



SOUTHCOAST WIND

**Proposal for Long-term
Contracts for Offshore Wind
Energy Projects**

March 27, 2024



SECTION 83C

Request for Proposal Application Form

Proposal Applicant SouthCoast Wind Project
SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC

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Acronyms

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
ac	Acres
AC	Alternating Current
ADLS	Aircraft Detection Lighting System
AMAPPS	Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species
APVI	Area of Potential Visual Impact
ASIT	Air-Sea Interaction Tower
BMP	Best Management Practices
BoP	Balance of Plant
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
BUAR	Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
CAA	Clean Air Act
CapEx	Capital Expenditure
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CCIS	Capacity Capability Injection Study
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CfD	contract for difference
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFCRI	Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
CFSR	Climate Forecast System Reanalysis
CMR	Code of Massachusetts Regulations
CNR	Capacity Network Resource
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COD	Commercial Operation Date
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
CPPD	Certification, Project, and Pricing Data
CRA	Capacity Reservation Agreement
CRC	Cultural Resource Consultant
CRMC	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
CTV	Crew Transport Vessel

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
CVA	Certified Verification Agent
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEEP	Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
DEME	DEME Group
DevEx	Development Expenditure
DGA	Designated Geographic Area
DoD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of Interior
DP	Dynamic Positioning
DPU	Department of Public Utilities
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EDC	Electric Distribution Company
EDP	EDP-Energias de Portugal, S.A.
EDPR	EDP Renovaveis, S.A.
EEA	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EFSB	Energy Facilities Siting Board
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EJ	Environmental Justice
ENF	Environmental Notification Form
ENGIE	ENGIE SA
EPA	U.S Environmental Protection Agency
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, Construction
EPCI	Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Installation
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ETU	Elective Transmission Upgrade
ETUIA	Elective Transmission Upgrade Interconnection Agreement
EWG	Exempt Wholesale Generator
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
FAST-41	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
FCA	Forward Capacity Auction
FCP	Fisheries Communication Plan
FDR	Facility Design Report
FEED	Front End Engineering Design
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FID	Final Investment Decision
FIR	Fabrication and Installation Report
ForEx	Foreign Exchange
FOU	Foundation
FPA	Federal Power Act
ft	Feet
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
FTR	Financial Transmission Rights
G&G	Geophysical and Geotechnical
GDF	Gaz de France
GE	General Electric
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLD	Geographic Location Descriptions
GRIP	Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships
GW	Gigawatt
HCA	Host Community Agreement
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
Heerema	Heerema Marine Contractors
HLV	Heavy Lift Vessel
HSSE	Health, Safety, Security, and Environment
HTV	Heavy Transport Vessel
HVAC	High-Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High-Voltage Direct Current
IA	Interconnection Agreement
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
IDV	PSS/E response file
IHA	Incidental Harassment Authorization
IPF	Impact-Producing Factors
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
ISO-NE	Independent System Operator New England, Inc.
ITC	Investment Tax Credit
ITR	Incidental Take Regulations
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
JV	Joint Venture
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	Kilovolt
lb/ft ³	Pound per Cubic Foot
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LGI	Large Generator Interconnection
LGIA	Large Generator Interconnection Agreement
LNMs	Local Notice to Mariners
LOA	Letter of Authorization
LoE	Letter of Exclusivity
LOUI	Letter of Intent
LPO	Loan Program Office
MA CZM	Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
MA DMF	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
MA DPU	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
MA EEA	Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
MA EFSB	Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board
MARA	Marine Archaeological Resources Assessment
MARACOOS	Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System
MA/RI WEA	Massachusetts/Rhode Island Wind Energy Area
MassCEC	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MDAT	Marine-life Data and Analysis Team
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MERRA-2	Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications, Version 2
MESA	Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
MGL	Massachusetts General Laws
MHC	Massachusetts Historical Commission
mi	Mile
MLA	Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Monopile
mph	Mile per Hour
MSA	Magnuson–Stevens Act
MSIR	Marine Site Investigation Report
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MW	Megawatt
NARW	North Atlantic Right Whale
NBMCT	New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal
NBPA	New Bedford Port Authority
NCF	Net Capacity Factor
NCIS	Network Capability Interconnection Standard
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NEPOOL	New England Power Pool
NEPOOL GIS	New England Power Pool Generation Information System
NERACOOS	Northeastern Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System
NERC CIP	North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHESP	Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
nm	Nautical Mile
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO ₂	Nitrogen Oxides
NORAD	North American Aerospace Defense Command
NPDES	National Pollutant Dis charge Elimination System
NSRA	Navigation Safety Risk Assessment
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
OCP	Offshore Converter Platform
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
Ocean Winds	OW North America LLC
OpEx	Operational Expenditure
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OMP	Ocean Management Plan
OSPAR	Convention for Protection of Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
OSRP	Oil Spill Response Plan
PAA	Proposed Action Application
PATON	Private Aid to Navigation
PGP	Programmatic General Permit
POI	Point of Interconnection
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
Project	SouthCoast Wind Project 1, half of the offshore wind project for OCS A-0521 proposed by SouthCoast Wind.
PSA	Preferred Supplier Agreement
PSC	Power Systems Consulting
PSO	Protected Species Observer
PTF	Pool Transmission Facility
QDN	Qualification Determination Notification
QMA	Qualified Marine Archaeologist
QP	Queue Position
QP-PPA	Queue Position Proposed Plan Application
RC	Reliability Committee
RD	Rotor Diameter
REC	Renewable Energy Certificate
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposal
RGP	Regional General Permit
RICR	Rhode Island Code of Regulations
RI CRMC	Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management
RI DEM	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
RI DFW	RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife
RIDOT	Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
RI EFSB	Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
RIGL	Rhode Island General Laws
RI HPHC	Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
RIPDES	Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System
RI PUC	Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
RNA	Rotor Nacelle Assembly
ROD	Record of Decision
ROSA	Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RWSC	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative
ROW	Right-of-Way
SAMP	Special Area Management Plans
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
SAR	Search and Rescue
SBJ	Suction Bucket Jackets
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SFEIR	Supplemental FEIR
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMA	Service and Maintenance Agreement
SMAST	School for Marine Science and Technology
SMS	Safety Management System
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SOV	Service Operations Vessel
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
SPI/PV	Sediment Profile Imaging and Plan View
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TARA	Terrestrial Archaeological Resources Assessment
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
T&I	Transmission and Interconnect
TP	Transition Piece
TSA	Turbine Supply Agreement
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USC	United States Code

