

Massachusetts Offshore Wind Transmission: Second Request for Stakeholder Comment

March 19, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) issued a Request for Comment on Massachusetts Offshore Wind Transmission on January 15, 2020. Written stakeholder comments submitted in response to the first request are now available on the DOER website at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/offshore-wind-transmission-stakeholder-comments-2-19-20/download>. In conjunction with the first round of stakeholder comments, MassCEC and DOER hosted a technical conference on March 3, 2020. The presentations and materials from that technical conference are also on the DOER website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/offshore-wind-study>. MassCEC and DOER thank all the stakeholders who provided written comment and all those who attended and participated in the technical conference. As both the response to the January 15, 2020 Request for Comment and the March 3, 2020 technical conference raised important questions, DOER is opening a second round of stakeholder comment.

Additional Written Comment Request

All interested stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to provide written comments in response to information provided from stakeholders during the first round of comment and the technical conference. Written comments may include, but are not limited to: the structures of a potential independent offshore transmission procurement in Massachusetts; capturing the benefits of independent transmission; and cost and benefit analysis. The following set of stakeholder questions are meant to guide feedback; please provide any additional comments on topics you deem relevant to the discussion. Please provide response to as many of the questions as you are comfortable, but you do not need to address them all.

Please note that all written comments submitted will be made publicly available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/offshore-wind-study>. Please submit all written comments to Marian Swain¹ (Marian.Swain@mass.gov) no later than **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**.

Stakeholder Questions

1. Is there a structure or structures that would allow for a competitive and successful independent offshore wind transmission solicitation given the authority provided through Section 21 of the *Act to Advance Clean Energy*²? Please provide comment on the following scenarios and/or provide any additional scenario(s):

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² Full text of An Act to Advance Clean Energy is available at: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter227>

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

- a. No separate independent transmission solicitation but a solicitation for 1600 MW of offshore wind energy generation with an extended time to develop proposals, including the pairing of multiple projects and/or independent offshore transmission projects.
 - b. A solicitation for 1600 MW of transmission capacity that requests project proposals that define their own technical specifications for 1600 MW of offshore wind energy generation. Subsequent offshore wind generation solicitation(s) requires bidders to submit two bids: one with a Generator Lead Line (GLL), and one that interconnects to the selected transmission project(s). All bids are evaluated together.
 - c. A solicitation for offshore wind generation that requires bidders to bid the pricing of transmission and generation separately. A project is selected, and then a subsequent solicitation is issued that allows for independent transmission developers to compete to provide the selected project with transmission service at a lower price.
2. Under DOER's authority granted by the *Act to Advance Clean Energy* how can the benefits of independent offshore transmission be best captured through a solicitation?
 - a. Is there a minimum capacity required to capture benefits?
 - b. Are there benefits that would be stranded without doing a solicitation for 1600 MW of independent offshore wind transmission?
 3. Can these benefits be evaluated and included in a total cost and benefits analysis?
 - a. What information would need to be provided in a Request for Proposals (RFP) and/or what information should an RFP request to better define the benefits and costs of the independent offshore wind transmission proposals?