



NYSERDA

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Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework

RFI 4944

No Funding.

Comments Due: February 14, 2022 by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time*

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“Climate Act”), enacted in 2019, commits New York State to 9GW of offshore wind (OSW) energy by 2035, a zero-emission electricity system by 2040 and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050. In support of implementing the Climate Act and the associated Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) supported the development of the NYSEDA’s Power Grid Study, which concluded that 9 GW of offshore wind by 2035 is achievable but will require ongoing and targeted coordination and planning with agencies and other stakeholders to identify feasible solutions to address transmission cable routing limitations.

NYSERDA is developing an Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment (“Assessment”) to better understand the constraints of siting cables in the nearshore (New York State waters), at landfall, and along overland routes to existing points of interconnection (POIs). The Assessment will inform what actions New York State may consider helping ensure maximum benefits of renewable OSW energy while minimizing conflicts and impacts on activities and infrastructure. The Assessment seeks to advance coordination and planning efforts by building on existing work and previous studies. The Assessment will also coordinate the analysis and evaluation of potential corridor segments to support future decision-making and policy development to achieve New York State’s goals and mandates and allow for commercial innovation. Finally, the Assessment will include coordination with New York State agencies and ongoing and earnest engagement with key stakeholders. NYSEDA seeks to gather information on a number of resources with the most relevance in the feasibility of bringing offshore wind energy cables to points of interconnection.

Through this Request for Information (RFI), NYSEDA seeks to provide an opportunity for the public and interested stakeholders to evaluate the proposed approach described in the Draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework (Attachment A) and to identify other issues to consider in the analysis of offshore and onshore cable corridor segments. The responses to the Draft RFI will inform the Final Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment.

Response Submission: Responses to the RFI Information Requested (Section II) should be emailed to OSWCablesAssessment@nyserda.ny.gov with the subject line **RFI 4944** by 3:00 pm on February 14, 2022. Respondents should provide only information that can be made public by NYSEDA. All

responses to the RFI will be considered non-confidential and may be shared with other outside of NYSERDA.

If you have technical questions concerning this RFI, contact Kate McClellan Press at (518) 862-1090 x 3110 or by email environmentandoffshorewind@nysERDA.ny.gov.

I. Background

The Assessment will advance the coordination and planning efforts amongst New York State agencies by building on existing work and previous studies, including NYSERDA's Power Grid Study, Offshore Wind Master Plan, and related studies. Using these existing efforts, the Assessment will quantitatively and qualitatively analyze attributes or characteristics of potential cable routes that may be constraints to successful siting, permitting, installation, and maintenance of a cable. The process and results will characterize the environmental, technical, and stakeholder constraints, as well as opportunities, concerns, impacts, and risks of potential undersea and overland cable corridors and associated landings to potential onshore POIs.

The Assessment will identify resources, including natural and environmental, socioeconomic, and infrastructure, that have the most relevance in determining the feasibility of a cable corridor in each of the four approaches for bringing offshore wind to New York City and Long Island: 1) South Shore Approach defined as the south shore of Long Island seaward to the three nautical mile limit of State Waters, 2) Long Island Sound Approach to Long Island and New York City through the Long Island Sound, 3) New York Harbor Approach defined as the Upper New York Bay into New York City, with extensions into the East and Hudson Rivers and 4) Landfall and Overland. For each approach, the Assessment will document and increase the understanding of general and spatially-specific environmental, technical and stakeholder constraints, as well as opportunities, concerns, impacts, and risks of potential undersea and overland cable corridors and associated landings.

The Draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework provided for review and comment provides an overview of the assessment process, and the issues and concerns being evaluated. It lays out the structure and anticipated content of the Assessment for meeting the goals above and provides an overview of the study area for both offshore and onshore components.

II. Information Requested

NYSERDA seeks input that will support and inform New York State's efforts to meet the goals above. This may include, but is not limited to, input on the following questions:

- What resources (e.g., natural and environmental, socioeconomic, infrastructure) beyond those described in the Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework, are of concern for potential undersea and overland cables?
- What stressors (e.g., sediment disturbance, traffic interruption, cable exposure) relating to the installation and operations of offshore wind cables present the greatest concerns?
- Are there specific key stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations, local government, academic institutions, environmental research organizations, the maritime community, OSW industry) that should be included in this outreach effort?

- Is the Draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework designed to fully capture and describe the constraints and opportunities in a manner that is efficient and complete? Are there suggestions on how to improve the design/layout?
- Provide additional feedback to support the goals and objectives of the development of the Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment.

III. Response Requirements

Responses should address one or more of the questions above or provide other relevant information to the Assessment. Responses should be brief but complete, in a Word document or PDF and sent via email to OSWCablesAssessment@nyserda.ny.gov

To be fully considered, responses should include contact information, including full name and/or organization, as appropriate.

IV. How Comments Will be Used

At the end of the comment period on February 14 2022, NYSERDA will collect, review, and summarize the responses received and prepare a Final Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework. The comments received on the Draft Assessment Framework will be considered as part of the technical and environmental resource evaluations being performed and the preparation of the Draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment anticipated to be released for public review in 2022.

V. General Conditions

Proprietary Information – 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 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 <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/-/media/Files/About/Contact/NYSERDA-Regulations.ashx>. However, NYSERDA cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted.

Contract Award - This solicitation for information will not result in the award of any contract for goods or services with NYSERDA. NYSERDA anticipates collecting RFI responses and analyzing the responses to inform the draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment.

Limitation - This solicitation does not commit NYSERDA to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. NYSERDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses received, to negotiate with all qualified sources, or to cancel in part or in its entirety the solicitation when it is in NYSERDA's best interest.

VI. Attachments

Attachment A: Draft Offshore Wind Cable Corridor Constraints Assessment Framework

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