



RFI Issue Date: February 10, 2026

Consideration of an Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program Request for Information (RFI) OSWRFI26-1

Responses Due: March 24, 2026 by 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

The Response due date has been extended from March 10, 2026, to March 24, 2026, by 3:00 p.m. ET.

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit feedback that will assist the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in assessing approaches the State could pursue to support offshore wind project readiness in the current market and policy context. In particular, this RFI seeks input on how New York State can help enable private developers to continue investing responsibly in their lease areas to advance project development during a period of federal uncertainty, so that projects are well positioned to move forward efficiently when federal conditions become more favorable. Feedback will inform how the State can appropriately support the offshore wind industry in this period, including the structure of potential interventions and the conditions under which such efforts would deliver the greatest public value to ratepayers.

Although NYSERDA does not intend to publish individual responses to this RFI, NYSERDA intends to prepare and file a summary of responses in the Clean Energy Standard and Offshore Wind Standard Proceedings before the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) to support the Commission's ongoing review of procurement processes for large-scale renewable resources, including offshore wind.¹ Information marked Confidential or Proprietary in accordance with the procedure described in the following paragraph will not be made public in that filing but may be provided to the Commission or to Department of Public Service Staff confidentially.

If you wish for your responses to remain confidential, please mark them "Confidential" or "Proprietary," in accordance with the procedure described below. If NYSERDA receives a request from a third party for responses received that have been marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary," NYSERDA will process such a request under the procedures provided by New York State's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) regulations as detailed below (see <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/Contacts/FOIL> for additional information). The FOIL provides exceptions to disclosure, including Section 87(2)(d) which provides for exceptions to disclosure for records or portions thereof that "are trade secrets or are submitted to an agency by a commercial enterprise or derived from information obtained from a commercial enterprise and which if disclosed would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the subject enterprise." **Information submitted to NYSERDA that the disclosing party wishes to have treated as proprietary and confidential trade secret information should be identified and labeled "Confidential"**

¹ Case 15-E-0302, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard, Order Adopting Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review as Final and Making Other Findings (issued May 15, 2025), available at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=15-e-0302&CaseSearch=Search>.

or “Proprietary” on each page at the time of submission. This information should include a written request to exempt it from disclosure, including a written statement of the reasons why the information should be exempted. See Public Officers Law, Section 89(5) and the procedures set forth in 21 NYCRR Part 501.

Respondents are not required to answer all questions and should focus on questions relevant to their experience and/or their field of expertise.

Comments responding to this RFI are due by Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Comments should be sent to offshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov with the subject line “OSWRFI26-1 Response”. NYSERDA may reach out to respondents to seek clarifications. Any questions about this RFI or requests to discuss this RFI should be directed in writing to offshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov with the subject line “OSWRFI26-1 Inquiry”. NYSERDA may also, at its sole discretion at any time, elect to engage in discussions with potential respondents and other interested parties regarding the matters described in this RFI.

I. Introduction

Offshore wind is identified in New York State's 2025 State Energy Plan² as a critical component of the State's future electricity system, given its ability to deliver large-scale clean power in proximity to major load centers, including New York City and Long Island. The State Energy Plan's Pathways Model finds that offshore wind continues to play a meaningful role in the State's optimal resource mix, even when the model is not constrained to meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's offshore wind deployment targets, resulting in 5–7 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2040. These findings underscore the strategic importance of offshore wind to New York's long-term energy planning and reinforce NYSEDA's continued focus on advancing the industry in a manner that builds a durable in-state supply chain, supports workforce development and good-paying jobs, leverages prior public and private investments, and delivers clean and reliable electricity to New Yorkers.

Despite the significant progress made in New York State since the establishment of the Offshore Wind Standard³ in 2018, including the ongoing construction of over 1,700MW of offshore wind under contract to NYSEDA, the U.S. offshore wind market continues to face serious challenges. Primary among these is recent federal actions aimed at stopping offshore wind projects, including projects that are fully permitted and under construction. These actions have eroded investor confidence with many developers and supply chain partners slowing or pausing project development or even causing developers to exit the market. While the current federal administration is expected to continue policies that are unfavorable to offshore wind development, there may nonetheless be opportunities for states to advance the industry during this period, possibly including improving coordination among states and with developers (including the Northeast Regional Planning Collaborative⁴), investments in flexible port infrastructure⁵, and other activities that reduce future project development costs and risk.

