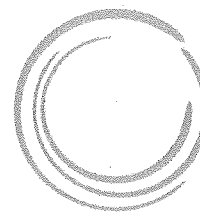


3225 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 226
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

(508) 362-3828 • Fax (508) 362-3136 • www.capecodcommission.org

Via Email

January 25, 2019

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Attn: MEPA Office, Purvi Patel, Project Analyst
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Re: *Final Environmental Impact Report – EEA No. 15787*
Vineyard Wind Connector (Commission Project No. 17026)

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Cape Cod Commission staff is encouraged that Vineyard Wind has established the Covell's Beach landing and connector route (located entirely in the Town of Barnstable) as the preferred alternative that it expects to present for Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review (which the Commission suggests has fewer potential impacts than the alternatives presented), and has entered into a comprehensive Host Community Agreement with the Town of Barnstable. Vineyard Wind has continued to meet with and communicate cooperatively with Commission staff, Town of Barnstable staff and others on the project, and this input has translated directly into proposed design and operational refinements intended to better avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts on important resources and address concerns broadly identified by a cross-section of stakeholders.

Through the newly updated Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan (RPP), the Cape Cod region is now more closely aligned with state energy and greenhouse gas emissions policies. The project is consistent with and addresses several high-level goals and objectives in the RPP, including the advancement of context-sensitive renewable energy development. The Commission suggests that the FEIR adequately and properly complies with MEPA, such that Vineyard Wind can proceed with DRI review and other permitting upon issuance of your certification. The Commission looks forward to working closely with the Town of Barnstable, consistent with the terms of the Host Community Agreement, in the DRI review of the project.


Following are some specific comments about potential construction period, transportation related impacts that the Commission requests Vineyard Wind to address, among other matters, during DRI review:

- Provide status updates of coordination efforts with the Town of Barnstable on planned roadway and utility infrastructure projects in coordination with the onshore ductbank route, such as on Attucks Lane and Independence Drive;
- Impacted existing infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, and street trees, should be replaced in the same or better condition. Clarify the pavement restoration plans for the affected roadways and intersections, including limits and widths.
- On affected roadways where work will be performed in the shoulder area, there may be an opportunity to leave a graded surface that would be suitable for future installation of sidewalks or multi-use paths, if desired by the Town.

- Provide details regarding coordination with MassDOT and Town officials regarding traffic management plans and strategies.
- Strategies, such as night work at certain major intersections, should be considered to reduce impacts to regional traffic (i.e. Route 132).
- Traffic management plans should be detailed for the six signalized intersections that will be affected along the preferred route.
- Vineyard Wind might consider initiating conversations with major commercial abutters about potential construction impacts to their business access, if not already coordinated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the attached comments on the above-referenced FEIR. Cape Cod Commission staff are available and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Patty Daley
Deputy Director

ENC

cc: Project File
Kate McEneaney, Epsilon Associates Inc. via email
Elizabeth Jenkins, Director, Planning & Development, Town of Barnstable via email
Karen Greene, Director, Community Development, Town of Yarmouth via email
Barnstable Cape Cod Commission Representative via email
Yarmouth Cape Cod Commission Representative via email
Sandwich Cape Cod Commission Representative via email
Brewster Cape Cod Commission Representative via email