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Definition
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VE	Velocity Zone
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
WACC	Weighted Average Cost of Capital
WHOI	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Wood	Wood Group
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
WTIV	Wind Turbine Installation Vessel
WQC	Water Quality Certification

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

1.2 Description of CPPD Forms

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

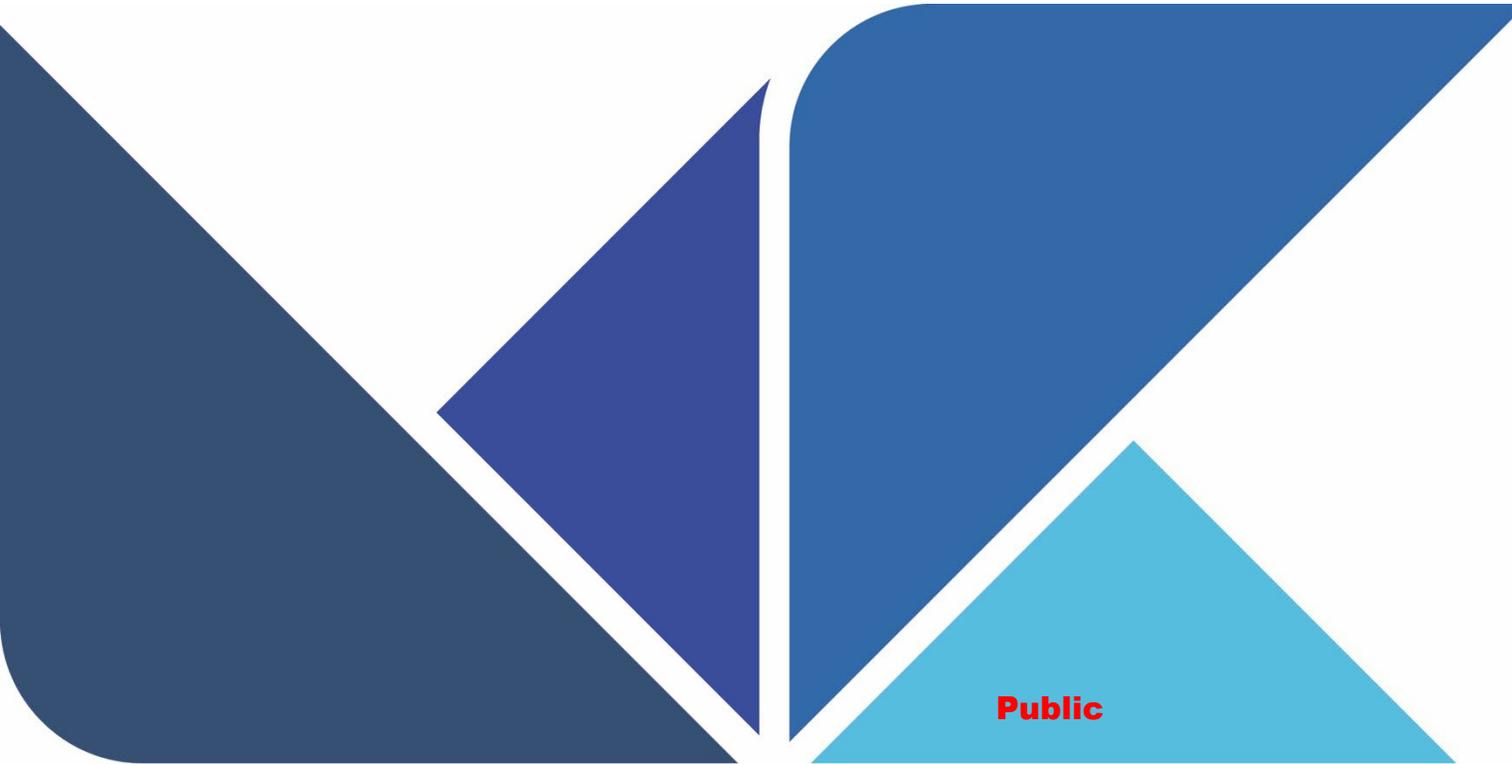
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SECTION 83C

Section 2

Proposal SouthCoast Wind Project
Applicant SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC

A large, abstract graphic at the bottom of the page is composed of several overlapping, rounded geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from a deep navy to a light sky blue. The shapes are arranged in a way that suggests movement and depth.

Public

Acronyms

Banco Santander	Banco Santander, N.A.	MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	MW	Megawatt
CDFI	Community Development Financial Institution	MWh	Megawatt Hour
COD	Commercial Operation Date	██████████	████████████████████ Terminal
COP	Construction and Operations Plan	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
DPU	Department of Public Utilities	NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
EA	Environmental Assessment	██████████	████████████████████
EDC	Electric Distribution Company	NOI	Notice of Intent
EDPR	EDP Renováveis, S.A.	OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
EDPR NA	EDP Renewables North America	O&M	Operations and Maintenance
ENGIE	ENGIE SA	Ocean Winds	OW North America LLC
EFSB	Energy Facilities Siting Board	POI	Point of Interconnection
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
FID	Final Investment Decision	Project	SouthCoast Wind 1, half of the offshore wind project for OCS A-0521 proposed by SouthCoast Wind
FTR	Financial Transmission Rights	PSA	Preferred Supplier Agreement
HCA	Host Community Agreement	PSC	Power Systems Consultants Inc.
HSSE	Health, Safety, Security, Environment	RFP	Request for Proposal
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current	RI CRMC	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
ISO-NE	ISO New England, Inc.	ROD	Record of Decision
ITC	Investment Tax Credit	SAP	Site Assessment Plan
JV	Joint Venture	TBD	To Be Determined
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Tetra Tech	Tetra Tech, Inc.
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act	USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
MA-RI WEAs	Massachusetts/Rhode Island Wind Energy Area	WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Partnership in New England

The New England States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut are taking a bold step towards a thriving, just, and sustainable energy future together.