Maintaining investment and project readiness could potentially help prevent the loss of billions of dollars in previous investments, as well as industry capacity and expertise, ensuring that offshore wind is positioned to scale quickly if and when federal policy becomes more supportive, and at a time when new power generation will be urgently needed for downstate New York and the broader State.

Without continued predevelopment investment, project development may slow, opportunities for offtake may be delayed, supply chain investments and job creation may stall, and uncertainty around project development costs and viability may increase. Despite these challenges, NYSEDA's overriding objectives are to optimize the opportunity for the procurement of offshore wind as timely and as cost-effectively as possible. In this context, NYSEDA is exploring whether new or modified approaches could help support a steady and sustainable pipeline of offshore wind projects capable of advancing toward future offtake and construction. One potential concept under consideration is State provision of funding or other support of predevelopment activities of offshore wind projects. The predevelopment concept was included in NYSEDA's draft 2026 Updated Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Operating Plan Amendment, released for public comment in December 2025, and in the Final 2026 Updated RGGI

² <https://energyplan.ny.gov/Plans/2025-Energy-Plan>

³ Case 18-E-0071, available at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=18-e-0071&CaseSearch=Search>.

⁴ <https://energyinstitute.jhu.edu/northeast-states-collaborative-on-interregional-transmission/>

⁵ <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Offshore-Wind/Focus-Areas/Supply-Chain-Economic-Development/500M-Investment>

Operating Plan Amendment.⁶ Predevelopment support could potentially help projects advance in a timelier manner and reduce risks at the time of future offtake, both of which ultimately contribute to lower costs for ratepayers. Whether predevelopment support has the potential to benefit New York ratepayers is the central question this RFI seeks to examine.

A predevelopment support framework could focus on a set of predevelopment activities that are critical to advancing projects toward financial close but that may not proceed, absent some form of public support. Predevelopment support could involve a wide range of activities, including but not limited to: site characterization studies, onshore & nearshore surveys (e.g., cable routes), stakeholder engagement and conflict resolution, supply chain analysis and vendor negotiations, project design and layout, cost modeling, finance options analysis, labor agreements, community benefits, or other activities that clarify development costs and timelines. NYSERDA is expressly seeking stakeholder input to help determine the set of activities that would meaningfully de-risk project development and catalyze additional private investment to the benefit of ratepayers. NYSERDA also seeks clarity as to which predevelopment activities should remain solely the responsibility of project developers.

NYSERDA also seeks feedback on how predevelopment support could additionally provide strategic value for future offtake opportunities by enabling projects to clear key regulatory, technical, and environmental milestones sooner. With a well-designed predevelopment effort, projects could be more advanced at the time of offtake and therefore be able to move more quickly from offtake award to construction, potentially reducing uncertainty, increasing viability, improving cost competitiveness, and supporting the State's clean energy and economic development goals. By bringing projects closer to final investment decision (FID) prior to offtake, predevelopment support could help create a lower-risk development environment that benefits both the public and private sectors. Stakeholder perspectives are requested on whether this potential value proposition is realistic, how any support provided would provide reductions in total project costs that would benefit the State, and under what conditions it might be achieved.

This RFI seeks feedback to help New York State consider the value, benefits, and risks of supporting predevelopment activities. The objective of this RFI is to invite external stakeholder feedback on the potential structure and timing of a predevelopment Request for Proposals (RFP) and how that RFP should be designed to achieve the best outcome for New York State.

To the extent that this RFI refers to speculative characteristics of a potential upcoming solicitation, all aspects of any potential solicitation, which is not guaranteed to follow, including any features described or not described herein, may be altered, removed, or otherwise changed at the sole discretion of NYSERDA.

