



June 13, 2019

SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 7156 – SECTION 1 – PROCUREMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND FACILITIES

NOTICE OF COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS MEETING
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to Section 1 of Substitute for House Bill No. 7156, *An Act Concerning the Procurement of Energy Derived From Offshore Wind* (the Act), the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), is convening a Commission of Environmental Standards (the Commission) for each offshore wind solicitation pursuant to the Act to review the best available research and data on environmental and commercial fisheries mitigation during offshore wind construction and operation and to make recommendations on what a sufficient environmental mitigation plan should include. The Commission will be comprised of scientists, organizations, and members of regional working groups and will be tasked with facilitating public input and participation; synthesizing best practices and up to date information; and proposing recommendations for RFP terms and requirements.

The first organizational meeting of the Commission will be held on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 11:00AM EPT at DEEP's office at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT, 3rd Floor Russell Room. The meeting is open to the public.

In responding to any solicitations pursuant to the Act, a bidder shall include an environmental and fisheries mitigation plan for the construction and operation of offshore wind facilities, provided such plan include, but not be limited to, an explicit description of the best management practices the bidder will employ that are informed by the latest science at the time the proposal is made that will avoid, minimize or mitigate any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing.

Pursuant to the Act, it is the job of the Commission to provide input on such best practices for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing. In making any selection of offshore wind proposals, the commissioner shall consider whether the proposal uses practices to avoid, minimize or mitigate such impacts.

DEEP intends to adhere to the following schedule for the Commission:

- June 14th – Organizational meeting (introductions, identification of impact areas, division of subgroups by impact area, ask members to provide information for consideration).
- June 21st – Information for consideration due to DEEP staff.
- July 10th – Subgroups report on recommendations.
- July 17th – Draft report released for public comment.
- July 24th – Public comment period closed.
- July 31st – Report finalized.

By way of this Notice, DEEP will be accepting public input on the following questions until **June 21, 2019 by 4:00PM EPT**. Written comments may be filed electronically on [DEEP's website](#) or submitted to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov. All materials submitted by stakeholders in this proceeding will be posted on the DEEP website. Any questions can be directed via e-mail at DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

1. What are the key elements of a fisheries and environmental mitigation plan?
2. What documentation should bidders provide to DEEP to meet each of the elements identified in response to Question 1?
3. What components of an offshore wind development should be covered in a fisheries and environmental mitigation plan (i.e. construction, interconnection, maintenance, operation, decommissioning, etc.)?
4. What key elements identified in response to Question 1 apply to each of the components identified in response to Question 3?
5. What other issues should be considered in developing a fisheries and environmental mitigation plan?
6. Are there any materials (studies, reports, or other resources) the Commission should review during the deliberations? *Materials can be sent directly to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

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