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# *Environmental Technical Working Group*

*A Stakeholder Engagement and Advisory Process to Advance the Environmentally Responsible Development of Offshore Wind Energy for New York State*



*29 July 2020*

# Introductions



CADMUS

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# Ground Rules

- Contribute – your perspectives are important
- Share time – lots to cover and many people around the table
- Integrate ideas and pose questions
- Stay focused on the agenda
- Use video capabilities if possible
- Avoid multitasking and other distractions
- Use chat box as needed



# Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Goals & Membership Changes
- NYSERDA Procurement Update
- Environmental Mitigation Plans: Process Update
- E-TWG Priorities Discussion
- Other Updates
- Discussion on Remote Meeting Strategies and Wrap Up



# NYSERDA Procurement Update

- **New York Offshore Wind Process**
  - NYSERDA filed petition Jan. 28, 2020
  - PSC issued Order April 23, 2020
  - NYSERDA released solicitation on July 21 for up to 2,500 MW of offshore wind
- **2020 Offshore Wind Solicitation**
  - Reaffirms importance and **continued engagement** of the E-TWG and F-TWG
  - Requires financial and technical support of regional monitoring of wildlife and fisheries (\$10k/MW)



# NYSERDA Procurement Update

## Appendix E

### Elements of the Environmental Mitigation Plan

As stated in Section 2.2.9 of the RFP, the Proposer must submit as part of its Proposal an Environmental Mitigation Plan (“Plan”). The Environmental Mitigation Plan should detail, to the extent practical, specific measures the Proposer will take to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project in the categories identified below. Where specific measures are not known for a specific category of impact at the time of proposing, the Environmental Mitigation Plan must describe how the Proposer will work collaboratively with the State, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to define avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The Plan should provide a roadmap for the environmental work to come and provide a degree of certainty that the Proposer is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a cost-effective and environmentally responsible Project.

The mitigation hierarchy should be an organizing principle of the Environmental Mitigation Plan. More specifically, the mitigation hierarchy can help Projects prepare for impacts and aim to achieve no net loss of biodiversity. It involves a sequence of actions to anticipate and *avoid* impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services; where avoidance is not possible, to *minimize* such impacts; when impacts are predicted to occur notwithstanding the implementation of practical avoidance and mitigation measures, to rehabilitate or *restore* ecosystems; and where significant residual impacts are predicted to remain, *offset* such impacts. The Plan must account for potential adverse impacts of all phases and components of a Project, including pre-construction surveys, construction, operation, and, to the extent practical, decommissioning; and including turbines, cables, substations and, if applicable, collector platforms.

The submitted Environmental Mitigation Plan is a starting point that will necessarily evolve throughout the development process based on feedback from State and federal regulators, and stakeholders. The submitted Environmental Mitigation Plan, and its future iterations, do not supplant or alter the federal regulatory process, rather they become the organizing document for State consultations and stakeholder engagement around the proposed project’s development and the associated federal process. While this RFP allows for flexibility to Proposers in devising avoidance, minimization, and restoration/offset measures, some specific measures that will be required of all Projects are identified and must be included in the Proposer’s Plan.

The submitted Plan must be comprised of two components, a Narrative component and a Standardized Component using the provided format. Both the Narrative and Standardized Components will be used in the review and scoring the proposal. However, only the Standardized Component will be appended to the contract of selected proposers.

## Environmental Mitigation Plan

for

[project name]

Version [1.0]

Prepared pursuant to [contract number, date (TBD)]

with

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Albany, NY

Prepared by

[company or joint venture name]

[Address]

[Logos]

[Date]

# Questions?

# Environmental Mitigation Plans: Process Update



# Environmental Mitigation Plans

## Updates

- Brief project updates during TWG meetings
- Major milestones
  - Separate meetings with TWGs
    - Overview of major changes and decisions
    - Respond to previous feedback and questions
    - Ask for additional input
  - Redline updates to the MPs



# Environmental Mitigation Plans

## Group Poll

Please indicate Y/N response

Would it make sense to hold joint E-TWG and F-TWG update meetings for each project's mitigation plans?



