Signed a historic Project Labor Agreement, the National Offshore Wind Agreement, with North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) that prioritizes work for and inclusion of women, people of color, EJ communities and apprentices.
- Been awarded the Offshore Wind Leadership (2021) and the Talent Management Leadership (2022) awards from the Business Network for Offshore Wind.
- Launched a global biodiversity partnership with World Wildlife Fund.
- Advanced many more EJ initiatives.⁴

⁴ Ørsted 2022 ESG Report: Sustainability & ESG Reports, Ratings & Rankings | Ørsted (orsted.com).

For our projects in New York, we have:

- Launched a \$10 million National Offshore Wind Training Center (NOWTC) in Brentwood (a DAC).⁵ This center is controlled by a board of community, labor, and education leaders, rather than our organization.
- Pre-trained more than 125 New York construction workers for offshore work, at Ørsted's expense. Ørsted prioritized the recruitment of women, people of color and residents of DACs for inclusion in this program. We estimate 15-20% of these workers reside in DACs and will have more definitive information once the program concludes.
- Held three supplier and workforce forums⁶ to hire local workers (including in Brentwood, a DAC).
- Invested \$300,000 in the Multi-craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program (M.A.P.P.) in Albany's South End (a DAC), which helped M.A.P.P. place approximately 30 residents of DACs in well-paid skilled trade careers.⁷
- Successfully negotiated and executed two Host Community Benefit Agreements for offshore wind transmission, committing nearly \$200 million to host communities over the project lives.
- Hosted at least three New York stakeholder tours of South Fork Wind.
- Signed an \$86 million contract with Riggs Distler for construction and assembly of foundation components at the Port of Coeymans (a port within a few miles of DACs).⁸ Unionized assembly of the components is well underway.
- Executed onshore construction contracts with local, New York State firm Haugland Energy Group LLC; valued at over \$200 million, they are a supply partner committed to creating workforce opportunities for residents of DACs.
- Changed the spacing of the WTGs and the proposed route of the submarine transmission cable for the South Fork Wind project based on feedback from the fishing community and based the overland route design and work constraints on input from residents and local officials.
- Participated in more than 60 public meetings and 400 stakeholder engagements to share information, take questions, and incorporate feedback on South Fork Wind and Sunrise Wind.
- Sponsored dozens of events, programs, and organizations over the course of several years that focus on support for residents of DACs, totaling nearly \$1 million in sponsorships to date.

⁵ NY Governor Press Release on NOWTC to Suffolk County: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-and-suffolk-county-executive-bellone-announce-land-transfer-bring-national>.

⁶ Supply Forums | Sunrise wind (sunrisewindny.com).

⁷ Sunrise Wind Invests \$300,000 to Train Capital Region Workers for Union Construction Careers in Clean Energy: <https://us.ored.com/news-archive/2022/08/sunrise-wind-invests-to-train-capital-region-workers-for-union-construction-careers-in-clean-energy>.

⁸ NY Governor Press Release on Supply Chain Award of \$86 Million in Coeymans: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-largest-single-new-york-state-offshore-wind-supply-chain-award-86>.

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SECTION 8.4 – DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY IMPACTS

