

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68

Mayflower Wind Energy LLC

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 72, and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, Mayflower Wind Energy LLC (“Mayflower Wind” or “Company”), located at 101 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts, has filed three related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”). Mayflower Wind filed these petitions for approval to construct approximately 2.7 miles of high voltage direct current (“HVDC”) export cables at approximately 320 kilovolts (“kV”) offshore in Massachusetts state waters, making landfall at Brayton Point, and continuing onshore at Brayton Point in the Town of Somerset, along with a new HVDC converter substation (“Mayflower Wind Converter Station”), and approximately 0.2 miles of high voltage alternating current (“HVAC”) underground transmission lines at approximately 345 kV onshore in the Town of Somerset, Massachusetts (collectively, the “Project,” which Mayflower Wind refers to as its “Mayflower Wind SouthCoast Project”). The purpose of the Project is to connect Mayflower Wind’s proposed offshore wind energy generation resource located in federal waters (the “Offshore Wind Resource,” also referred to by Mayflower Wind as the “Clean Energy Resource”), to the regional transmission system in New England.

The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 11, 2022. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88408455934> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID: 8840-845-5934. The Siting Board has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the course of the proceeding at <https://mass.gov/info-details/mayflower-wind-southcoast>.

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to Geneen.Bartley@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address by **Friday, October 8, 2022**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **Friday, October 8, 2022**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. The Siting Board will also accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**.

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding, beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or in writing, may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, and to robert.J.Shea@mass.gov no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**.

Public Comment Hearing

At the public comment hearing, Mayflower Wind will present an overview of the proposed Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the Department's YouTube channel, at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk1Pj6xxSKww-Kr26IEZVTA>, after the hearing. The public may also file written comments; please see "Filing Instructions" below.

Siting Board Jurisdiction and Standard of Review

Mayflower Wind's three petitions have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board under docket number EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review Mayflower Wind's filing to determine whether the Project would provide a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth, with a minimum impact on the environment, at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest. Under G.L. c. 40A, § 3, the Siting Board will determine whether the requested zoning exemptions in Somerset are required for the Project and whether the present or proposed use of the land or structures is reasonably necessary for the public convenience or welfare.

The Siting Board will not review the Offshore Wind Resource itself (including the turbine array, related equipment, and a portion of the transmission line) as it would be located in federal waters and therefore is subject to federal jurisdiction and review. Additionally, the Siting Board will not review the portion of the transmission facilities that would be located in Rhode Island; these will be subject to Rhode Island jurisdiction and review.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding, beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or in writing may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding and may file a brief as well as file written comments and/or present oral comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

Any person wishing to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition in accordance with the Filing Instructions set forth immediately below. A petition to intervene or be a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatory-proceedings/download>. To be allowed, a petition to intervene filed pursuant to 980 CMR 1.05 must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

Filing Instructions for Comments and Intervener/Limited Participant Petitions

Written comments on the Company's Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov; and to robert.j.shea@mass.gov. Petitions to intervene or participate must be filed by **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Second, the petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for Mayflower Wind, Eric K. Runge, Esq. of Day Pitney LLP, at ekrunge@daypitney.com.

Mayflower Wind's Petitions and Additional Information

The petition to construct the Project includes the following information: (1) a description of the Project; (2) an analysis of the need for the Project; (3) a description of the alternatives to the Project; (4) a description of the route selection process and of the proposed route (Proposed Route), the alternative route (Noticed Alternative Route), and a design variation that applies to both routes (Noticed Variation); (5) a description of the environmental impacts of the Project and a comparison of the routes; and (6) a description of the Project's consistency with policies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Electronic copies or links to Mayflower Wind's petitions and all attachments have been provided to representatives of the Town of Somerset, Fall River, and Swansea, and are available on Mayflower Wind's website at mayflowerwind.com. In addition, copies of the Company's filing are available for public inspection in electronic format at the following locations:

- Department of Public Utilities/Siting Board website at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB22-04> (filings under "Document Type: Initial Filing");
- The EFSB's webpage for the Project at: <https://mass.gov/info-details/mayflower-wind-southcoast>; and
- Mayflower Wind's website at: <https://mayflowerwind.com/documents/> (under "State Permitting").