# Questions?

Break

# E-TWG Priorities Discussion



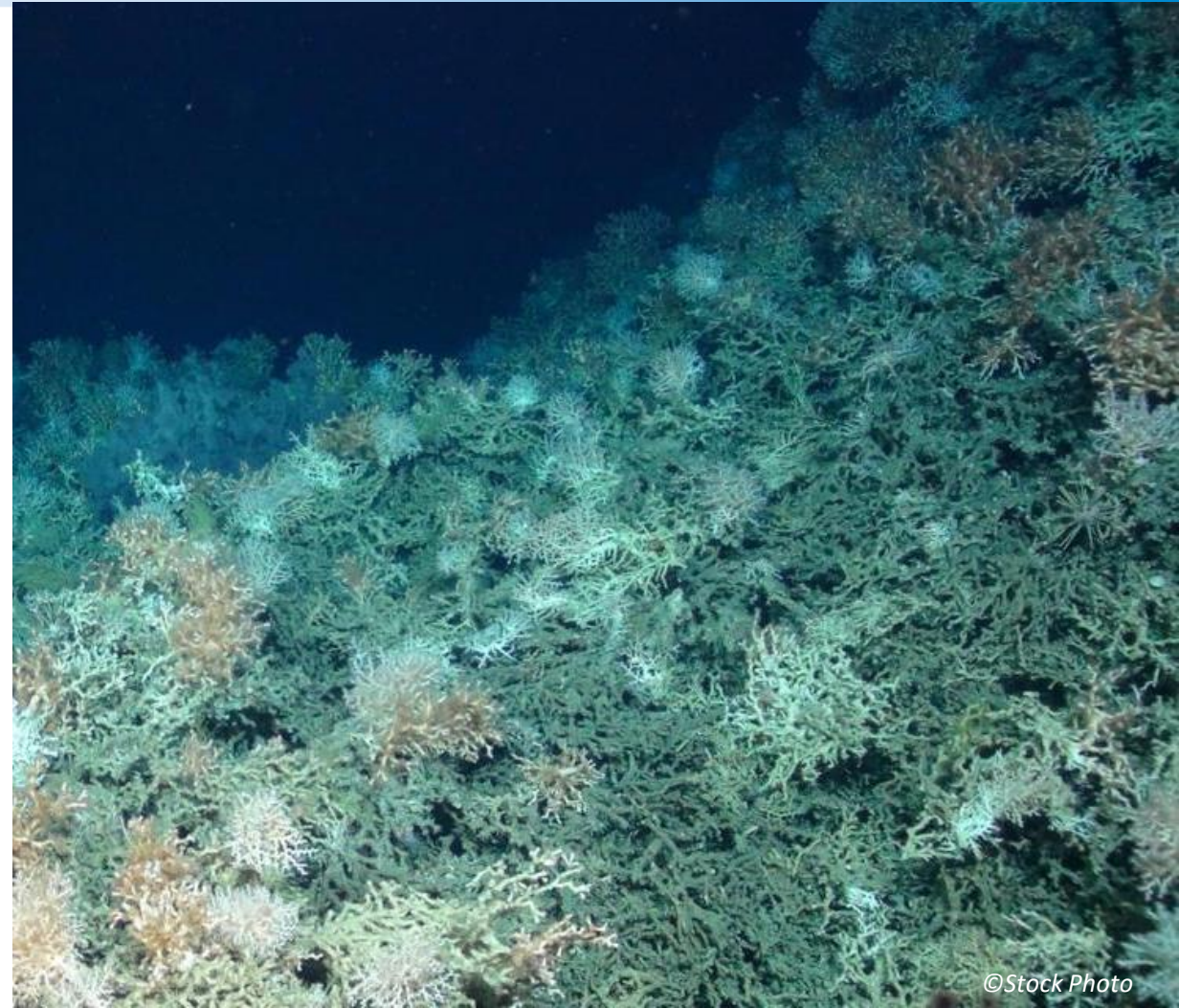
# E-TWG Priorities Discussion

## Re-assessing E-TWG priorities

- Previous discussions of priorities in February 2019
- Taking an opportunity to review and discuss E-TWG priorities moving forward

