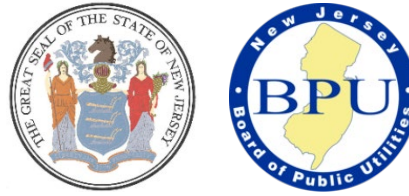


State of New Jersey
 Governor Philip D. Murphy
 Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver



Joseph L. Fiordaliso
 President

Board of Public Utilities



www.nj.gov/bpu/

Mary-Anna Holden
 Dianne Solomon
 Bob Gordon
 Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
Commissioners

NOTICE¹

***Revised 3-28-2023**

IN THE MATTER OF THE OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH AND MONITORING INITIATIVE (RMI) JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
[Docket No. QO22120727](#)

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP" or "Board") and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") hereby give notice and invite all interested parties and members of the public to participate in a virtual Stakeholder Meeting to discuss New Jersey's Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative ("Initiative" or "RMI"). All interested parties and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the Request for Comment ("RFC") contained in this Notice. Details for comment submission are provided in the "Comments" section below.

The Stakeholder Meeting on the RMI will be held at the following date and time, and in the following manner:

Meeting Date and Start Time	Agenda	Location – Virtual Link and Call-in Information to Join the Stakeholder Meeting
February 27, 2023 1 p.m. EST	New Jersey's RMI	Zoom Virtual Webinar Registration (for all attendees including those who would like to speak during the Stakeholder Meeting): https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cf8lgzuESFyklyS7-7i6fw (Note: If you are typing the URL, please use all UPPERCASE for all capitalized letters.) Via telephone: +1(309) 205-3325 Webinar ID: 833 1317 1094 The meeting will consist of a brief presentation by RMI staff, who will provide an overview of the Initiative and the projects awarded to date. The floor will then be opened for comments by stakeholders and members of the general public.

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

Please note that this meeting will be conducted virtually. To participate in this meeting, you must register for the meeting at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date. Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information set forth above and may express their views. In order to encourage full participation, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above meeting to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

If you want to reserve a speaking opportunity, please designate this during the online registration process. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and information about checking your system requirements in advance of the meeting. Stakeholders and members of the public should check their access devices in advance of the meeting to ensure that they will properly connect.

Questions on this stakeholder process may be directed to Kira Lawrence at Kira.Lawrence@bpu.nj.gov.

Background and Procedural History

As part of the NJBPU's second offshore wind energy solicitation, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project 1, LLC, and Ocean Wind II, LLC committed \$10,000 per megawatt of project-size-awarded capacity – or approximately \$26.5 million – to fund regional research and monitoring to assess the impacts of offshore wind on New Jersey's natural resources. This funding established the [Initiative](#).

The RMI addresses the need for regional research and monitoring of marine and coastal resources before and during offshore wind development, construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning as recommended in the New Jersey Offshore Wind Strategic Plan.² The NJBPU and the NJDEP jointly administer the Initiative through the RMI Steering Committee, an entity comprised of an equal number of members from the NJBPU and the NJDEP. The goal of the RMI is to ensure that as New Jersey moves toward a clean energy economy through the development of offshore wind, the State also protects and responsibly manages New Jersey's coastal & marine resources.

Research, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement went into the development of short-term, highest-priority research needs for the RMI. Having recently observed the one year anniversary of the RMI's inception, the RMI Steering Committee seeks input from stakeholders regarding the [short-term, highest-priority list](#), which has been used to develop specific scientific questions within each research priority category and drive the identification of projects for funding from the RMI. The RMI Steering Committee also seeks input on additional RMI research priorities that align with the RMI's established [Principles and Objectives](#).

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

A. Short Term Research Priorities

The current [RMI research and monitoring priorities](#) are intended to address short term research and monitoring needs. They primarily seek to establish baseline environmental and ecological datasets during the pre-construction phase of an offshore wind project to produce credible,

² https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/Final_NJ_OWSP_9-9-20.pdf

scientifically rigorous results that can be used for identifying, understanding, minimizing/avoiding, and/or mitigating impacts of offshore wind on marine resources, as well as evaluating efficacy of mitigation efforts.

1. After reviewing the list of RMI [research priorities](#), are there additions or modifications that you would recommend to this list? If so, what are they?
2. With respect to the short term research priorities, how would you recommend that the State allocate RMI funding going forward?

B. Future Research Priorities

1. What research priorities do you think should be included during phase 2 (construction phase, defined as commencing when the first New Jersey offshore wind farm infrastructure installation begins) of the RMI (i.e., what other research should be undertaken during the construction phase)?
2. What research priorities do you think should be included during phase 3 (operation phase, defined as commencing when the first New Jersey offshore wind farm achieves commercial operation) of the RMI (i.e., what other research should be undertaken during the operations phase)?

COMMENTS

The Board is also accepting written and/or electronic comments.

All public comments should be filed under **Docket No. [QO22120727](#)**. **The deadline for public comments is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on ~~March 29, 2023~~ *April 28, 2023.**

Please submit comments directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s [Public Document Search](#) tool. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s [Public Document Search](#) tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules requiring paper submissions have been temporarily waived. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

E-mailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri Golden

Secretary of the Board

44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor

PO Box 350

Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Phone: 609-292-1599

Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your responses.

Sherri Golden

Sherri Golden
Secretary of the Board

Dated: March 28, 2023