From: jennifer.mallard@fpisc.gov on behalf of Fast Fortyone
To: Farmer, Isis U; Morin, Michelle
Cc: Manisha Patel; Tabitha Elkington
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Webform submission from: FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:20:45 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well. We have received a FIN through the electronic submission tool. I believe the submission went directly to the DOI POCs, but wanted to ensure you were also tracking.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jennifer

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Permitting Dashboard** <cms_notifications@dot.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 14, 2022 at 1:57 PM
Subject: Webform submission from: FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE
To: <FAST41initiation@ios.doi.gov>, <fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov>

Greetings,

Pursuant to Title 41 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act 42 U.S.C. § 4370m (2016) ("FAST-41"), you have received an Initiating Notice for consideration to determine eligibility for coverage under FAST-41. You will have 14 days from the date of this submission to render a determination.

Review the submission details below. This submission is also stored on the Permitting Dashboard and can be found in the "FIN Submissions" view page upon logging in.

Permitting Dashboard user log in link: https://cms.permits.performance.gov/user

Project Information

Project Title:

Maryland Offshore Wind Project

Sector:Renewable Energy Production Type :Wind: Federal Offshore

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Project Location Address:

- **Street address 1:** 401 East Pratt Street
  City: Baltimore
  State: Maryland
  Zip: 21202
  County: Baltimore City

Coordinates:

- **Latitude:** 38.369125
  Longitude: -74.793289

Project Sponsor Contact Information:

- **Company Name/Agency:** US Wind, Inc.
  Project Sponsor: US Wind, Inc.
  Street Address: 401 East Pratt Street
  City: Baltimore
  State: Maryland
  Zip: 21202
  POC Name: Laurie Jodziewicz
  POC Title: Senior Director of Environmental Affairs
  POC Work Phone: 410-340-9428
  POC Email Address: l.jodziewicz@uswindinc.com

Alternative Point Of Contact (Optional):

- **Company Name/Agency:** US Wind, Inc.
  Street Address: 401 East Pratt Street
  City: Baltimore
  State: Maryland
  Zip: 21202
  POC Name: Jeffrey Grybowski
  POC Title: Chief Executive Officer
  POC Work Phone: 443-756-4139
  POC Email Address: j.grybowski@uswindinc.com

Project Purpose:

US Wind, Inc. (US Wind) is proposing the development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project (the Project), an offshore wind energy project of up to approximately 2 gigawatts of nameplate capacity within OCS-A 0490 (the Lease), a Lease area of approximately 80,000 acres located approximately 18.5 km (11.5 miles) off the coast of Maryland on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The purpose of the Project is to develop offshore wind energy under the Lease and to transmit this energy to the Delmarva Peninsula in fulfilment of state and federal clean energy standards and targets. The Project includes MarWin, a wind farm of approximately 300 MW for which US Wind was awarded ORECs in 2017 by the state of Maryland; Momentum Wind, consisting of approximately 808 MW for which the State of Maryland awarded additional ORECs in 2021; and build out of the remainder of the Lease area to fulfill ongoing, government-sanctioned demands for offshore wind energy. Once developed, the Project would play a critical role in advancing the offshore wind targets set forth by the federal government and the state of Maryland, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase grid reliability, and support economic development growth in the region, including thousands of union jobs. The Project may also provide renewable energy to other states and private enterprises in the region.

As a follow up to Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” which set forth a renewed commitment to U.S. offshore wind development, the Biden Administration in March 2021 announced a new federal effort to facilitate the deployment of 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2030.14 There are currently 23 active commercial leases in various stages of development, including US Wind’s Lease area within the Mid-Atlantic region. BOEM’s award of leases and timely review and authorization of project proposals comports with Congress’ intent expressed in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OSCLA) to make the Outer Continental Shelf available for the “expeditious and orderly development,” including for renewable projects. 43 U.S.C. §§ 1332 & 1337(p).

The Project is essential to achieving Maryland’s renewable energy goals. As a result of two successful bids to secure ORECs from the PSC, US Wind currently has more than a gigawatt of offshore wind energy under contract with the state. While this advances the state’s renewable energy goals of 50% by 2030, the full buildout of US Wind’s Lease area would go further in achieving those targets and boost President Biden’s offshore wind goals.

Offshore wind is Maryland’s largest clean energy resource; as such, the state is unlikely to meet its goals without the full

capacity of offshore wind energy US Wind intends to develop in the Lease area. Thus, the sizeable contribution available from development of US Wind's Lease on approximately 80,000 acres would power more than 500,000 homes in the region with clean, renewable energy, support thousands of union jobs, and may also provide renewable energy to other states and private enterprises in the Mid-Atlantic.

Regarding U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) authorizations, the Project's purpose, as determined by USACE for section 404(b)(1) guidelines evaluation, is offshore wind energy generation. The overall Project's purpose for section 404(b)(1) guidelines evaluation, as determined by USACE, is the construction and operation of commercial-scale, offshore wind energy. The purpose of the USACE section 408 action, as determined by EC 1165-2-220, is to evaluate the applicant's request and determine whether the proposed alterations are injurious to the public interest or impair the usefulness of the USACE project. The USACE section 408 permission is needed to ensure that congressionally authorized projects continue to provide their intended benefits to the public.