Their multi-state solicitation to procure up to 6.8 GW of offshore wind **sends the industry a clear signal of optimism** and firm expectations that this competitive solicitation will create jobs and spur economic activity while minimizing and mitigating impacts to the environment and local communities.

[REDACTED]

New England is our home. We have spent the last five years listening to our neighbor communities and regulators and completing comprehensive site assessment surveys to understand how to develop the Project to meet local needs and goals.

Through our nearly **700 stakeholder meetings**, we have understood the need to be **fully operational in 2030** with **job creation across the region** and **strong protections for ratepayers**.

Our Project is ready to begin construction in 2025 and will achieve commercial operation in 2030. We've invested more than [REDACTED] million with supply chain [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] With the recently announced agreement for Ocean Winds to become the sole shareholder of the SouthCoast Wind venture¹, the Project is in a stronger position to deliver than ever before.

¹ For more details, see Attachment 2-2.



A transparent approach across the States

Our approach to the multi-state solicitation has been to submit to each State a proposal arranged according to their own RFP requirements, but with otherwise identical content and offer. **Each State sees the same Project proposal, pricing, and materially identical language.**

There are a small handful of cases where differences between State prompts could not be reconciled to common language. These differences are not material, and for completeness, SouthCoast has also provided a reference table

Public Attachment 2-5 which crosswalks responses locations between all States.



Pictured: SouthCoast Wind’s Community Liaison Coordinator Kelsey Perry meets local New England businesses, during one of nearly 700 meetings our team has conducted with local constituents across New England.

Project Highlights

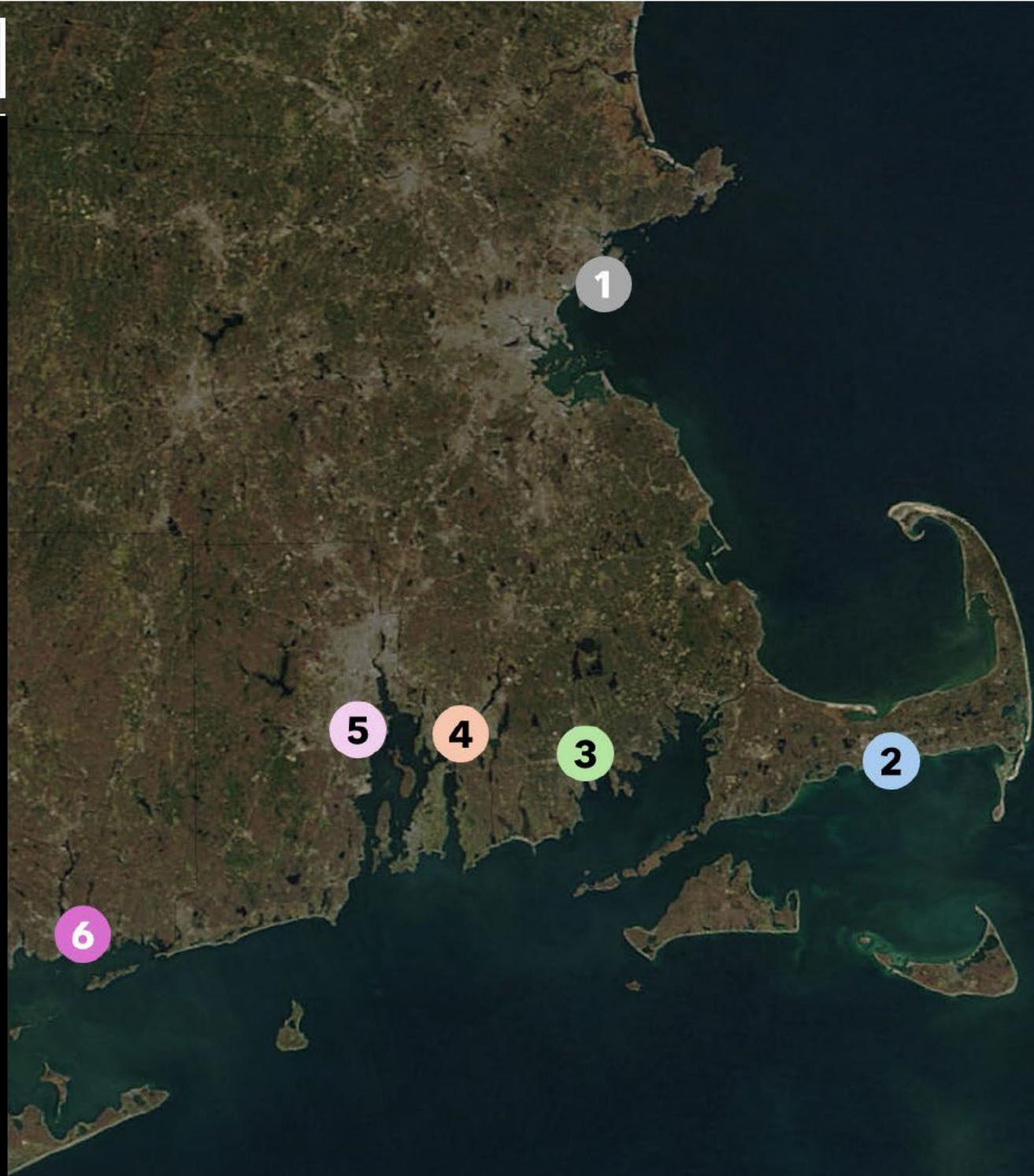
We designed our Project to respond to the priorities we have heard across the States. We are very proud to share these key Project highlights:

- **Guaranteed COD in 2030** with crucial manufacturing slots and supply chain reservations secured and federal permit Record of Decision (ROD) expected this year.
- **A fully bankable project ready to start construction in 2025**, with third-party verification of the entire project [REDACTED]
- **Quantifiable project benefits that significantly exceed contract costs** [REDACTED]
- **\$2 billion of stimulus in Environment Justice and Economically Distressed communities**, representing more than [REDACTED]

SouthCoast

Public

SouthCoast Wind Project Area



Public

Pictured: New England's South Coast and neighboring regions

Understanding What Matters Where

Our team adopts a **“listen-first” approach**, gathering insights, priorities, and concerns from local and regional leaders who know best. Based on what we learned, we focus our investments on these areas:

Environmental Justice (EJ) communities: Our Project both minimizes adverse impacts to EJ areas and redevelops legacy fossil fuel assets in service of a just energy transition, and it supports Environmental Justice leaders to advance their own priorities as they know best.

