

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

February 3, 2021

Mr. Jonathon Idman Chief Regulatory Officer Cape Cod Commission 3225 Main Street Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630

Dear Mr. Idman:

On January 22, 2021, Vineyard Wind LLC resubmitted its Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), along with detailed design information concerning their selected GE Haliade-X Wind Turbine Generator (WTG). In its letter, Vineyard Wind LLC asserted that the selected WTG parameters fall within the project design envelope (PDE) analyzed in the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), the Section 106 Finding of Adverse Effect, and the COP, along with its supporting materials. These include, but are not limited to, viewshed assessments and visual simulations, a Visual Impact Assessment, a report of Visual Effects on Historic Properties, and multiple terrestrial and marine archaeological resources assessment reports. Vineyard Wind LLC requested that BOEM resume its environmental review of the Vineyard Wind 1 COP on that basis. Additional information on the Vineyard Wind 1 Project is available at: https://www.boem.gov/vineyard-wind.

BOEM has independently reviewed the submitted information and has concluded that the relevant parameters of the Vineyard Wind 1 GE Haliade-X, as documented in Vineyard Wind LLC's letter, fall within the parameters of the previously assessed PDE (see enclosed schematic). Although General Electric's website depicts maximum possible tower height parameters for the Haliade-X, the design that would be used for Vineyard Wind 1's version of the Haliade-X does not utilize the maximum tower height.

Because these parameters are fully within the previously assessed PDE, BOEM has determined that the terrestrial archaeological portion of the Area of Potential Effects (APE), the marine archaeological portion of the APE, and the viewshed portion of the APE remain adequately defined; the Section 106 undertaking adequately described; the analysis adequately conducted and documented; and the conclusions appropriately drawn. The assessments used for the COP, supporting materials, SEIS, and Revised Finding of Adverse Effect and the conclusions reached therein remain valid. No change to the Finding of Adverse Effect is warranted, and BOEM has determined that it can resume its review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act using the existing materials.

By this letter, **BOEM** is hereby notifying you that it is reinitiating the Section 106 review process. The Vineyard Wind 1 COP Section 106 review will continue as a standard Section 106 review; BOEM will not utilize the National Environmental Policy Act substitution process set forth at 36 CFR 800.8(c) to complete its review.

BOEM will execute the remainder of the Section 106 review process by taking the following steps:

(1) Consulting Party 30-day review of the Section 106 Finding of Adverse Effects. BOEM invites consulting parties to complete their review of the Finding of Adverse Effects and provide any remaining comments by March 5, 2021. Please submit comments in writing to Danna Allen at danna.allen@erm.com or by mail at:

Ms. Danna Allen Senior Consultant ERM 235 Magrath Darby Boulevard Suite 130 Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Federally recognized tribes may submit comments to OREP's Tribal Liaison Officer, Justin Bedard at justin.bedard@boem.gov or by mail at:

Mr. Justin Bedard Tribal Liaison Officer Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Renewable Energy Programs 45600 Woodland Road Sterling, VA 20166

BOEM's Section 106 Finding of Adverse Effect was previously circulated to all parties, and also is available at: https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/Vineyard-Wind-Finding-of-Adverse-Effect.pdf.

(2) Consultation meeting with all consulting parties. BOEM will hold a <u>final Section 106</u> consultation meeting with all consulting parties by webinar on February 16, 2021 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, during the review period for the Finding of Adverse Effects. All consulting parties are welcome to attend this meeting, which will include a presentation, facilitated Question and Answer session, and listening session. Instructions to access the meeting will be sent via email and the meeting will be recorded.

#### Zoom webinar link:

https://boemorep.zoomgov.com/j/1608599629?pwd=azFxSk1HcURTZEkydE8ySlhobVRkZz09

Password: 401798

## Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1608599629#,,1#,401798# or +16692161590,,1608599629#,,1#,401798#

### Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 646 828 7666 or 833 568 8864 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 160 859 9629

Password: 401798

(3) Development and execution of Memorandum of Agreement resolving adverse effects: BOEM will work with the signatories to develop a Memorandum of Agreement, with the goal of executing the agreement prior to issuance of its record of decision in April 2021; more details on this element of the schedule will be provided to the signatories in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about the continuation of this process, please contact Ms. Danna Allen at danna.allen@erm.com or (678) 904-7399. Federally recognized tribes may contact OREP's Tribal Liaison Officer, Mr. Justin Bedard at justin.bedard@boem.gov or (703) 787-1351.

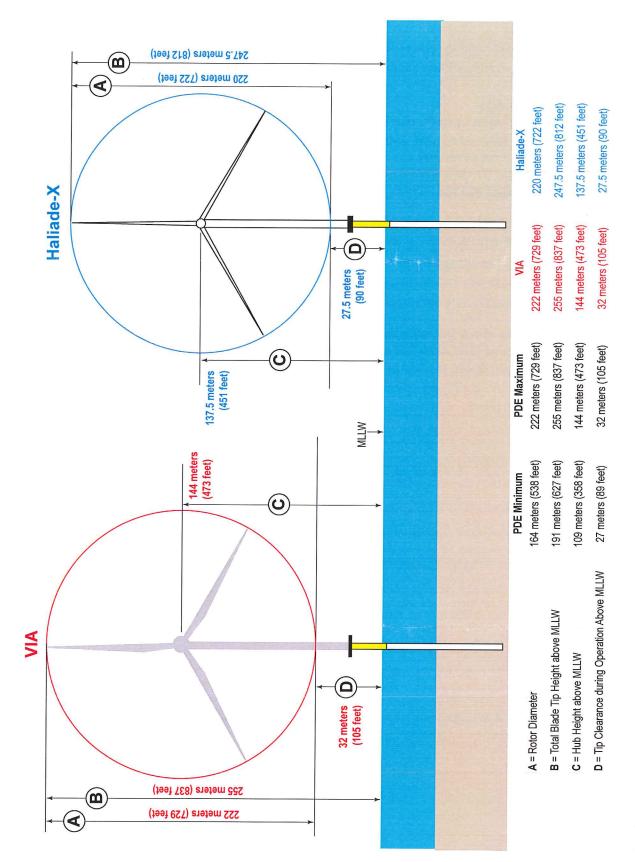
Sincerely,

Brandi Carrier

Lead Archaeologist/Deputy Federal

Preservation Officer

Enclosure



Enclosure: Schematic comparing dimensions and parameters of the assessed Project Design Envelope with the dimensions and parameters of the selected Vineyard Wind 1 Haliade-X turbine