## Process

- June – preliminary conversations
- July 29 meeting – brainstorm “laundry list” of priorities
- Early August – online survey for E-TWG members to indicate priorities
- August 18 meeting – discuss survey results and finalize plan for E-TWG focus for next 1-2 years
  - Include methods discussions: time commitment, end products, etc.



# E-TWG Priorities Discussion

## Utility of the E-TWG

### 1) Use common ground

- Identify common interests and harness those in useful ways
- Develop guidance, share information across sectors, collaborate

### 2) Share differing perspectives

- Frank and respectful discussions to share perspectives and develop common understanding



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# E-TWG Priorities Discussion



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## Past/Current E-TWG Priorities

- Guidance on mitigation and monitoring practices
- Cumulative impacts (via State of the Science Workshop 2020)
- Environmental Mitigation Plans
- Regional Wildlife Science Entity (RWSE)

# E-TWG Priorities Discussion

## Other needs the E-TWG could help address (initial suggestions)

- Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans, to improve consistency across projects and inform broader understanding
- Develop additional guidance for the management and standardization of site-specific monitoring data
- Help design regional monitoring programs
- Improve regional coordination between states, including between state-led entities like the E-TWG
- Review and synthesize existing data to inform stakeholder groups
- Develop a mechanism or framework for compensatory mitigation
- Facilitation coordination and improvements to regulatory process
- Explore other management concepts and frameworks (e.g., nature-inclusive design, co-use, etc.)
- Identify a cohesive approach for vessel communication and coordination

# Brainstorm list of possible priorities



2019-2020 priorities	Recent suggestions	New ideas
Guidance on mitigation and monitoring practices	Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans, to improve consistency across projects and inform broader understanding	
Cumulative impacts (via State of the Science Workshop 2020)	Develop additional guidance for the management and standardization of site-specific monitoring data	
State of the Science Workshops (general)	Help design regional monitoring programs	
Environmental Mitigation Plans	Improve regional coordination between states, including between state-led entities like the E-TWG	
Regional Wildlife Science Entity	Review and synthesize existing data to inform stakeholder groups	
	Develop a mechanism or framework for compensatory mitigation	
	Facilitation coordination and improvements to regulatory process	
	Explore other management concepts and frameworks (e.g., nature-inclusive design, co-use, etc.)	
	Identify a cohesive approach for vessel communication and coordination	

Break

# Other Updates

# Updates

## TWG Updates

- State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy
- Bird and bat scientific research framework
- BMP committees
- Regional Wildlife Science Entity
- Fisheries Technical Working Group

## BOEM Updates

## State Updates

### New York State Environmental Technical Working Group Annual Bulletin

July 2020



#### E-TWG meetings

The E-TWG met three times in 2019 and twice in early 2020. Discussions focused on oversight of specialist committees, informing New York offshore wind procurements and other state processes, and regional coordination and knowledge-sharing efforts. For more information, visit the [Meeting Archive](#).

#### Membership

The E-TWG's original group of eleven advisory members has expanded to include representatives from Shell New Energies, EDF Renewables, and Avangrid. In addition, representatives from several member organizations have changed; many thanks to those who have moved on for your time on the E-TWG.

#### E-TWG website

In October 2019, the E-TWG launched its [new website](#), where you can learn more about the goals of the group, find offshore wind-related resources, and stay up-to-date on E-TWG activities. Since the launch, the website has had over 1500 visitors and over 80 new subscribers to the E-TWG mailing list.