Designated economically disadvantaged areas (EDA): Most port facilities supporting the Project are in EDAs, where job creation and economic stimulus will be focused.

Indigenous communities: We have created new and concrete pathways for indigenous peoples to work in and benefit from the Project.

Ensuring Communities Benefit

Our economic development package seeks to put the **wind at the backs of our partners and state leaders**—doubling down on their vision and priorities and investing in solving problems through community-sourced solutions. Our proposal includes:

- **Grassroots organizations** that are also working regionally
- **Community-led design** that doubles down on local efforts
- Refreshed commitments to **all community partners from previous SouthCoast Wind awards**

Supply Chain Development

[Redacted]

Pictured: Members of local indigenous communities are trained as protected species observers (PSO) as part of SouthCoast Wind's RPS program. The program has already graduated trainees who deployed on our geotechnical survey campaign.



Environmental Justice and Indigenous Communities

Our Approach: Listen to community voices to understand environmental justice priorities, projects, and needs—and deploy flexible, unrestricted resources to enable communities to lead the charge.

Across the States, efforts are underway to alleviate and remediate the disproportionate impacts of industrial and commercial development on Indigenous, low-income, and BIPOC communities. SouthCoast Wind directly supports communities and grassroots organizations in advancing this critical work, and it does so on their terms with flexible, patient resources.



Minimized Negative Impacts: Minimize adverse impacts on communities through Project siting, including community consultation and responsive action.



EJ Capacity Building Fund: Support EJ advocates and organizations in building internal capacity through flexible, unrestricted investments to advance their environmental justice priorities.



Indigenous Focused Investments: SouthCoast's Indigenous People's Fund creates focused resources that Indigenous communities can deploy to help members take full advantage of community resources and reskilling opportunities to enter the offshore wind industry.





Ratepayer Support & Reliability

Our Approach: Provide direct support to minimize ratepayer bill impacts while investing in energy efficiency to reduce long-term demand in homes and businesses.

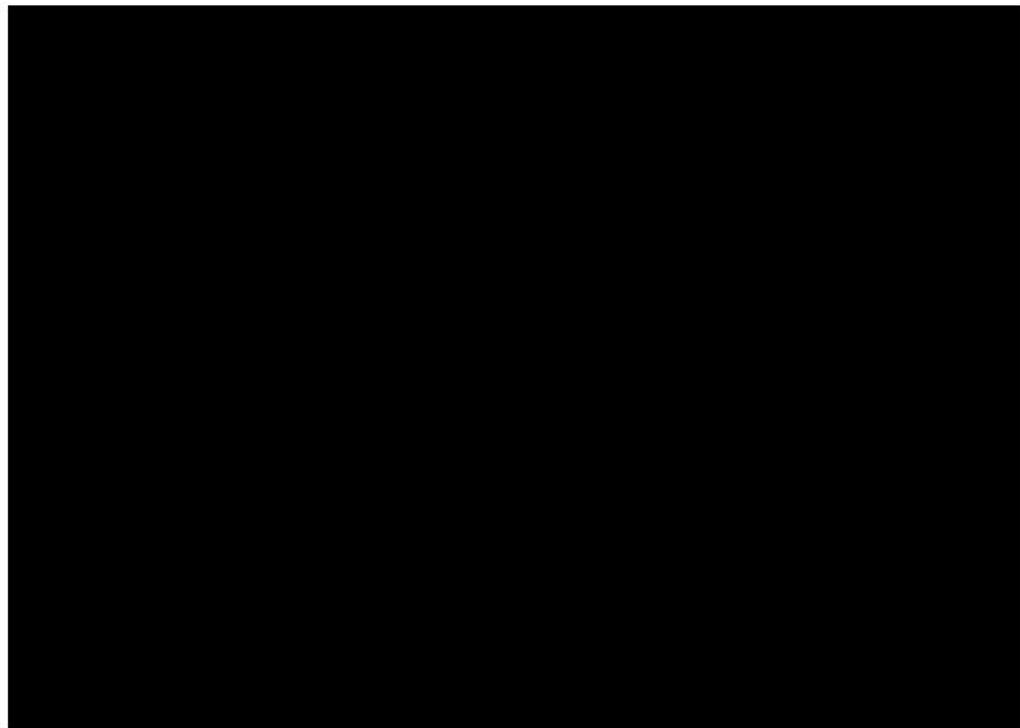
SouthCoast Wind designed this approach in response to the **feedback from regulators, ratepayer advocates, and other stakeholders** across all three states concerned about managing the energy transition's potential impact on ratepayer bills. Building a clean energy future is an opportunity to simultaneously create economic opportunity and guardrails of support and protection for those who need it.



Minimize Utility Bill Impacts: Supporting partner organizations to assist ratepayers directly, focused on ratepayers that other programs may miss.



Reducing Costs through Energy Efficiency: Investments in partner organizations are needed to catalyze the adoption of energy-efficient systems and weatherization and increase the utilization of existing programs, especially by low-income households.

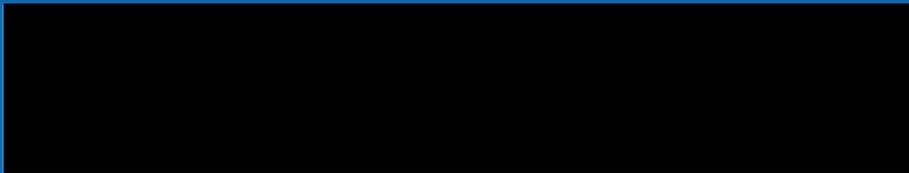


Keeping the Lights on through Brayton Point

In their 2023 presentations to the NEPOOL Reliability Committee, ISO-NE reported that the grid is at risk of winter storm blackouts in 2032, and that the severity of these events may increase by 150% if only 1.6 GW of offshore wind is operation by then vs. the 5.6 GW in the ISO-NE planning base case. ISO-NE elaborated that “..offshore wind .. [is] critical to mitigate energy shortfall risks that result from significant peak winter load growth and retirements”

At the same time and owing to a lack of other, cleaner alternatives, legacy fossil fired resources are now requiring as much as \$536 million per year to stay online for “energy insurance” (*CommonWealth Beacon*. 22-Aug-2023).

