



Town of Portsmouth

Public Works Department

143 Hedly Street / Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871-0155

Brian Woodhead
Director of Public Works

Office (401) 683-0362
Fax (401) 682-1390

February 3, 2025

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD

IN RE: SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY LLC :
 APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT THE :
 FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH :
 SOUTHCOAST WIND PROJECT :
 IN PORTSMOUTH : SB-2022-02

ADVISORY OPINION OF PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC WORKS TO ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD

The Portsmouth Department of Public Works is directed to render an advisory opinion as to (i) whether any Town permits are required for street openings and (ii) the potential impacts upon traffic and road conditions associated with the construction and operation of the Facilities on Town roads.

1. Advisory Opinions

1) Whether any Town Permits are Required for Street Openings

The Portsmouth Public Works Department has confirmed that permits are required for street openings along Anthony Road (from station 3+50 to station 27+50, approximately 2,400 feet), as this area falls under the jurisdiction of the Town of Portsmouth in accordance with Town Ordinance 339. Additionally, full restoration of this section of the roadway will be necessary.

2) The Potential Impacts Upon Traffic and Road Conditions associated with the Construction and Operation of the Facilities on Town Roads

The Portsmouth Public Works Department has requested a more detailed Traffic Management Plan than the version submitted with the SouthCoast Wind application. In response, SouthCoast Wind provided a 30% Traffic Management Plan on December 18, 2024, developed by Power Engineers/WSP. After reviewing this plan, it is anticipated that the construction and operation of the facilities, including the installation of duct banks and splicing vaults along Town and State roads, will have impact on traffic and road conditions.

The updated Traffic Management Plan from Power Engineers/WSP addresses these potential impacts. For the majority of the work on Anthony Road, a single lane will be closed, and traffic will alternate via flaggers or police details. In some instances, a full road closure will be necessary. When a full closure occurs, a detour will be implemented, and the public will be given advance notice. These measures are addressed in the Traffic Management Plan from Power Engineers/WSP and 2.7.6 Traffic and Transportation, 4.5.3 Onshore Vehicular Traffic and 7.9.2 Onshore Traffic in SouthCoast Wind application.

As the Traffic Management Plans (TMP) are further refined, additional details should be included, such as the distance between traffic signs. Intersection locations where multiple signs are proposed may require detail bubbles to ensure proper placement. Furthermore, the plan should specify that lane widths should be a minimum of 11 feet. Initial measurements of the provided plans suggest that some areas have lane widths narrower than nine feet. A traffic count should be conducted along the proposed detour routes on Boyds Lane and Anthony Road to assess the volume of traffic being redirected, ensuring that a two-way, one-lane operation will be feasible on both roads.

As the project progresses and a construction schedule is established, Portsmouth Public Works will collaborate with SouthCoast Wind, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and other relevant stakeholders to minimize the impact on local traffic patterns and reduce disruptions as much as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Woodhead
Director of Public Works