As noted above, the Commission has an open procurement review process underway as part of the Clean Energy Standard and Offshore Wind Standard proceedings to evaluate the procurement processes for large-scale renewable resources, including offshore wind.⁷ This RFI and any potential

⁶ <https://www.nysenda.ny.gov/About/Funding/Regional-Greenhouse-Gas-Initiative/Useful-Documents>

⁷ Case 15-E-0302, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard, Order Adopting Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review as Final and Making Other Findings (issued May 15, 2025), available at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=15-e-0302&CaseSearch=Search>.

predevelopment support provided by NYSERDA does not impact the future outcome of the Commission's review process, including the structure of future solicitations for offshore wind or related transmission facilities to enable offshore wind delivery.

II. Responding to this RFI

Responses must be submitted via email to offshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov, with the subject line "OSWRFI26-1 Response". Electronic submission is required.

If you have technical questions regarding this RFI, please contact offshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov with the subject line "OSWRFI26-1 Inquiry."

Responses to this RFI are due on Tuesday, **March 24, 2026** by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The RFI is also posted on this website for public access: [Current NYSERDA Opportunities](#).

III. Content of Response

Responses should be concise and focus on areas in which the respondent has a particular expertise or could be directly implicated. Please limit your response to ten (10) pages.

The following information and items must be included in every response to this RFI:

- Respondent's name, affiliation, title, and primary contact information.
- Identify and provide general background about your organization, including a summary of any previous experience that could be relevant to this RFI.
- Responses should include an executive summary identifying the key themes addressed in the submission.
- Each page of the response should include a header stating the name of the respondent.
- Each response should include the RFI question number and the page number.
- Respondents should designate information intended to remain confidential as "Confidential" or "Proprietary." Responders are discouraged from marking their entire response as "Confidential" or "Proprietary." Please refer to the Proprietary Information section below for more information.

IV. Information Requested

Respondents are not required to answer all questions and should focus on questions relevant to their field of expertise.

1. General Topics

- i. What are the primary risks (financial, regulatory, technical, market) that currently hinder investment in predevelopment activities?

- ii. To prepare for a potential future shift in federal policy towards offshore wind, what can the State do at the current time to help enable projects to continue development and be prepared to proceed quickly if and when federal policy changes?
- iii. Would such State risk-mitigation activities ultimately reduce costs to ratepayers? Can the ratepayer benefits be quantified? What approaches can provide the best assurance that cost savings (and other benefits as appropriate) will flow through to ratepayers?
- iv. Can State support of predevelopment activities or other near-term action materially impact the likelihood that projects can receive the Federal Investment Tax Credit (taking into account the ten-year construction period safe harbor)? Why or why not?
- v. To what extent would State pre-development support result in risk mitigating activities, or improve the project development timeline over the baseline condition of no State predevelopment support?
- vi. To what extent would such State support for predevelopment activities help reduce offshore wind project costs?
- vii. Are there other forms of predevelopment support not identified in this RFI that the State could pursue that would be useful?
- viii. How might State involvement in predevelopment impact market competition and innovation for future OREC solicitations? What approaches can avoid or reduce any potential negative impact on such solicitations?
- ix. What lessons can be drawn from other jurisdictions with successful predevelopment support or similar models in offshore wind or other industries?
- x. Other than the predevelopment approach, are there other approaches that should be considered to help advance the industry at this time?

2. Predevelopment Support Topics

- i. Would your organization consider participating in an opportunity to potentially access predevelopment funding support?
- ii. How should a procurement process be structured to identify potential recipients of predevelopment support? What considerations and evaluation criteria should be used to prequalify potential recipients?
- iii. What level of predevelopment funding would be meaningful in moving one or more offshore wind projects toward offtake and Final Investment Decision?
 - a. What is the minimum funding amount that would bring value to the approach?