This is a critical challenge, and we are proud to do our part. We’ve committed to a guaranteed COD in 2030, with delivery into the historic Brayton Point substation. The Project will 
 shore up the grid for winter reliability.





Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Our Approach: Build trusted, lasting relationships with the communities most impacted by our Project—and invest in their abilities to advocate for and achieve local priorities. SouthCoast Wind is proud of our five years of direct engagement in the communities of New England’s South Coast. SouthCoast Wind will continue its robust, inclusive, and transparent public involvement tradition.



Fisheries and Ocean Users: SouthCoast Wind conducts extensive outreach to local harbormasters, fisheries representatives, and state agencies—in addition to local harbor port hours, to ensure accessibility to all.



Stakeholder Engagement: After five years of engagement with the South Coast, our Community Liaisons have a legacy of meeting with local constituents in their communities. We pride ourselves on strong community support for the Project, proven repeatedly vote after vote.



Site Control for Grid Connection: SouthCoast Wind has site control agreements across the entire onshore export cable route and substation location, securing the Project’s deliverability to the grid.

Pictured Top: SouthCoast Wind team conducts one of our Drop-in-Sessions in Portsmouth, RI’s Common Fence Point Community Center in 2023.

Pictured Bottom: SouthCoast Wind permitting and technical teams in Fall River, MA kick off our sediment sampling campaign in Mount Hope Bay in 2023.



Public

Wrap Up

A committed partner ready to begin construction in 2025

We recognize the urgent need for large-scale decarbonization in New England, ensuring every resident gains access to clean, affordable energy. At SouthCoast Wind, we are committed to supporting the States’ clean energy transition with our build-ready project, poised to deliver clean energy to the grid in 2030.

Our Project is fully assured and ready to begin construction in 2025, with secure grid connection, necessary federal permits expected this year, and a technical concept matured through years of exhaustive site investigations and engineering studies. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we secured the critical manufacturing slots necessary to reliably deliver COD in 2030.

[REDACTED]
Multi-state selection delivers positive net benefits in every State, with economic stimulus created at regional and local levels.

Our project is projected to have a substantial economic impact, totaling over [REDACTED], across project development, construction, operations, and supply chain activities. Additionally, we’ve established [REDACTED]

A Just Energy Transition in the New England South Coast

Our project is centralized in our namesake region, New England’s South Coast, with our investments focused on those communities that have not benefited equally from the rising tides of change.

Our project will deliver power at the former coal-fired power plant, Brayton Point, repowering the site as engine of economic growth, transitioning New England’s fossil fuel infrastructure to renewable energy.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These investments yield good-paying and high skill jobs and shore up community budgets [REDACTED]

Our thanks, from our whole team

We are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to rebid our Project into this 6.8 GW multi-state solicitation.

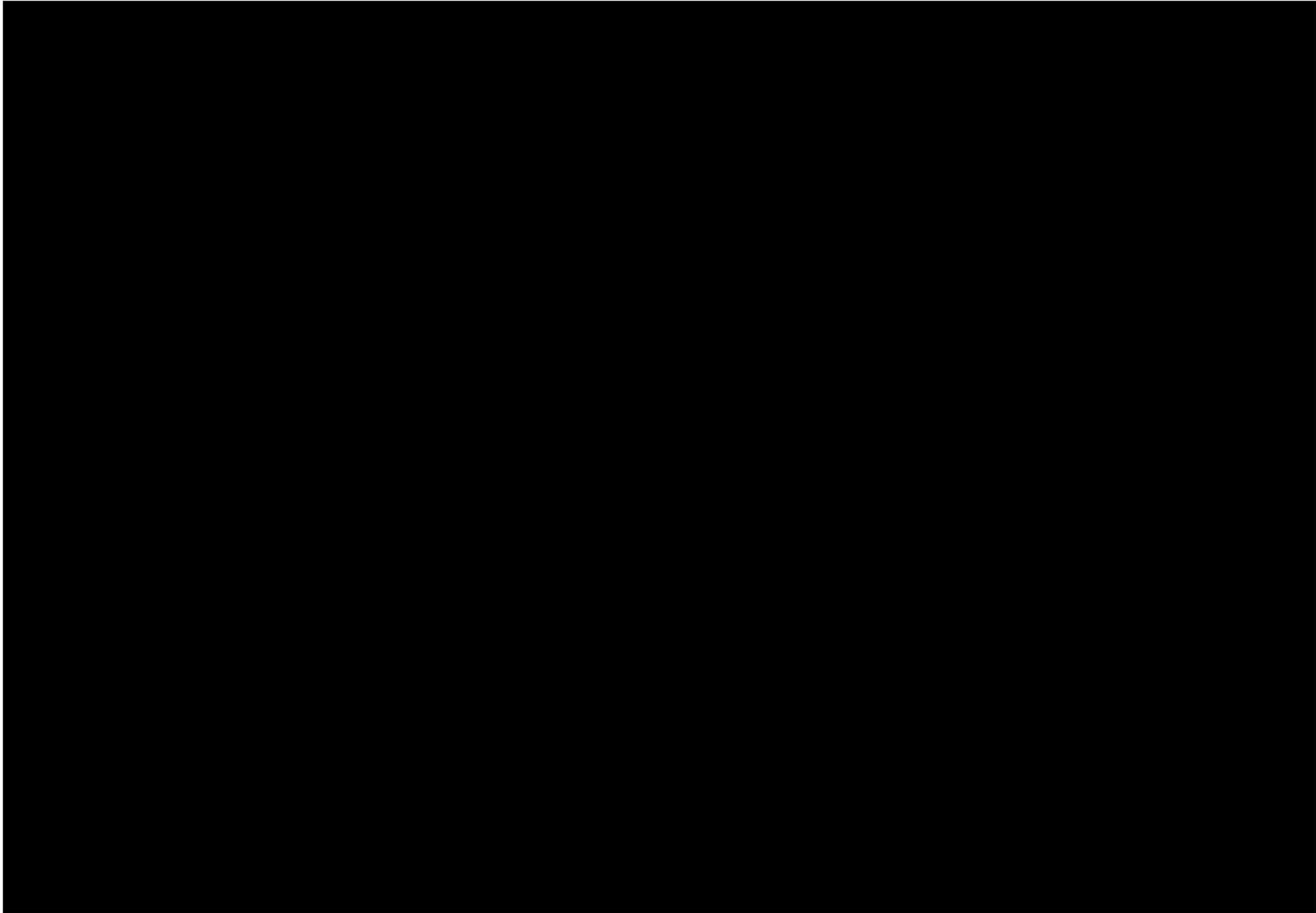
From all of us at SouthCoast Wind, thank you for considering this proposal developed by our teams in Fall River, Boston, Europe, and beyond.

