

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. 4111
DEEPWATER WIND BLOCK ISLAND, LLC'S RESPONSE TO
THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S DATA
REQUESTS
SET 2
(Issued December 7, 2009)**

Comm. 2-1: Referencing Deepwater's Response to Commission Data Requests, 2-1, Mr. Moore indicated that "Deepwater can demonstrate that expected ranges of capacity factors result in seven (7) and eight (8) turbine projects producing output that fall within the ten (10) MW 'statutory limit'..." Please provide additional information on the "expected ranges of capacity factors" for these proposals and explain how these capacity factors were identified.

Response: Deepwater's Response to Commission Data Requests, 1-1, predated the revisions to R.I. GEN. LAWS § 39-26.1-7, which modified the ten (10) MW statutory limit and replaced it with a thirty (30) MW nameplate generating capacity limit, along with a cap on the number of turbines permitted, to eight (8) turbines. As a result of this legislative change, Deepwater believes that National Grid's objection to Deepwater's proposal of seven (7) or eight (8) turbines is no longer at issue before the Commission. Further, Deepwater's current proposal for the Block Island Wind Farm falls within the new legislative cap of no more than 8 turbines and no more than 30 MW of nameplate capacity in the aggregate.

Response by: William Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Deepwater Wind Holdings, LLC

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Comm. 2-2: For purposes of the following two questions, assume that "utility scale" means wind turbines whose power are designed for utility-scale output beyond residential or individual business applications.

- (a) Please provide the known capacity factors for all utility-scale off-shore wind turbines that are currently operating along the eastern seaboard.

- (b) Please provide the known capacity factors for all utility-scale on-shore wind turbines operating in Rhode Island.

Response:

(a) To Deepwater's knowledge, there are no utility-scale off-shore wind turbines currently operating along the eastern seaboard.

(b) Deepwater is only aware of three (3) non-residential on-shore wind turbine installations in Rhode Island, of which only the turbine owned and operated by the town of Portsmouth is considered utility-scale, at a nameplate generating capacity of 1.5 MW. The 660 kW (0.66 MW) wind turbine installed at Portsmouth Abbey School and the 100 kW (0.1 MW) turbine installed at the New England Institute of Technology would not be considered utility-scale. Deepwater does not have access to wind production information for these installations.

To Deepwater's knowledge, wind projects operating in New England have capacity factors ranging between 20% and 30%, with the majority of those projects having capacity factors in the lower end of that range. Generally speaking, the best wind resources in New England are found in more remote areas and can be accessed only by turbines built along mountain ridge lines where they can take advantage of stronger winds at higher elevation. It is likely, but not certain, given lack of information, that the Rhode Island turbine installations would experience lower capacity factors.

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Comm. 2-3: Deepwater's response to Commission Data Request 1-1 indicated that "the wind resource studies necessary to support the project are still preliminary." When are these studies expected to be final?

Response: Deepwater's existing wind resource study is a mesoscale study performed by AWS Truewind, a leading wind resource consultant, using historical wind data and calibrating such data to the proposed site. It is not based on site-specific collection data. In addition to the mesoscale study, Deepwater also began a robust wind resource measurement regime over the summer of 2009 in the form of a 60m meteorological tower on Block Island, LiDAR devices installed on Block Island, and additional measurement devices in Buzzard's Bay. Deepwater is exploring the possibility of supplementing these with meteorological buoys. Generally, independent engineers and commercial banks require 18 to 24 months of wind data before they are willing to accept the results of those studies. As such, these studies will not produce reliable data before the end of 2010. Even so, Deepwater will likely continue to take such measurements beyond 2010 and any financing for the project will want to take such data into account.

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Comm. 2-4: Deepwater's response to Commission Data Request 1-1 included the phrase that "it is more appropriate to consider a reasonable range of expected capacity factors..." rather than one specific capacity factor. How does Deepwater propose to measure the "reasonableness" of a range of capacity factors?

Response: The recent revision to the legislation clarified the basis for determining the size of the project as the nameplate generating capacity, rather than by reference to capacity factor. Consequently, this portion of Deepwater's response addressed a point of interpretation with respect to the legislation that is no longer relevant. Specifically, it is no longer necessary to consider ranges of capacity factors, since Deepwater's proposal for no more than eight turbines, with no more than 30 MW of nameplate generating capacity in the aggregate, is in conformance with the new legislative cap on project size.

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Comm. 2-5: Please provide a detailed development/construction timeline for this project assuming a contract with National Grid is in place for January 31, 2010. For purposes of responding to this question, the timeline should include construction of the transmission line between New Shoreham and the mainland of Rhode Island.