Physical copies of the petitions are also available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's office and main public library in Somerset. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print or audio format) contact Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or 617--626-1282.

Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Please allow at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send your requests to: Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or call 617-626-1282 no later than **October 4, 2022**.

Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if the Presiding Officer needs more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

Contact

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information regarding intervention or participation in the adjudicatory proceeding, may contact the Presiding Officer at the following telephone number or email address:

Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Robert.J.Shea@mass.gov
(617) 851-4246

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mayflower Wind's proposed Project consists of: (1) two HVDC export power cables with a nominal voltage of approximately 320 kV and associated communications cabling that travel through Massachusetts state waters, proceed below the seabed in Mount Hope Bay and make final landfall at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts, using horizontal directional drilling ("HDD"); (2) after making landfall at Brayton Point, two HVDC export power cables with a nominal voltage of approximately 320 kV and associated communications cabling continue underground onshore for approximately 0.6 miles to the converter station; (3) a new Mayflower Wind-developed onshore HVDC converter station designed to convert the HVDC power to HVAC to enable interconnection to the existing transmission infrastructure; (4) underground HVAC transmission lines with a nominal voltage of approximately 345 kV connecting the converter station to the existing New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid") substation at Brayton Point; and (5) a Noticed Variation, as described below.

Mayflower Wind's filing identifies two primary alternatives for the offshore export cable corridor ("ECC") in Massachusetts state waters and landfall locations, as well as two primary alternatives for the onshore underground route from the landfall locations to the Mayflower Wind Converter Station (the Proposed Route and the Noticed Alternative Route), one location at

Brayton Point for the Mayflower Wind Converter Station, and one onshore route between the Mayflower Wind Converter Station and the National Grid substation at Brayton Point.

A. Offshore Routes

As shown in **Figure 1**, the offshore ECC enters Massachusetts state waters southwest of Brayton Point in Mount Hope Bay after traversing through federal waters and Rhode Island state waters, including a portion of Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island, for a total of approximately 113 miles. In Massachusetts waters, the ECC diverges into two alternative offshore ECC approaches and landfall locations.

