



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
RESOURCES**

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Kimberley Driscoll
Lt. Governor

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Commissioner

August 6, 2024

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C of Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008, as Amended – D.P.U. 23-42

Dear Secretary Marini:

On August 23, 2023, the Department of Public Utilities (Department or DPU) issued a final Order approving the proposed timetable and method for the fourth solicitation contained in a request for proposals (RFP) for offshore wind energy generation pursuant to Section 83C of the Green Communities Act, St. 2008, c.169, as amended by the Energy Diversity Act, and the Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind (Section 83C) (the Order), subject to the directives of the Department. The RFP was proposed jointly by Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a/ Eversource Energy (collectively, the Parties).

In the Order, the Department approved a schedule for bid selection on August 7, 2024. At this time, the Parties are notifying the Department that they are extending the Bid Selection Date and all subsequent solicitation schedule dates by approximately 30 days, as detailed in **Table 1** below. The additional time is needed to consider any impacts to this solicitation from the recently announced federal grant to New England states through the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Innovation Program (GIP) program for projects to invest in regional electric infrastructure to ready the onshore transmission system for offshore wind. Pursuant to RFP Section 3.1, the Evaluation Team reserves the right to revise the schedule as necessary. The Evaluation Team also plans to notify all eligible bidders of this change to the solicitation schedule via a posting to MACleanEnergy.com.

The Evaluation Team continues to diligently perform its obligations to conduct a fair and competitive evaluation of the Section 83C proposals, including coordinating the current Section 83C solicitation with the simultaneous solicitations ongoing in Connecticut and Rhode Island, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the states on October 3, 2023. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and all ratepayers to extend the Section 83C project selection date to allow for continued deliberation on all proposals to ensure any selection decision is in the best interest of ratepayers and that the evaluation meets all obligations of Section 83C and the MOU.

The Parties will keep the Department informed of the progress towards the selection of proposals by September 6, 2024, and the ultimate execution of contracts consistent with the remainder of the extended Section 83C timetable below.

Table 1. Revised 83C Round IV Solicitation Schedule

| Event | Current RFP Dates | Revised Dates |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Selection of Projects/Commence Negotiations | August 7, 2024 | September 6, 2024 |
| Execute Long Term Contracts and MOU with DOER | October 9, 2024 | November 8, 2024 |
| Submit Long Term Contracts for DPU Approval | November 13, 2024 | December 18, 2024 |

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

By its attorneys,



Robert Hoaglund, Esq.
Ben Dobbs, Esq.
Colin Carroll, Esq.
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA

Enclosures

cc: Kevin Crane, Esq. (Hearing Officer)
D.P.U. 23-42 Service List

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing documents upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 220 CMR 1.05(1).

/s/ Colin P. Carroll

Colin P. Carroll

August 6, 2024