United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-001

Mr. Christer af Geijerstam
President
Equinor Wind US LLC
120 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Dear Mr. Geijerstam:

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Office of Renewable Energy Programs regarding Equinor Wind US LLC's (Equinor Wind) regulatory departure request submitted January 24, 2020, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.103. Through this letter, BOEM approves Equinor Wind's departure request from § 585.700(b), and prescribes a departure from § 585.702(c) and 708, which require that all aspects of fabrication and installation occur under the supervision of a BOEM-approved Certified Verification Agent (CVA).

In its letter, Equinor Wind requested a departure from 30 C.F.R. § 585.700(b) to fabricate certain project components prior to BOEM's approval of Equinor Wind's Construction and Operations Plan (COP), nominated CVA and BOEM's non-objection to the Facility Design Report (FDR) and Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR). Specifically, Equinor Wind seeks a departure for fabrication of (i) inter-array cables, (ii) secondary steel and internal and external work platforms for transition pieces for wind turbine generator (WTG) foundations, and (iii) davit cranes for WTG foundations. The purpose of Equinor Wind's departure request is to avail itself of the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC).

BOEM finds that the requested departure would facilitate appropriate lease activities in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(a)(1), specifically by allowing design and fabrication of the enumerated components under the supervision of the proposed (but not yet approved) CVA. BOEM also prescribes a departure from 30 CFR 702(c) and 708, which require that all aspects of fabrication and installation occur under the supervision of a BOEM-approved CVA. This departure is a necessary corollary to Equinor Wind's request because such fabrication is proposed to occur under the supervision of a CVA that has not yet been approved by BOEM. In support of these findings, BOEM notes that:

1. The requested departure involves fabrication of discrete project elements that are designed to existing industry standards, fabricated by specialized suppliers or represent standard steel fabrication practice, and do not affect overall structural survivability or safety.

2. The services of the CVA (DNV-GL) include review of the design, witness and reporting on fabrication activities for conformance with (i) accepted industry standards, (ii) the COP, and (iii) the project design basis for these items.

3. Approval of this departure does not authorize any activities on the Outer Continental Shelf, nor will it impact BOEM's review of Equinor Wind's CVA nomination with respect to activities not subject to the departure, or its review of the COP, FDR, or FIR.

4. Equinor Wind assumes all business risks associated with any fabrication activities that occur as a result of this departure and acknowledges that this could result in the redesign and/or re-fabrication of any of the components relevant to this departure.

Allowing these fabrication activities to take place earlier in time is necessary to allow Equinor Wind to avail itself of the ITC, which would positively impact the economics associated with the feasibility of developing the project. In addition, and for the reasons stated in Equinor Wind's departure request, BOEM finds that the requested departure complies with the criteria outlined in 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(b). The departure is consistent with subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, protects the environment and the public health and safety to the same degree as if there were no approved departure, and does not impair the rights of third parties.

Please contact Mr. Luke Feinberg at luke.feinberg@boem.gov or (703) 787-1705 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JAMES BENNETT

Digitally signed by JAMES BENNETT
Date: 2020.05.07 14:42:58 -04'00'

James F. Bennett
Program Manager
Office of Renewable Energy Programs