- b. How would the pace of spending be expected to change over the development timeline?
- iv. What is the ideal timing to offer predevelopment funding for project advancement?
 - a. When would funding need to be available and why is this important?
- v. What focus area(s) would predevelopment funding support to best advance the project?
 - a. Staffing costs
 - b. Consultant costs
 - c. Bulk purchase and reservation fees for long-lead items for use by all qualified projects (if so, identify which items)
 - d. Others
- vi. Should all or some of the State's predevelopment support be "project-agnostic" and designed to support all potential future offshore wind projects generally? Or should some or all of the State's predevelopment support be project-specific and designed to primarily benefit certain potential future offshore wind projects?
- vii. Are there other similar industry-supporting predevelopment programs that the State should consider?
- viii. When should predevelopment support be deployed within the overall timeline of project development to make the support most effective and helpful to enable projects to advance?
- ix. Is there a time in the project predevelopment process after which State support would not change the pace of project advancement or ultimate project cost?

3. Predevelopment Procurement and Contracting Topics

- i. Would developers be able to commit to exclusively offering the project for final offtake to New York State after receiving predevelopment support?
- ii. Should predevelopment be advanced independently from OREC offtake to move as quickly as possible, or would it be preferable for predevelopment support and offtake opportunities to be integrated or coordinated in some way?
 - a. Is this coordination worth delaying predevelopment support until late 2026/2027?
- iii. Which of the following should the State prioritize in the competitive selection of developer teams/projects for predevelopment support, and what metrics represent the best measure?
 - a. Maturity in the project development timeline
 - b. Plausible access to federal Investment Tax Credits

- c. Project need (e.g., where the least funding makes the greatest difference or last-mile funding)
 - d. Willingness of developer to contribute a higher level of cost-sharing
 - e. Other
- iv. What structure of predevelopment agreement works best, and why?
 - a. Agreement defining specific eligible expenses in advance
 - b. Agreement defining specific outcomes or milestones to be achieved with the predevelopment support
 - c. Flexible agreement that identifies a funding cap and adapts to needs as the project moves forward
 - d. How should costs be shared between the State and developer, in what proportion? Should this vary by type of support or other factors?
- v. What mechanisms should be in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of State funds for predevelopment?
- vi. What type and level of commitment to New York State, if any, would work best in exchange for predevelopment funding?
 - a. Exclusivity to project area, and if so, for how long?
 - b. Recoupment after some number of opportunities for offtake are offered by the State
 - c. Other

V. General Conditions

Outcome

The information gathered by NYSERDA will be advisory only and is not binding on any state agency, office, commission, or public authority. Any actions recommended by NYSERDA will be subject to all applicable laws, including procedural, regulatory and environmental review requirements.

Terms and Conditions

Proprietary Information - Careful consideration should be given before confidential information is submitted to NYSERDA as part of your proposal. Review should include whether it is critical for evaluating a proposal, and whether general, non-confidential information, may be adequate for review purposes. The NYS Freedom of Information Law, Public Officers law, Article 6, provides for public access to information NYSERDA possesses. Public Officers Law, Section 87(2)(d) provides for exceptions to disclosure for records or portions thereof that "are trade secrets or are submitted to an agency by a commercial enterprise or derived from information obtained from a commercial enterprise and which if disclosed would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the subject enterprise." Information submitted to NYSERDA that the proposer wishes to have treated as proprietary, and confidential trade secret information, should be identified and labeled "Confidential" or "Proprietary" on each page at the time of disclosure. This information should include a written request to except it from disclosure, including a written statement of the reasons why the information should be excepted. See Public Officers Law, Section 89(5) and the procedures set forth in 21 NYCRR Part 501. However, NYSERDA cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted.

Disclaimers

This RFI is neither a contract offer, nor a request for proposals and does not commit NYSERDA or any other New York State entity to issue a future RFP, award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. Respondents are encouraged to respond to this RFI; however, failure to submit a response will not impact a Respondent's ability to respond to any future competitive solicitation process (if any) for projects, or influence the selection of a service provider going forward or affect its rights and obligations under any applicable laws or in any legal proceeding. NYSERDA reserves the right to discontinue or modify the RFI process at any time, and makes no commitments, implied or otherwise, that this process will result in a business transaction or negotiation with one or more Respondents. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at Respondents' expense.