

April 17, 2024

Mr. Fred Hancock, Chairman Martha's Vineyard Commission 33 New York Avenue Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Subject: Offering for the Development of Regional Impact Application New England Wind 2 Connector – Edgartown, MA

Dear Mr. Hancock:

On behalf of Commonwealth Wind LLC (the Proponent), I am pleased to make the following formal commitment associated with the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) application submitted for the New England Wind 2 Connector on December 13, 2023.

The New England Wind 2 Connector project is extremely similar to the New England Wind 1 Connector Project, in that the Proponent is proposing to use the same methodologies for cable installation as well as the same installation corridor that was previously reviewed by the Commission during the Vineyard Wind Connector (DRI 668) and New England Wind 1 Connector (DRI 732) reviews. Specifically, the Company would commit to abiding by the same set of conditions issued in the Commission's DRI Decision for New England Wind 1 Connector (DRI 732), as modified to be applicable to the New England Wind 2 Connector (DRI 758):

- 1. All reports pertaining to conditions within the OECC or marine surveys/monitoring required by MassDEP or other state permitting authority shall be submitted to the Commission.
- 2. Should the Applicant decide to remove the cable from the ocean floor, the Proponent must submit an application to and receive approval by the Commission. The application must include information on impacts expected during that removal.
- 3. The Proponent shall provide the Commission with the following final approvals for the Project that apply to the Waters of Martha's Vineyard: the Record of Decision issued by BOEM, Letter of Authorization issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Chapter 91 License and Water Quality Certification issued by the MassDEP, and Order of Conditions issued by the Edgartown Conservation Commission.
- 4. The Proponent will undertake a Benthic Habitat Monitoring Program ("Program") to document potential disturbance to and subsequent recovery of marine habitat and benthic communities following construction within the cable corridor. The final Program, which the applicant anticipates will be memorialized in the 401 Water Quality Certification that will be issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection following review of the plan by the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, shall be provided to the Commission.

Additional conditions:

- 5. All documents referred to or required as part of the state, federal, or other review processes for the proposed cables within Edgartown waters, including all reports and permits, shall be submitted to the Commission. This would include but is not limited to the following topics:
 - Changes to the seafloor morphology or structure
 - Changes in the abundance or diversity of aquatic species and/or habitat
 - Benthic habitat monitoring and any required mitigation
- 6. Representatives of New England Wind shall make themselves available to Commission staff to discuss any of the above documents after they are issued.
- 7. The Commission reserves the right to require the Applicant to seek a modification if the expected or observed environmental impacts are greater than those represented in the application, or those assumed by any permitting authority.
- 8. New England Wind shall take the same actions as agreed to by Vineyard Wind in regard to the January 22, 2019 NGO agreement among Vineyard Wind, the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Conservation Law Foundation regarding the protections of the North Atlantic Right Whale, as it may be amended and as it pertains to the waters within Edgartown.
- 9. The applicant shall provide a map showing the as-built location of the proposed cables, prior to the start of the New England Wind 2 operations.
- 10. An updated Fisheries Communication Plan, to account for the New England Wind project, shall be submitted to the Commission prior to the start of the New England Wind 2 operations.
- 11. A plan for decommissioning the cables, including expected environmental impacts, shall be submitted to the MVC for review and approval prior to decommissioning.

Sincerely,

Erin Harizi, Permitting Manager Commonwealth Wind LLC