



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Ms. Julia Lewis
Director of Permitting – Beacon Wind
Beacon Wind, LLC
600 Washington Blvd, Ste 800
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Ms. Lewis:

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Office of Renewable Energy Programs, regarding Beacon Wind, LLC's (Beacon) October 31, 2022, regulatory departure request filed pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.103. This departure request was also submitted concurrently with a Marine Site Investigation Report (MSIR), which included geotechnical results for 23 locations within the lease area. Following initial review of the MSIR and foundation feasibility appendices, BOEM requested additional information due to the presence of glauconitic soils. On March 9, 2023, Beacon provided updated information including:

- Data synthesis and a ground model for the Lease Area, inclusive of geophysical, preliminary geotechnical, and benthic data (operational and sample locations).
- A Geological Risk Register for the Lease Area as outlined by the DNV-GL guidance document; and
- Preliminary feasibility studies for all three foundation types included within the Project's design envelope (monopiles, jackets with pin piles, and jackets with suction buckets).

Beacon requests a regulatory departure from BOEM's regulations at 30 C.F.R. § 585.626(a)(4)(ii), which require the submittal of in situ testing, boring, and sampling at each foundation location, to examine all important sediment and rock strata to determine its strength classification, deformation properties, and dynamic characteristics as part of its COP. Instead, Beacon proposes to submit the required geotechnical information at each foundation location with the Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report (FDR/FIR), in accordance with 30 C.F.R. §§ 285.701(a)(6)(iii) and 285.702.

BOEM's review of the departure request and information provided indicates that Beacon presented an acceptable preliminary ground model, risk assessment of geologic hazards, a pile drivability analysis for monopile foundations, and a feasibility assessment of suction bucket jacket foundations. BOEM has reviewed Beacon's request to submit the geotechnical information required by 30 CFR § 585.626(a)(4)(ii) with the FDR/FIR and has decided to grant the departure from the regulation; however, the outstanding geotechnical information must be

submitted 60 days prior to submission of the FDR/FIR, and not with submission of the FDR/FIR.

BOEM finds that the requested departure would facilitate appropriate lease activities, in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 585.103(a)(1), because it would provide Beacon with flexibility in Project siting as additional geotechnical testing and analyses are conducted and incorporated into appropriate reports without delaying BOEM's review of the COP. BOEM finds the reports, the data interpretation, and the analyses currently available to be of adequate quality to inform its analysis of the COP at this stage.

Finally, approval of the departure would not increase the likelihood of adverse impacts to the environment, sites of historical or archeological significance, or affect public health or safety, as sufficient geotechnical and geophysical information will be available to BOEM for inclusion in its environmental and technical review of the COP. Also, approval of the departure relates to information submittal requirements only applicable to the lessee and, thus, will not impair the rights of third parties or uses on the Outer Continental Shelf. The requested departure is also consistent with subsection 8(p)(4) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. §1337(p)(4), as all protections of safety, environment, and natural resources are maintained to the same degree as if there was no departure from the regulations.

Therefore, BOEM approves Beacon's request to depart from the requirements in 30 C.F.R. § 585.626(a)(4)(ii) for the Project on lease OCS-A 0520 necessitating submittal of the outstanding geotechnical information 60 days prior to submission of the FDR/FIR. If there are any questions, please contact Josh Gange at joshua.gange@boem.gov or (703) 787-1121.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Baker
Chief
Office of Renewable Energy Programs