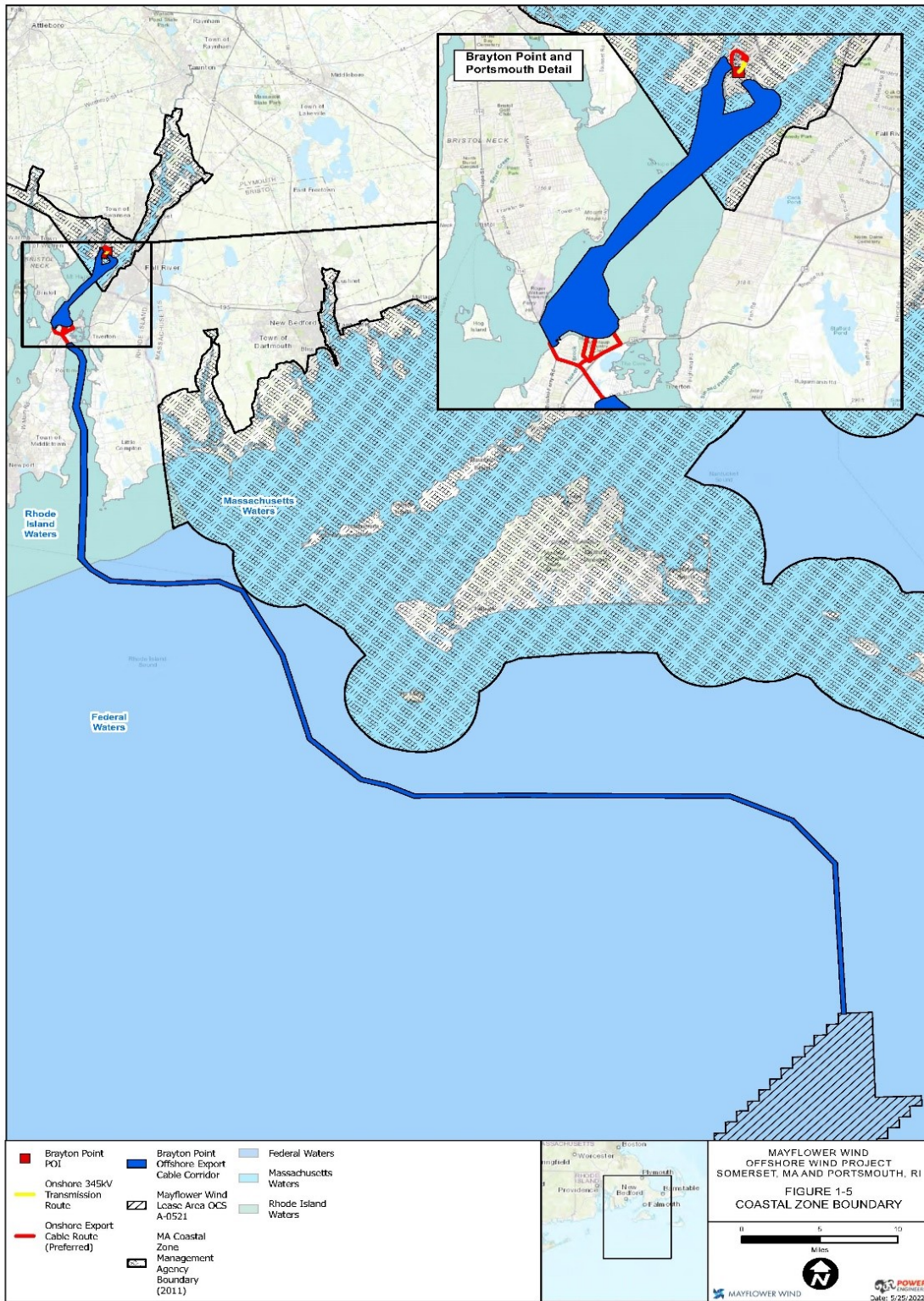
Proposed Offshore ECC Route: Western Route

Mayflower Wind's Proposed Route for the offshore export cables proceeds northeast for approximately 2.1 miles through Mount Hope Bay, entering the mouth of the Lee River on the western side of Brayton Point in Somerset. This route option avoids the main shipping channel in Mount Hope Bay and a shipping channel and turning basin located at the mouth of the Taunton River.

Noticed Alternative Offshore ECC Route: Eastern Route

The Noticed Alternative Route proceeds northeast for approximately 2.4 miles through Mount Hope Bay, entering the mouth of the Taunton River on the eastern side of Brayton Point in Somerset, near the Fall River municipal line.

Figure 1: Mayflower Wind Project Offshore Routes



A larger version of this figure is available at the following link:

<https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/15035347#page=3>.

B. Landfalls and Onshore Routes

As shown in **Figure 2**, both Mayflower Wind’s Proposed Landfall and the Noticed Alternative Landfall are at Brayton Point. Brayton Point is the site of a recently decommissioned fossil fuel-fired power station located on a brownfield site of approximately 300 acres in the Town of Somerset on a peninsula of land surrounded by Mount Hope Bay, the Lee River, and the Taunton River. Mayflower Wind proposes to use Brayton Point as the landfall site and ultimate point of interconnection (“POI”) to the regional electrical grid at the existing 345 kV Brayton Point National Grid substation. Mayflower Wind’s Proposed landfall enters Brayton Point on the west side and the Noticed Alternative landfall enters on the east side of the peninsula.

Proposed Landfall and Onshore Route: Brayton Point—Lee River

The landfall option for Mayflower Wind’s Proposed Route approaches Brayton Point from the Lee River on the west side of the peninsula. The Company would use HDD at the sea-to-shore transition from offshore to onshore export cables. The offshore export cables would be spliced to onshore cables in an underground concrete vault(s). From the onshore HDD transition location, the HVDC export cables would be routed underground along an existing Brayton Point access road for approximately 0.6 miles to the Mayflower Wind Converter Station.

