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For Immediate Release

Maryland PSC Opens Offshore Wind Docket to Review Project Applications

(BALTIMORE, MD-November 22, 2016) – With the application period for a proposed offshore wind project closed as of November 18, 2016, the Maryland Public Service Commission, in Order No. [87898](#), has opened a docket to begin the formal, multi-part review of the applications for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits (OREC) for projects to be built between 10 and 30 miles off the coast of Maryland. The proceeding, docketed as Case No. [9431](#), will provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposed applications and will also include both evidentiary and public comment hearings to be held in the spring of 2017.

The Commission's consultant in the matter, Levitan and Associates, Inc., has determined that two offshore wind project applications are administratively complete and have met the minimum threshold criteria set out in COMAR [20.61.06.02](#) and [.03](#). These criteria include technical, financial, economic (including impacts to ratepayers) and environmental standards, among others.

The applicants, **US Wind, Inc.** (a subsidiary of Toto Holding SpA) and **Skipjack Offshore Wind, LLC** (a subsidiary of Deepwater Wind Holdings, LLC) have been directed to file public and confidential versions of their applications with the Commission no later than Wednesday, November 30, 2016. **Parties who wish to file petitions to intervene in the case should do so by Monday, December 12 in advance of the prehearing conference scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at 1 pm or ½ hour after the end of the Commission's Administrative Meeting, whichever is later.** The prehearing conference serves to set the procedural schedule and consider any petitions to intervene that have been filed.

The Commission must approve, conditionally approve or deny the proposed offshore wind project applications no later than May 17, 2017.

The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 established a number of provisions to incentivize the development of a qualified offshore wind project, which is required to be located on the outer continental shelf, between 10 and 30 miles off the coast, in an area designated for leasing by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in consultation with the State. The Act also created a carve-out for offshore wind energy in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for up to 2.5% of total retail electricity sales. The Act would require electricity suppliers to purchase

ORECs to create a demand for the offshore wind resource, and pass along the cost of the ORECs to Maryland electric customers, not to exceed \$1.50 per month on an average residential customer's electric bill. Also satisfying several ratepayer impact protection measures, the offshore wind project must demonstrate positive net economic, environmental and health benefits to the State as a condition of approval.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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