The New York State Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) is an independent advisory body to the State of New York with a regional focus on offshore wind and wildlife issues in the eastern U.S. This team of stakeholders includes 13 advisory members, comprised of offshore wind developers and science-based non-governmental organizations, as well as 13 observer members from state and federal agencies. The group provides advice on how to advance offshore wind development in environmentally responsible ways, and promotes regional coordination and collaboration.

In the past year, 123 people were directly involved with E-TWG activities (see below)—and we look forward to even broader engagement via the 2020 State of the Science Workshop this fall. Many thanks to all those who are contributing their time and expertise!

#### State of the Science Workshops on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy

The highly successful inaugural State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy was held in November 2018. The 186 attendees, 32 speakers, and 45 posters included a broad range of stakeholders from the U.S. and Europe. Workshop Proceedings are available [here](#).

The 2020 State of the Science Workshop is going virtual. The second workshop, beginning in November 2020, will focus on 1) assessing the state of the knowledge regarding offshore wind development's cumulative effects on populations and ecosystems, and 2) working to identify key studies that could be conducted in the next 3-5 years to improve our understanding of cumulative biological impacts as the offshore wind industry develops in the U.S. Plenary presentations and discussions will occur virtually throughout the week of November 16-20, with smaller taxon-specific working meetings occurring in late 2020 and early 2021, and a final webinar in the Spring of 2021. [Learn more](#)

# Connecticut Update on Offshore Wind

July 29, 2020

Presented by Shannon Kearney  
NYSERDA E-TWG Meeting



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



# Offshore Wind Procurement by Connecticut

2018

Revolution Wind (~300MW) (Orsted)

- No Connecticut environmental consultation interface with this project

June 2019

- Public Act 19-71, An Act Concerning the Procurement of Energy Derived from Offshore Wind
- 2000MW
- **Commission on Environmental Standards (CES)**
  - Advise DEEP regarding standards for the Environmental and Fisheries Mitigation Plan for upcoming solicitations
  - Engage with DEEP on contract milestones related to the Environmental and Fisheries Mitigation plan



# First Procurement Under CES

August 2019

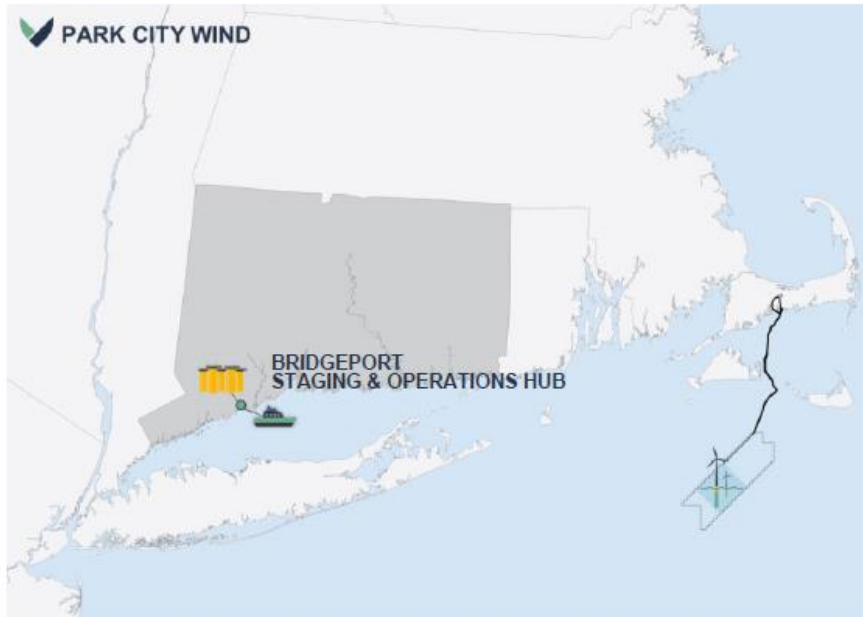
- Final report of recommendations from the CES was released:
- <http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DEEPEnergy.nsf/c6c6d525f7cdd1168525797d0047c5bf/d3d132f10da308ea8525844f00683853?OpenDocument>
- Request for Proposals Released