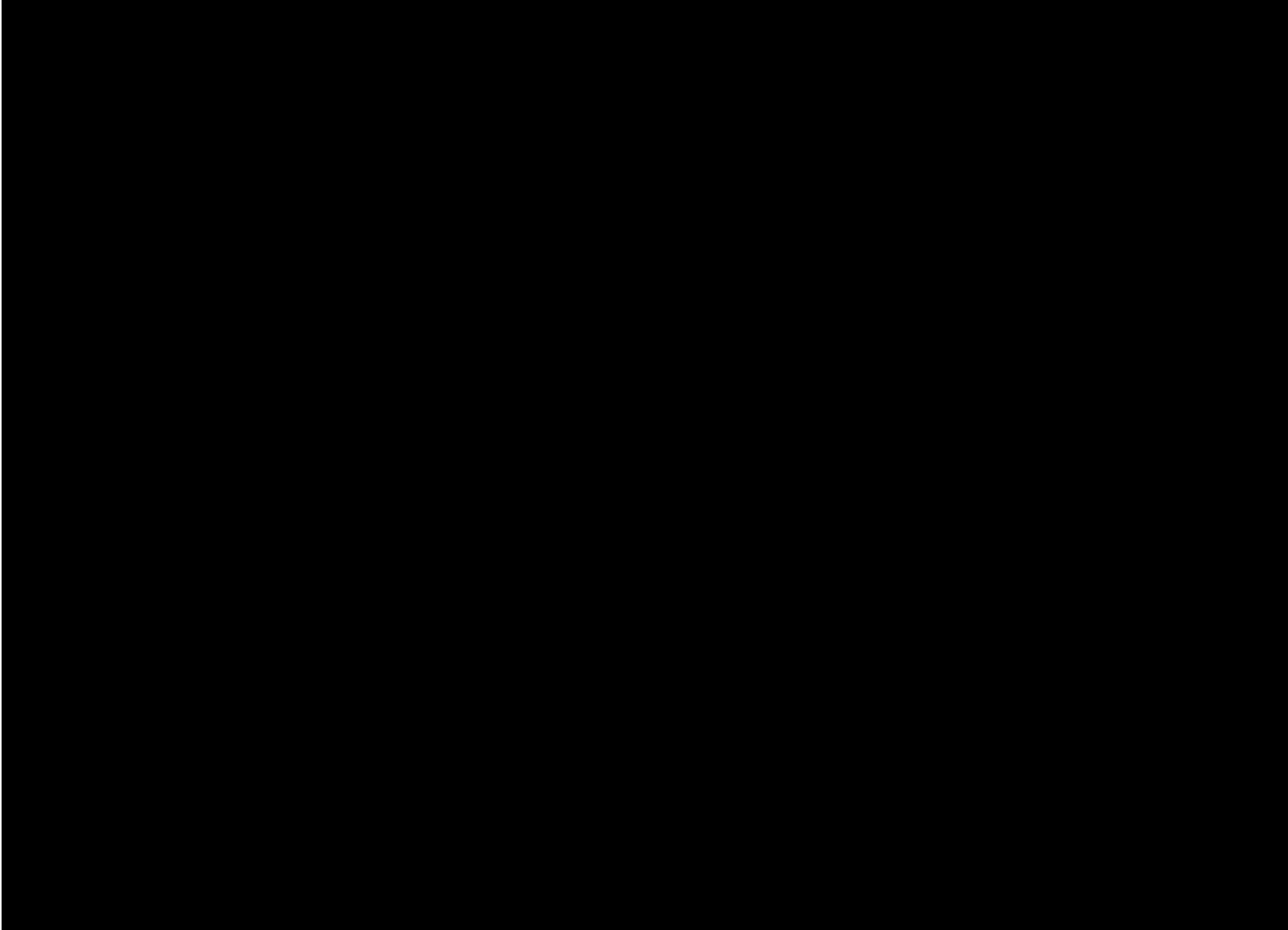


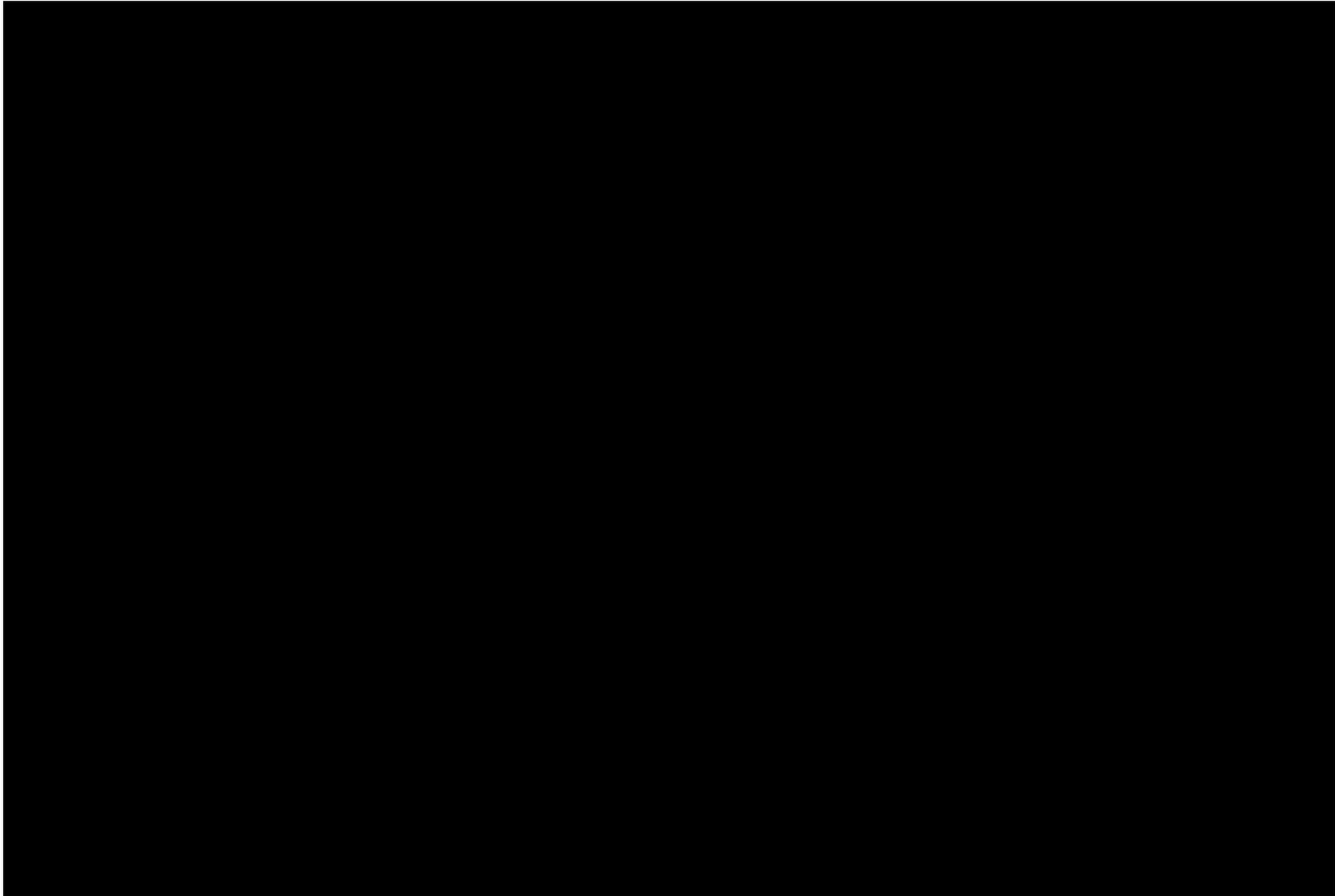
Michael Brown
Chief Executive Officer
SouthCoast Wind and Ocean Winds North America

