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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 24, 2016

### NOTICE OF MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT APPLICATION PERIOD

**To: Any Interested Party**

The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 directed the Public Service Commission of Maryland (“Commission”) to contract for the services of independent consultants and experts to assist in the evaluation and comparison of a potential applicant’s proposed offshore wind (“OSW”) project.<sup>1</sup> In compliance with this directive, the Commission retained a team led by Levitan & Associates, Inc. (“LAI”). On January 28, 2016, an application for a proposed OSW project was submitted to the Commission’s consultant, LAI, through a dedicated website with secure portals. Pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 20.61.06.01(B)(1), LAI on behalf of the Commission initiated a review of the submitted application for purposes of determining whether that application is administratively complete.<sup>2</sup>

On February 24, 2016, LAI notified the OSW applicant and the Commission that the submitted application is deemed administratively complete. In accordance with COMAR 20.61.06.01(B)(3), upon the first determination that an application is administratively complete, the Commission shall open an Application Period establishing a period of time during which other persons may submit applications. The regulations also direct that the Application Period shall be open for 180 calendar days after issuance of this public notice.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the Commission hereby provides notice that the Application Period<sup>4</sup> officially commences on February 25, 2016 and, unless extended, will conclude at the close of business on August 23, 2016. Any party interested in submitting a proposed OSW project application is encouraged to visit the dedicated website hosted by LAI on behalf of the Commission, at: <http://www.marylandoffshorewind.com/>. The website includes information necessary to complete the application process, as well as helpful links to applicable regulations, statutes, and authorizing legislation.

<sup>1</sup> 2013 Md. Laws, ch. 003.

<sup>2</sup> According to COMAR 20.61.01.03(B)(1-1), “Administratively complete” means that the Commission has determined an application to contain the information described in §§D through N of COMAR 20.61.06.02.

<sup>3</sup> COMAR 20.61.06.01(B)(4). The Commission may extend this closing date by one or more additional periods of 30 calendar days, at its discretion.

<sup>4</sup> According to COMAR 20.61.01.03(B)(1-6), “Application Period” is defined as the period of time, beginning and ending in accordance with §§(B)(3) and (B)(4) of COMAR 20.61.06.01, during which one or more OSW applicants may submit an application for approval of a proposed offshore wind project.

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During the Application Period, details pertaining to any filed application(s) remain confidential pursuant to a closed, sealed bid process. After the conclusion of the Application Period, the Commission is prohibited from accepting additional applications or material changes to previously submitted applications.<sup>5</sup> The Commission will then engage in a proceeding to provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment, consistent with applicable confidentiality laws and regulations.<sup>6</sup>

By Direction of the Commission,

*/s/ David J. Collins*

David J. Collins  
Executive Secretary

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<sup>5</sup> COMAR 20.61.06.01(B)(3).

<sup>6</sup> COMAR 20.61.06.01(F).