



State of New Jersey
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January 17, 2023

Karen J. Baker, Chief
BOEM Office of Renewable Energy
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166

RE: Docket No. BOEM-2022-0053
Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Empire Offshore Wind, LLC's
Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore New York

Dear Ms. Baker,

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Empire Offshore Wind, LLC's Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore New York.

The draft DEIS discusses a series of alternatives, including a "no action" alternative, to the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of Empire Wind's intended offshore wind farm- two wind energy farms and their associated export cables on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore New York. Empire Wind proposes to develop the lease area in two wind farms, known as Empire Wind 1 (EW 1) and Empire Wind 2 (EW 2) (collectively, the Project). EW 1 and EW 2 will be electrically isolated and independent from each other. Empire Wind proposes to construct and operate up to 147 wind turbines and up to 2 offshore substations with 2 cable routes under the terms of Renewable Energy Lease OCS-A 0512. The lease area is located 14 miles from Long Island, New York, and 19.5 miles from Long Branch, New Jersey. The onshore components of the Project will include up to three export cable landfall areas in New York (one for EW 1 and up to two for EW 2) and two onshore substations, both in New York.

The NJDEP's Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) strongly encourages Empire Wind to select a proposal and/or alternative which results in the least impact to regulated areas and/or environmentally sensitive areas and which is consistent with all applicable regulations, including but not limited to the Coastal Zone Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7. A detailed review of the impacts from the proposed project will be conducted during DLRP's review of the pending Federal Consistency Certification for Empire Wind's Construction and Operations Plan (COP), including the information provided in the DEIS. The NJDEP's resource programs will comment during the review of the consistency certification as their expertise is crucial to DLRP's evaluation of the proposed project's environmental impacts and in determination of the project's compliance and consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Plan's enforceable policies.

Thank you for providing the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Empire Offshore Wind, LLC's Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore New York. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these comments, please contact Elizabeth Lange at Elizabeth.Lange@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Brunatti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Brunatti
Deputy Chief of Staff

