

NOTICE OF MEPA CONSULTATION SESSION

TO: Distribution

FROM: Purvi Patel - MEPA Office

SUBJECT: Vineyard Wind Connector – BARNSTABLE

EEA NO.: 15787

An Environmental Notification Form (ENF) has been submitted to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA, 301 CMR 11.00) Office for this project. The project requires a Mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and will be scoped for a Draft and Final EIR.

THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN EXTENDED.

Comments on the project will be welcome in writing prior to January 16, 2018. A Certificate on the ENF, including a Scope for a Draft EIR will be issued on January 26, 2018.

The first several pages of the ENF can be viewed at:

<http://170.63.40.34/EEA/emepa/mepadocs/2017/122017em/nps/enf/15787%20Vineyard%20Wind%20Connector.pdf>

The project meets or exceeds the following review thresholds:

11.03(3)(a)(1)(b) - Alteration of ten or more acres of any other wetlands (Land Under Ocean and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage).

11.03(3)(b)(1)(a) - Provided that a Permit is required, alteration of coastal dune, barrier beach or coastal bank.

11.03(3)(b)(3) - Dredging of 10,000 or more cubic yards of material.

11.03(1)(b)(3) - Conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97.

11.03(2)(b)(1) - Greater than two acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat, as defined in 321 CMR 10.02, that results in a take of a state-listed endangered or threatened species or species of special concern.

11.03(7)(b)(4) - Construction of electric transmission lines with a Capacity of 69 or

The ENF indicates that the project requires the following State Agency Actions:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) – Chapter 91 License; Section 401 Water Quality Certification; potential Superseding Orders of Conditions (if required)
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) – Road Crossing Permits; Rail Division Use and Occupancy License
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU)/Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) – Approval under MGL c. 164 Sections 69J and 72; Chapter 40A Section 3 Zoning Exemption (if needed)
State Legislature – potential Article 97 Authorization
Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) – Field investigation permits
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) – potential Conservation and Management Permit

more kilovolts, provided the transmission lines are one or more miles in length along New, unused or abandoned right of way.

A scoping session will be held to receive advice and comments from agencies, officials, and citizens regarding which environmental issues, if any, are significant for this project. Opinions as to the extent and significance of possible environmental impact will be welcome.

On MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018, there will be two project meetings (Boston and Cape Cod), and a site visit on Cape Cod, which are all open to the public. Please note that you do not need to attend either meeting or the site visit to submit comments on the project by January 16, 2018.

Meeting in Boston: 10:00 AM 100 Cambridge Street in Boston (Saltonstall Building) – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Site Visit: 2:15 PM Bus Tour will leave Cape Codder Resort at 1225 Iyannough Rd in HYANNIS, MA 02601

Meeting on Cape Cod: 6:00 PM Cape Codder Resort at 1225 Iyannough Rd in HYANNIS, MA 02601

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