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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Via Email to Jill Aspenwall

Re: NJ PACT Offshore Wind Stakeholder Meeting September 23, 2020

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) appreciates the opportunity to provide input during the NJPACT stakeholder process. Following on its March 2, 2020 high level stakeholder meeting on land use issues, the Department has acted to address these topics by establishing several stakeholder groups. The Offshore Wind group was brought together on September 23, 2020 to focus discussion around those regulatory areas that are targeted to the coastal zones of the state. PSEG believes that actions to address climate change and its impacts is critical for New Jersey. Part of this is the need to develop Clean Renewable Energy and reliably deliver it to the energy grid to support customers across the state.

Offshore wind represents an important piece of New Jersey's future Clean Renewable Energy portfolio. The initial project, Ocean Wind, is moving forward to bring the first 1100 mw's of power into New Jersey. However, unlike traditional sources of power generation employed in the state, offshore wind will need to feed into the electric grid from an untraditional location. Orsted, the developer of the Ocean Wind project, has recently submitted a letter to the NJDEP dated October 23, 2020 providing detailed comments on the regulatory challenges that delivering power from offshore bring. Their comments note several areas where revision and clarification of existing rules can be implemented to support this delivery method.

PSEG supports these comments and strongly concurs with the need to balance the environmental benefits of developing clean renewable offshore wind energy while addressing the generally temporary impacts of constructing and installing the transmission lines that connect to the offshore wind farms. PSEG understands that the sensitive nature of coastal habitats must be taken into account when developing routes for new transmission lines. The regulatory language Orsted has proposed is consistent with this consideration and seeks to minimize the impacts to the greatest extent possible, while still providing for the state to develop this important clean energy resource.

We thank you again for the opportunity to submit our comments and look forward to continuing to work with the NJDEP as part of the stakeholder process.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell J. Furnari", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell J. Furnari
Manager of Environmental Policy Enterprise