December 2019

- DEEP selected Park City Wind (804MW)



## Project Highlights



### Location

- Lease Area OCS-A 0501, southwest of Vineyard Wind 1 and south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket

### Size and Generation

- 804 MW project will produce approximately 3.7 million MWh of electricity annually, enough to power 400,000 Connecticut households

### Transmission and Interconnection

- Substantially similar offshore export cable corridor (OECC) as Vineyard Wind 1
- OECC extensively surveyed and well-understood
- Cable landfall in Barnstable and grid interconnection in West Barnstable

### Construction and Operations Activities

- Staging and assembly work during the construction phase and an operations and maintenance facility in Bridgeport for the 25+ year life of the project

# Connecticut Consultation Process

Environmental and Fisheries Mitigation Plan (EFMP)

<http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DEEPEnergy.nsf/c6c6d525f7cdd1168525797d0047c5bf/377ae6d77deb4d1e85258542007da797?OpenDocument>

- Quarterly Consultations with the CES
  - April 2020- General Mitigation Plan Summary
  - July 2020- Marine Mammal Sound Risk and Data Demonstration
    - [https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/udJFE7TM\\_VpJG4XG91rdfokIPJbaaaa8hHJM-aVcn0slbOVSgr3KUkuZFtNJNaQP?startTime=1594918921000](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/udJFE7TM_VpJG4XG91rdfokIPJbaaaa8hHJM-aVcn0slbOVSgr3KUkuZFtNJNaQP?startTime=1594918921000)
  - Octoberish – topic TBD
- Direct Funding Initiatives, including mitigation funds



# Contacts in Connecticut

- Shannon Kearney ([shannon.kearney@ct.gov](mailto:shannon.kearney@ct.gov)) - Wildlife Division
- Fisheries:
  - Justin Davis ([justin.davis@ct.gov](mailto:justin.davis@ct.gov)) Assistant Director- Marine Fisheries
  - Matt Gates ([matthew.gates@ct.gov](mailto:matthew.gates@ct.gov)) Supervisor- Marine Fisheries
  - Pete Aarrestad ([peter.aarrestad@ct.gov](mailto:peter.aarrestad@ct.gov))- Director- Fisheries
- Coastal and Long Island Sound Permitting
  - David Blatt ([david.blatt@ct.gov](mailto:david.blatt@ct.gov))- Supervisor- Land and Water Planning
- Administrative:
  - Rick Jacobson, ([rick.jacobson@ct.gov](mailto:rick.jacobson@ct.gov)) Bureau Chief of Natural Resources, and is involved in directing funding initiatives, coming out of our procurement process and the RWSE
  - James Albis ([James.albis@ct.gov](mailto:James.albis@ct.gov))- Chief advisor to the Commissioner- Chair of the Commission on Environmental Standards





# Discussion on Remote Meeting Strategies and Wrap Up

# Remote Meeting Strategies

**Given COVID-19 constraints, meetings are likely to be remote for at least the remainder of 2020**

**Despite this shift, we want to understand from you how we can best preserve two key elements of in-person meetings:**

- Interactive meeting discussions
- Informal side conversations

# Remote Meeting Strategies: Breakout Groups & Report Back

## Groups of 2-3 to discuss the following:

1. What are we doing right with virtual meetings to support (a) interactive substantive discussions and (b) personal connections?
2. Where do you think the virtual meetings are falling short on either or both counts?
3. What might we do to strengthen these elements?

# Remote Meeting Strategies

**Share ideas from breakouts:**

**What types of adjustments could we make to meeting formats (or other group related support- e.g. document sharing, emails etc.) to address gaps?**

- Related to having interactive formal E-TWG discussion?
- Related to supporting informal interactions?

# Next Steps

August ~3

Online survey to assess E-TWG priorities

August 18

E-TWG Meeting