Project Description:

US Wind is proposing the development and eventual decommissioning of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project (the Project), an offshore wind energy project (including an Operations and Maintenance Facility) of up to approximately 2 gigawatts of nameplate capacity within OCS-A 0490 (the Lease). The Lease area covers 79,707 acres with the western edge located approximately 18.5 km (11.5 miles) off the coast of Maryland on the Outer Continental Shelf.
Under a Project Design Envelope (PDE) approach, the Project could include as many as 121 wind turbine generators (WTG), up to four offshore substations (OSS), and one meteorological tower (Met Tower) in the Lease area, with a total of 126 structure in a gridded array pattern distributed across the Lease area. The gridded array comprises 13 east-west rows with 0.87 mile spacing between structures, and 18 columns oriented approximately north-northeast to south-southwest with 1.17 mile spacing. Inter-array cables would run in a radial fashion from the WTGs toward the OSS locations. The Met Tower is proposed in a location along the southern edge of the Lease area.

Up to 4 offshore export cables are included in the PDE. The export cables consist of an offshore portion, the Offshore Export Cables, from the Lease area to the landing location, through a transition vault to the onshore portion, and the Onshore Export Cables that connect to the Point of Interconnection (POI). The preferred route of the offshore export cable, known as Offshore Export Cable Corridor 1, would exit the Lease area from the northwestern portion of the Lease area, and traverse northeasterly to shore making landfall south of the Indian River Inlet at 3R's Beach in the Delaware Seashore State Park. From there the onshore export submarine cables would extend through Indian River Bay via Onshore Export Cable Corridor 1 and connect to the POI at the Delmarva Power and Light Indian River Substation near Millsboro, Delaware. Additional options within the PDE include the offshore export cables making landfall at the Tower Road parking lot, north of Indian River inlet, and crossing over land to the Indian River Substation or alternate POIs. The PDE also includes land-based cable corridors, if a terrestrial route is pursued, which would be co-located in existing rights-of-way.

The Operations and Maintenance Facility (O&M Facility) is proposed to be in Ocean City, Maryland, and would include a 15,000 square foot combined office and warehouse building with associated parking, outdoor storage, and crew comfort and support areas to stage operations and maintenance personnel. The O&M Facility would include crew transfer vessel (CTV) quayside and berthing areas, and would also house a Marine Coordination Center, which would serve to monitor the status of the WTGs and OSSs via SCADA systems, plan maintenance operations and dispatch CTVs, monitor marine activity in the Project area, coordinate drills and exercises, and communicate with outside agencies.

Details of the proposed PDE can be found in the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) upon request from US Wind. Volume I of the COP describes the proposed Project and PDE. The decommissioning plan, including all aspects of the Project, is also discussed in detail in Volume I of the COP. The decommissioning plan is prepared to satisfy 30 CFR 585 Subpart I, decommissioning of renewable energy facilities and the Lease. Volume II of the COP describes the potential project impacts to environmental, cultural, and historic resources in the Project area in extensive detail with supporting studies, along with the identified mitigation measures.

The COP is currently in the completeness and sufficiency review process with BOEM. The COP was first submitted to BOEM for review in August 2020. As required by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the COP was developed in accordance with the Guidelines for Information Requirements for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan 4.0 (May 2020). BOEM provided comments regarding the completeness and sufficiency of the COP in February 2021. US Wind responded in November 2021, and BOEM provided additional comments on January 31 and February 22, 2022. US Wind responded and updated the COP, which was resubmitted to BOEM on February 28, 2022. With the most recent COP update, US Wind included responses to all of BOEM's comments and added information requested by BOEM during the most recent review.

Summary of Financing, Reviews and Authorizations:

The Maryland Offshore Wind Project would not receive any federal financing.

Environmental reviews include evaluation and approval or disapproval of US Wind's Construction and Operations Plan by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). As the lead agency BOEM would draft the NEPA documentation. The project would be subject to all environmental, cultural, and cumulative studies, Acts, and Laws under NEPA. Review and consultation, as well as authorizations or permits, would be needed from the US Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency (delegated to the Maryland Department of the Environment), the Federal Aviation Administration, and US Coast Guard. Additional agencies such as the Department of Defense are also expected to review aspects of the Project.

Project Assessment:

The Project involves construction of a renewable energy generation facility and the associated electricity transmission infrastructure to connect the generation to the regional electric grid. The Project conforms with the definition of a covered project as defined in the FAST Act. Per 42 U.S.C. §4370m(6)(A)(i), the Project is subject to NEPA, will require an investment exceeding $200 million, and the Project does not qualify for an abbreviated authorization or environmental review process. Additionally, per 42 U.S.C. §4370m(6)(A)(iv), the size and complexity of the Project as proposed requires environmental review by more than two Federal agencies and the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Form Submitter Contact Information:

- **Name:** Laurie Jodziewicz
  Title: Senior Director of Environmental Affairs
  Work Phone: 410-340-9428
  Email: l.jodziewicz@uswindinc.com