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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION****September 21, 2016****NOTICE OF SECOND EXTENSION 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.¹ 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.²

On February 24, 2016, LAI notified the OSW applicant and the Commission that the submitted application was 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; although, the Commission is permitted to extend this closing date by one or more additional periods of 30 calendar days, at its discretion.³ Subsequently, the Commission provided notice that the Application Period⁴ officially commenced on February 25, 2016 and, unless extended, was scheduled to conclude at the close of business on August 23, 2016. On August 16, 2016, LAI notified the Commission of its request that the Application Period be extended by 30 calendar days in order to complete the determinations required by the regulations. As a result of that

¹ 2013 Md. Laws, ch. 003.

² 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.

³ COMAR 20.61.06.01(B)(4).

⁴ 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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request, on August 22, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice extending the offshore wind application period to September 22, 2016.

On September 20, 2016 LAI notified the Commission of its request that the Application Period be extended until October 24, 2016 in order to complete the determinations required by the regulations. Therefore, the Commission hereby provides notice that the Application Period is extended an additional 29 days and is now scheduled to conclude at the close of business on October 21, 2016, unless further extensions are authorized.⁵

During the Application Period, 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.

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.⁶ The Commission will then engage in a proceeding to provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment, consistent with applicable confidentiality laws and regulations.⁷

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary

⁵ 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.

⁶ COMAR 20.61.06.01(B)(3).

⁷ COMAR 20.61.06.01(F).