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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**For Immediate Release**

### **Maryland PSC Opens Application Period for Offshore Wind Projects**

(BALTIMORE-February 24, 2016) – With the receipt of the initial application for a proposed offshore wind project, the Maryland Public Service Commission has now opened a 180-day application period for **any other** developers of offshore wind projects off the Maryland coast. This application period begins on February 25, 2016 and, unless extended, ends at the close of business on August 23, 2016.

Any party interested in submitting an application for an offshore wind project is encouraged to visit the dedicated website ([www.marylandoffshorewind.com](http://www.marylandoffshorewind.com)) hosted by the Commission's consultant, Levitan and Associates, Inc. The website includes information necessary to complete the application process, as well as links to questions and answers, applicable regulations, statutes and authorizing legislation.

At the end of the application period, the Commission will hold proceedings to allow interested parties to comment. The Commission must approve, conditionally approve or deny an application within 180 days after the close of the application period.

The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 established a number of provisions for 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. In addition to 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.

(more)

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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 and Transportation Network Companies), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.*

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