



RI-NE4OSW Partners:

Acadia Center
Clean Water Action
Green Energy Consumers
Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
League of Conservation Voters
National Wildlife Federation
New England Aquarium
Second Nature

RI-NE4OSW Endorsers:

Amalgamated Bank
Environmental Council of
Rhode Island
Flashover LLC
Greenwater Marine Sciences
Offshore
Muggventures

Allies:

Audubon Society of Rhode
Island
National Audubon Society
ProsperityforRhodelsland.com

September 24, 2021

Emma Rodvien
Coordinator, Energy Facilities Siting Board
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Submitted electronically to the SB-2021-01 service list

RE: Stakeholder Comment Regarding Revolution Wind, LLC's Application to Construct and Alter Major Energy Facilities in North Kingstown, RI ([Docket No. SB-2021-01](#))

Dear Chairperson Gerwatowski, Director Gray, and Associate Director Brady,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Committee of New England for Offshore Wind, and our thousands of members and supporters across the Ocean State, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Revolution Wind LLC's application to construct a substation and submarine and buried transmission lines to connect their proposed offshore wind power project to the regional electric grid.

As environmental advocacy organizations, we submit these comments with deep concern for the ways our reliance on fossil fuels has driven local air and water pollution and the climate crisis. That reliance disproportionately impacts the health, environment, and economic ability of frontline communities--Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color, and low-wealth communities. We must advance utility-scale clean energy solutions as swiftly as responsible development allows. Rhode Island is fortunate to have reliable and affordable offshore wind power available in great abundance. The responsible development of offshore wind will be key to meeting our Act On Climate goals as well as economic recovery from the pandemic.

Rhode Island led the nation in developing the first offshore wind farm in state waters in 2016. Now, as we advance our state's first utility-scale offshore wind project in federal waters, we recognize that with such development will come the construction of on-shore infrastructure. Submarine and buried cables, when sited and installed with the highest standards of protection for communities and wildlife in place every step of the way (as we believe they can and must be), are essential to harnessing the massive clean energy potential off our shores. As environmental organizations, we accept limited, carefully managed, and diligently mitigated impacts to our land and ocean natural environments with the understanding that these impacts are necessary to stave off the much greater threats of the climate crisis.

On the cable route proposed for Revolution Wind, we urge the Board to prioritize siting that will limit impacts to freshwater wetlands and vernal

pools, and encourage the developer to define plans to minimize and compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided.

NWF and our partners are closely tracking the details of the Revolution Wind project in its entirety and efforts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the potential impacts of offshore wind energy development to marine and coastal wildlife and habitat as well as communities. As this process advances, we look forward to reviewing a full environmental analysis of Revolution Wind LLC's proposed project.

We thank you for considering our comments and look forward to working together to ensure responsibly developed offshore wind power plays a major role in the state's energy future.

Sincerely,

Nicole DiPaolo
National Wildlife Federation
Co-Chair Rhode Island State Committee
New England for Offshore Wind

Kai Salem
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Co-Chair Rhode Island State Committee
New England for Offshore Wind