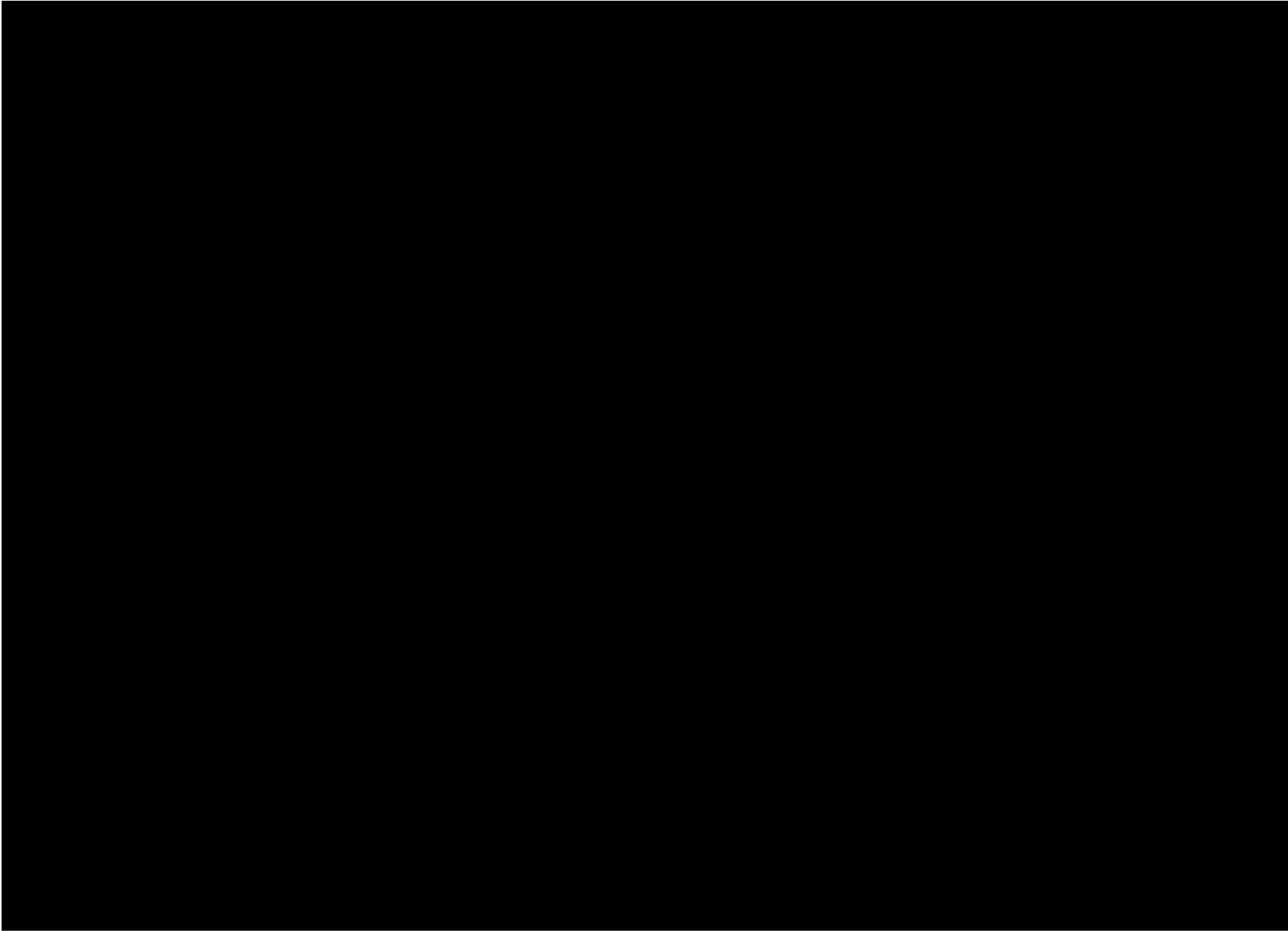


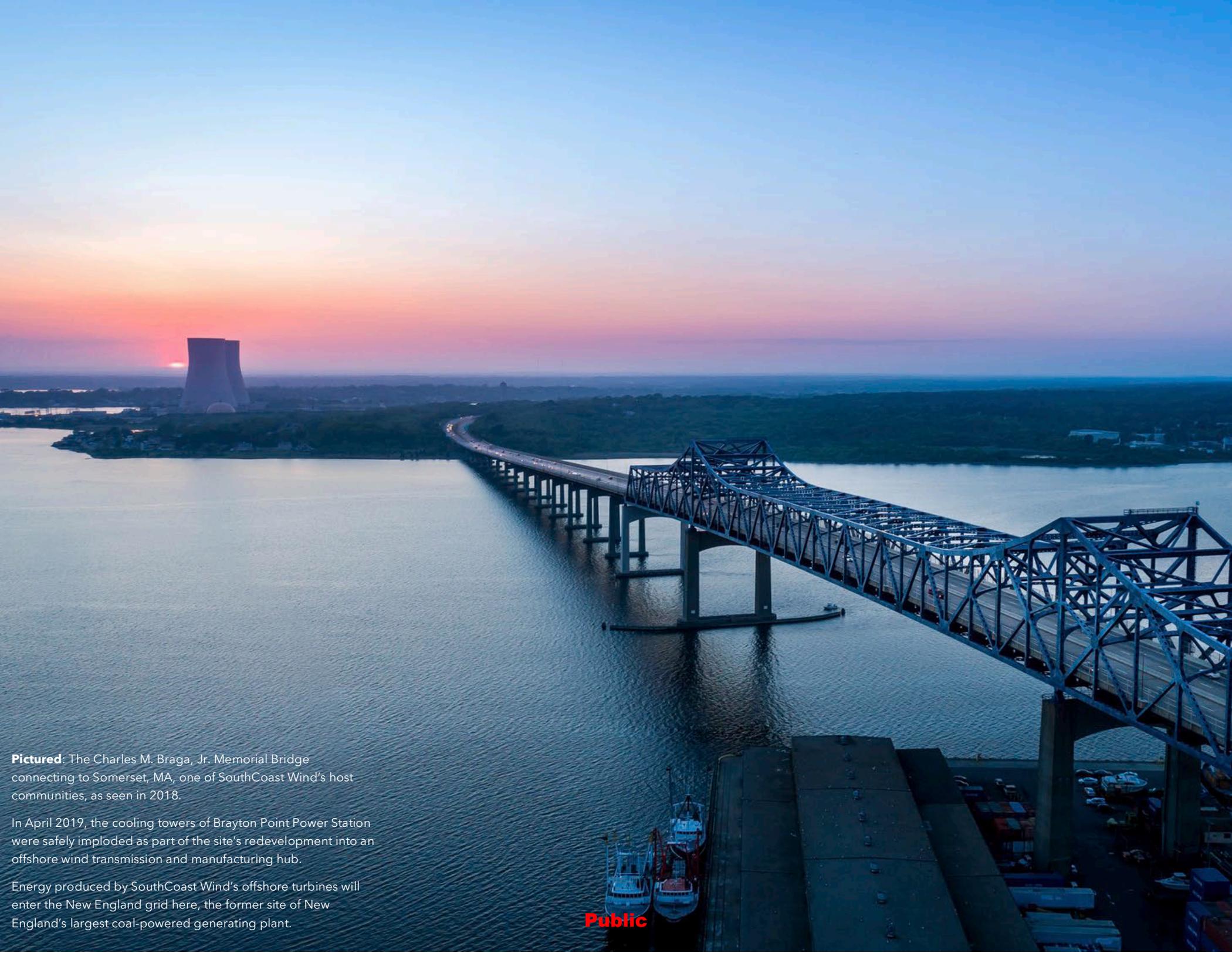
Pictured: OW’s global team retreat in Madrid, Spain in 2022.











Pictured: The Charles M. Braga, Jr. Memorial Bridge connecting to Somerset, MA, one of SouthCoast Wind's host communities, as seen in 2018.

In April 2019, the cooling towers of Brayton Point Power Station were safely imploded as part of the site's redevelopment into an offshore wind transmission and manufacturing hub.

Energy produced by SouthCoast Wind's offshore turbines will enter the New England grid here, the former site of New England's largest coal-powered generating plant.

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SECTION 3 OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS

Section Overview

The SouthCoast Wind proposal is based on modern transmission technology at an ideal interconnection point and delivered by an experienced developer. Combining these attributes facilitates the delivery of a new, reliable generation source to the grid that provides enhanced reliability, system safety, and energy security to the New England energy system.

- **High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System Enhances Grid Stability** - By design, an HVDC system executes control of power flows with higher precision compared to a high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) system. The result is a new generation source that increases the grid's stability.