Response: Please find below a development and construction timeline assuming a contract with National Grid is in place for January 31, 2010. Much of the environmental data collection, surveying and analysis has already begun. The timeline proposes a commercial operations date for the Block Island Wind Farm in the fourth quarter of 2012, and depends on several assumptions, including that the state SAMP process be completed by the third quarter of 2010 and Federal permits will be finalized by the first quarter of 2011.

Development/ Construction Timeline

1. Environmental Permitting:	
a. SAMP Process	Q2, 2008 – Q3, 2010
b. Federal Permits	Q3, 2010 – Q1, 2011
2. Wind Data Collection	Q2, 2009 – Q2, 2011
3. Foundation Engineering & Design	Q2, 2009 – Q4, 2010
4. Procurement and Installation of Turbines	Q4, 2009 – Q3, 2012
5. Procurement of Transmission Cable	Q3, 2010 – Q2, 2012
6. Mainland Transmission Cable Installation	Q3, 2011 – Q1, 2012
7. Marine Transmission Installation	Q2, 2012 – Q3, 2012
8. Other Construction Activities	Q1, 2010 – Q3, 2012

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Comm. 2-6: Assuming the timeline above and assuming the need for various regulatory approvals, please describe the anticipated job growth in Rhode Island that Deepwater believes will directly result from this specific project over the life of the project. Please indicate which jobs are temporary in nature (i.e. initial construction work, etc.)

Response: Deepwater's estimates of projected job growth encompass both the Block Island Wind Farm and the utility scale project (the "Rhode Island Sound Wind Farm"), considered in tandem. It is estimated that both projects will have labor requirements that will create the equivalent of approximately 600 or more direct jobs, and many more indirect jobs.

While Deepwater's original estimates incorporated jobs estimates for both the Block Island Farm and Rhode Island Sound Wind Farm, in attempting to provide the Commission with the information sought in this request, we anticipate that the Block Island Wind Farm will generate between 35 and 50 direct local construction period jobs, and possibly more if assembly operations are performed at Quonset, an option Deepwater is currently investigating. Further, we estimate that post-construction, operation and maintenance of eight (8) turbines making up the facility will require approximately 6 permanent full time equivalent jobs. The operations and maintenance workforce will increase substantially if the larger project is built, as at that point it is quite likely that the cost structure of such a workforce would be the optimal solution for operating and maintaining both projects.

It is important to note that the Block Island Wind Farm is a small scale project and is not intended, in and of itself, to result in significant job creation in Rhode Island. However, it is an important strategic asset that will give Rhode Island first mover advantage in a potentially significant new industry that could attract green businesses at all levels of the supply chain to Rhode Island, such as wind turbine or component manufacturers.

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Comm. 2-7: Please provide cost estimates of constructing a transmission line between New Shoreham and the mainland of Rhode Island.

Response: Deepwater agrees with National Grid's estimate, as set forth in its October 15, 2009 letter to the Commission that, based on preliminary analysis, the expected cost of the transmission line is between \$35 million and \$50 million, depending on the cost of facilities and system upgrades.

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Comm. 2-8: Please provide engineering studies and specifications to support construction of a transmission line between New Shoreham and the mainland of Rhode Island.

Response: As noted in Deepwater's response to the Commission's Data Requests Set 3, based on information available today, the mainland interconnect for the small scale project will likely be at Narragansett. There are several proposed locations being considered and National Grid and Deepwater are conducting further cost and technical analysis. NE-ISO has not yet finalized its choice of mainland interconnect.

Detailed engineering studies and specifications for one of the leading proposals, a 34.5kV transmission cable from the Town of New Shoreham to an inter-tie of Feeder 3302 in Narragansett are described in greater detail in the attachment to this response, ISO-NE Q#308 Block Island Wind Farm Interconnection. This route has been proposed, in consultation with National Grid, to the independent system operator for permission to interconnect. However, as noted above, the final cable route is subject to environmental permit processing and review by ISO New England of system impacts and possible required upgrades to facilities or the system.

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Comm. 2-9: Please indicate the voltage of the proposed transmission line between New Shoreham and the mainland of Rhode Island.

Response: As noted in the response to Comm. 2-8, preliminary studies indicate that the proposed transmission line will be a 34.5 kV radial line.

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on December 16, 2009, I sent a copy of the within to all parties set forth on the attached Service List by electronic mail and copies to Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk, by electronic mail and regular mail.

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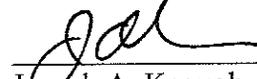
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