Hi Hans,

I apologize for the short notice, but the Martha’s Vineyard Commission Land Use Planning Committee will be reviewing the New England Wind Connector 1 project next Tuesday (6/14) and I was hoping someone on your team could address the following questions before then:

1. The Notice of Intent states that some of the energy from Park City Wind will go to southeastern Massachusetts, although the Park City Wind website states the project will serve Connecticut. Please clarify how much of the proposed 800 MW will go to southeastern Massachusetts. Transmission from Park City Wind, known in state waters and onshore as the New England Wind 1 Connector, will interconnect to the ISO-NE grid at the existing 345-kV West Barnstable Substation in Barnstable, Massachusetts. The Park City Wind Project will deliver approximately 800 MW of clean, zero-carbon energy into the Southeast Massachusetts (SEMA) Zone of the New England system. While the power generated by the Park City Wind project is being purchased by electric distribution companies in Connecticut, ISO-NE operates as a coordinated grid across all six New England states. The Project will connect to the bulk power system on Cape Cod, and thus will increase the supply of power to Barnstable County and other parts of southeastern Massachusetts, an area which has experienced significant recent (and planned) generation unit retirements.

2. The Notice of Intent states that hard bottom habitat covers the full width of the portion of the cable corridor in Muskeget Channel, but that doesn’t appear in the maps in attachment B. Are the maps correct? The maps are correct, yes. SSU areas including hard bottom are shown on Figure 3 as well as the map set in Attachment C. And perhaps our language in the sentence you refer to could have been a bit more nuanced – there is an area in the southernmost reaches of Edgartown waters where hard bottom covers essentially the full width of the installation corridor. It covers the full width of the original corridor and some additional hard bottom is also present in the expansion areas – and since space along the margins of the OECC must be left available for anchoring, it is not possible for the cable alignments to skirt along the margin of the corridor to avoid the hard bottom habitat.

3. Please clarify whether a benthic habitat monitoring plan will be developed as part of the connector 1 project. Yes, as described in Section 4.2.1 of the NOI, a framework for a Benthic Habitat Monitoring Plan was presented in the FEIR and the Proponent will continue to work cooperatively with state and federal agencies during permitting to develop a final plan intended to document habitat and benthic community disturbance and recovery following construction. The Proponent anticipates this plan will be memorialized in the Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) to be issued by MassDEP.

4. Please clarify whether the community benefit agreement mentioned in your email from May 11 (below) is a separate agreement than the agreement between Vineyard Wind and Vineyard Power. New England Wind, through its own, separate Community Benefit Agreement with Vineyard Power Cooperative, has committed $7,500,000, to be distributed over seven years, to fund Martha’s Vineyard’s community goals of achieving 100% of its electricity from renewable sources and 100% elimination of fossil fuels. The funding commitment is conditional upon successful permitting and financing of the Park City Wind project, including New England Wind 1 Connector.

Thanks,
From: VANLINGEN, HANS <hans.vanlingen@avangrid.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Alex Elvin; Richard Andre [Island Wind]
Cc: Holly Carlson Johnston; Adam Kahn (akahn@foleyhoag.com)
Subject: RE: New England Wind connector - MVC staff meeting follow-up

Alex,

As requested, we have compiled responses to the list you provided for clarification in the application. Please let us know if you would like us to provide any additional information in advance of the New England Wind 1 Connector Land Use Planning Meeting that you tentatively scheduled for June 6th.

1. Statement as to how the project will benefit Martha’s Vineyard: New England Wind, through its Community Benefit Agreement with Vineyard Power Cooperative, has committed $7,500,000, to be distributed over seven years, to fund Martha’s Vineyard’s community goal of achieving 100% of its electricity from renewable sources and 100% elimination of fossil fuels. The funding commitment is conditional upon successful permitting and financing of the Park City Wind project, including New England Wind 1 Connector.

2. Copies of the MBUAR and MHC permits, and any other permits already issued (referenced in table 1-1 of the NOI): A copy of the MBUAR approval, dated 22 December, 2021, is attached.

3. Copy of the NHESP no-impact determination: The MESA Determination issued by NHESP on April 1 is attached.

4. Copy of any decisions/determinations issued by the Nantucket Conservation Commission: We expect the Nantucket Conservation Commission will issue an Order of Conditions following its Public Hearing on May 12. We can provide the MVC with a copy of the Order of Conditions once it is issued.

5. What is the width of the pre-lay grapple run? The pre-lay grapple run will consist of a single pass over each of the proposed cable alignments to clear seabed surface debris. As a result, the “width” of the pre-lay grapple run is not expected to exceed the width of the direct trenching disturbance.

6. Provide more information about how the pre-lay grapple run is carried out: In accordance with normal industry practice, a pre-lay grapple run will be made to locate and clear obstructions such as abandoned fishing gear and other marine debris in advance of cable installation. Operations for the pre-lay grapple run will consist of a vessel towing equipment that will hook and recover obstructions such as fishing gear, ropes, and other debris from the seafloor. The Proponent estimates this activity will begin any time up to two months prior to cable installation. Any abandoned fishing gear recovered will be disposed of or returned to its owner in accordance with requirements of the Massachusetts DMF and other relevant Massachusetts regulations.

7. We may have covered this, but any further detail about where the proposed cable protection would occur within Edgartown waters: While the Proponent will seek to avoid and minimize the use of cable protection, it is most likely to be necessary in areas where hard bottom has been identified, as shown on Figure 3 of the NOI submitted to the Edgartown Conservation Commission.

Regards,

Hans P. van Lingen
Park City Wind and Commonwealth Wind Development
Telephone 401-714-2584

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From: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 8:31 PM
To: VANLINGEN, HANS <hans.vanlingen@avangrid.com>; Richard Andre [Island Wind] <richard@vineyardpower.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: New England Wind connector - MVC staff meeting follow-up

Hi Hans and Richard,

To follow up on our meeting last week, here is a list of items that would like to be included or clarified in the application for the New England Wind connector project:

- Statement as to how the project will benefit Martha’s Vineyard
- Copies of the MBUAR and MHC permits, and any other permits already issued (referenced in table 1-1 of the NOI)
- Copy of the NHESP no-impact determination
- Copy of any decisions/determinations issued by the Nantucket conservation commission
- What is the width of the pre-lay grapple run?
- Provide more information about how the pre-lay grapple run is carried out.
We may have covered this, but any further detail about where the proposed cable protection would occur within Edgartown waters.

Also, I spoke with the MVC director and chair about checklist 9.2b, and it’s likely it does not apply here, based on precedent, but the Land Use Planning Committee may need to determine that for itself, since the project was referred under 9.2b and the checklist is not clear about how that applies to structures that are ancillary to a main facility.

Thanks,

Alex

Alex Elvin
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