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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Selects Firm to Guide Offshore Wind Strategic Plan; Announces Public Hearing on Future Solicitation of 1,100 MW

TRENTON—The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP) today held a special board meeting and unanimously approved the selection of a leading firm to provide strategic planning and analysis in support of an Offshore Wind Strategic Plan, a chief component of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order No. 8, which sets a goal of providing 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

The Board will now send its recommendation for contract award to the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, which will review, approve, and ultimately issue a contract. Once Treasury approves the Board’s recommendation, the winning bidder and contract will be announced publicly.

“Offshore wind truly represents a new chapter for clean energy in New Jersey,” said NJBP President Joseph L. Fiordaliso. “In its unanimous recommendation that Treasury move forward and award this contract to an exceptionally qualified firm, the Board showed that it is united and confident that we can hit the ground running in achieving the Administration’s ambitious energy agenda.”

In developing a strategic plan, the winning firm will identify and develop timelines, establish environmental and economic benefits associated with offshore wind, as well as analyze any potential costs, benefits, and other impacts of offshore wind development.

The Offshore Wind Strategic Plan consultant will also help to define the standards for offshore wind development needed by the state to achieve the initial goal of 1,100 megawatts of offshore wind energy capacity and its subsequent buildout to 3,500 megawatts.

Additionally, NJBP has issued a notice of public hearing to solicit public input on issues related to a future solicitation of 1,100 megawatts of offshore wind capacity, a crucial first step in making the solicitation process a reality. The notice contains nine distinct topics for consideration, including the structure of the initial 1,100 megawatts of offshore wind capacity

and establishing favorable conditions to ensure strong competition from multiple offshore wind developers.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, July 19, 10 a.m. at Mercer County Community College, Conference Center at Mercer Auditorium, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ.

“This Board is more than aware of the enormity of this task and does not take the responsibility lightly. I’m proud that Governor Murphy chose the Board of Public Utilities as the lead agency in charge of effectuating this important agenda,” President Fiordaliso said.

In addition to voicing comments at the July 19 public hearing, interested residents and stakeholders can also submit written comments to: **Aida Camacho, Secretary, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314, CN 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.**

Written comments can also be submitted electronically to Rule.Comments@bpu.nj.gov in PDF or Word Format. All comments must be received on or before 5 p.m. on July 26, 2018.

About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight and responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)

NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is www.NJCleanEnergy.com.