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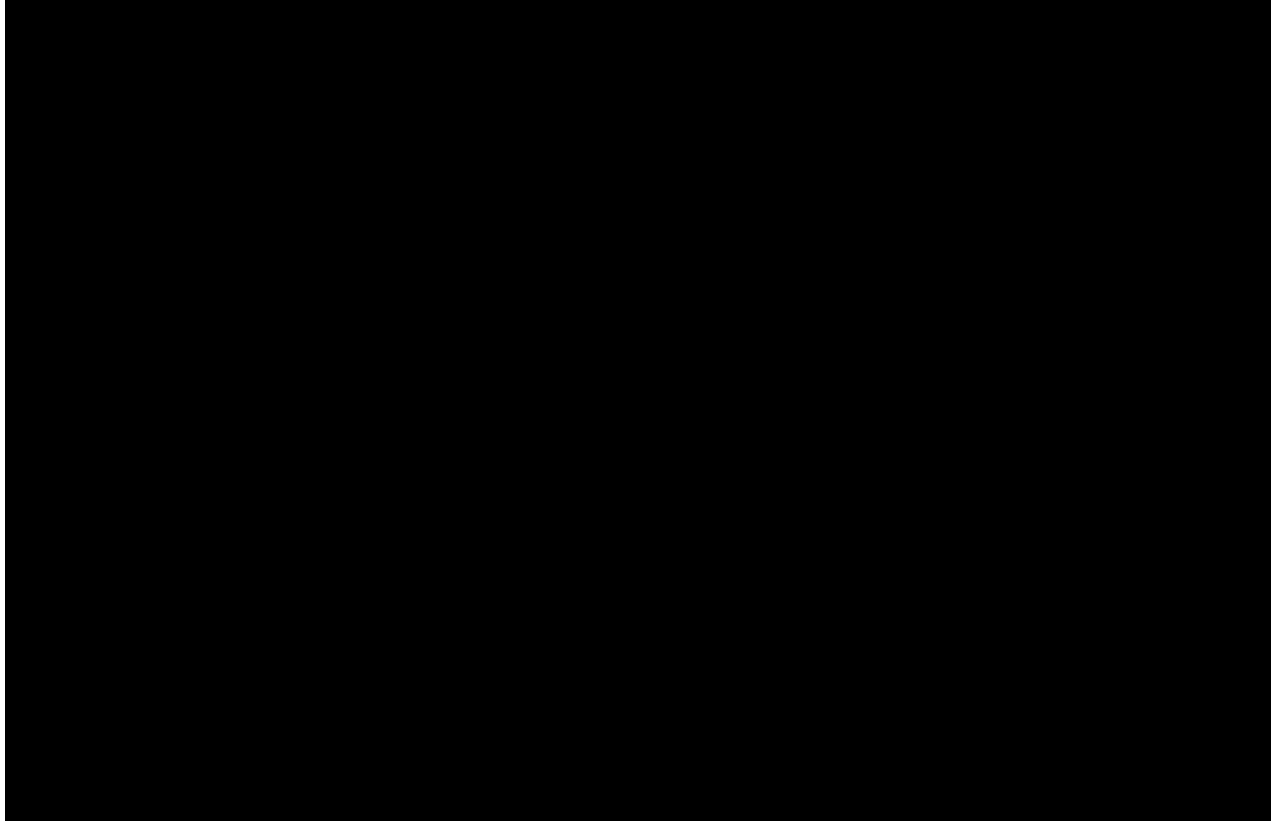
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In NYSERDA's New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan, "the total emissions-reduction benefit [of the State's first 2,400 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind] would amount to approximately \$1.9 billion (net present value) based on the "social cost of carbon" published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."⁹ [REDACTED]

In addition to its climate benefits, the Project would also reduce prevalence of harmful co-pollutants that are released alongside greenhouse gas emissions and negatively contribute to public health. In NYSERDA's Phase 1 Industry Report¹⁰, based on scaled results from the Offshore Wind Master Plan, it was estimated that, together, the 1,696 MW Award Group would result in approximately \$700 million in avoided health impact costs in the form of avoided hospitalizations and premature deaths associated with asthma and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. [REDACTED]

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⁹ *New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan: Charting a Course to 2,400 Megawatts of Offshore Wind Energy*. Accessed at: <https://www.nyserra.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Publications/Research/Biomass-Solar-Wind/Master-Plan/Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan.pdf>.
¹⁰ *Launching New York's Offshore Wind Industry: Phase 1 Report*. Accessed at: <https://www.nyserra.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Offshore-Wind/osw-phase-1-procurement-report.pdf>.



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