There are no known existing submarine cables that make landfall at the west side of Brayton Point and Mayflower Wind would make the onshore transition within a developed industrial area formerly used for power station operations. There are no direct abutters to this location.

Noticed Alternative Landfall and Onshore Route: Brayton Point—Taunton River

The landfall option for the Noticed Alternative Route approaches Brayton Point from the mouth of the Taunton River on the east side of the peninsula. Mayflower Wind proposes to use HDD at the sea-to-shore transition from offshore to onshore export cables. The offshore export cables would be spliced to onshore cables in an underground concrete vault(s). From the onshore HDD transition location, the HVDC export cables would be routed underground along Brayton Point Road and other existing access roads, crossing the National Grid right-of-way, to reach the Mayflower Wind Converter Station for a total route length of approximately 0.4 miles.

This landfall option would require construction along a short segment of Brayton Point Road in the vicinity of the Brayton Point Commerce Center. The Commerce Center uses an area along the shore of the peninsula south of the proposed HDD transition location. The sea-to-shore transition equipment and staging operations would also be located immediately south and offshore from Brayton Point Beach and residential properties. There are no known existing submarine cables that make landfall at the east side of Brayton Point. There is, however, a privately maintained 34-foot-wide dredged shipping channel and associated 50-foot-wide turning basin in the Taunton River that provides large vessel access to the eastern approach to Brayton Point. There are no direct abutters to this location.

Figure 2: Landfall Locations and Onshore Routes; Converter Station and Point of Interconnection



A larger version of this figure is available at the following link:
<https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/15035347#page=4>.

C. Mayflower Wind Onshore Converter Station and Point of Interconnection

As shown in **Figure 2**, Mayflower Wind proposes to build a new onshore HVDC converter station. Mayflower Wind's proposed location is on Brayton Point approximately 0.2 mi north of the POI, which is at the existing 345 kV Brayton Point National Grid substation. Mayflower Wind would connect the converter station to the POI via approximately 0.2 miles of underground HVAC transmission lines at approximately 345 kV.

D. Noticed Variation

Mayflower Wind also proposes a design variation to the Project intended by Mayflower Wind to provide flexibility for the future expansion of the electric system in the Brayton Point area to accommodate potential additional new offshore wind generation (the "Noticed Variation"). The Noticed Variation would accommodate the delivery of up to an additional 1,200 MW of energy from the Offshore Wind Resource to a POI at or near Brayton Point. The Noticed Variation would apply to the landfall and onshore portion of both Mayflower Wind's Proposed Route and the Noticed Alternative Route.

The Noticed Variation would involve expanding trenching and underground infrastructure for the HVDC export cables to include spare conduits at landfall and onshore that would be capable of accommodating an additional 1,200 MW HVDC circuit consisting of an additional two power cables and associated communications cabling. Two additional spare HDD conduits would be constructed by Mayflower Wind at the landfall, which would require two additional HDD exit pits. At locations along the route where segments of cable must be joined together, additional underground vault(s) would be constructed. The primary difference between the Proposed Route and the Noticed Variation is in the physical size of the underground infrastructure. Mayflower Wind indicated that the Noticed Variation would provide advantages for future interconnection of offshore wind energy while minimizing potential future impacts to the natural and human environment.

Developing the Project in this way would result in only one disturbance to the environment rather than two such disturbances if a second 1,200 MW connector project is needed in the future. To the extent that Mayflower Wind seeks to fully develop a second 1,200 MW connector facility interconnecting at or near Brayton Point, and make use of the increased trenching and conduits, Mayflower Wind would file a separate petition with the Siting Board for approval to do so.

E. Other Construction – Interconnection

The Company's Proposed Route would require an interconnection between the Mayflower Wind Converter Station and the existing National Grid 345 kV substation at Brayton Point. Any interconnection modifications at the National Grid Brayton Point substation would be designed and implemented by National Grid as the interconnecting transmission owner and subject to the regional interconnection process. National Grid's additions are not part of the Project under review in this docket, and National Grid would be responsible for the appropriate permitting of those facilities.