- **Connection Point at Brayton Point Enhances Grid Operability** - Brayton Point is the heart of the Southeast Massachusetts/Rhode Island load zone. Restoring power generation to this location leverages the existing transmission network and allows the grid to operate as designed. While many developers are looking to the Brayton Point region to interconnect, SouthCoast is proud to offer the most mature project with a signed Interconnection Agreement.
- **Best-Practices from SouthCoast Wind's Sponsors Enhances Reliability** - SouthCoast Wind's Sponsors operate and maintain over 1,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind. SouthCoast Wind's proposal incorporates the best practices for maintenance, including state-of-the-art cables, structural health monitoring, and predictive maintenance, to ensure a credible and optimized availability.
- **Optimized Number of Turbines Maximizes POI Capacity** - [REDACTED]

3.1 Maintenance Outage Requirements

3.1 Maintenance Outage Requirements - Specify partial and complete planned outage requirements in weeks or days for all generation facilities and associated facilities required for the delivery of energy from the generation facilities to the delivery point. Also, list the number of months required for the cycle to repeat (e.g., list time interval of minor and major overhauls, and the duration of overhauls).

To maintain a safe Project and maximize total availability, SouthCoast Wind will implement a complete operations and maintenance (O&M) plan, further detailed in **Section 11 Operations & Maintenance**. Service and maintenance activities related to key Project components, such

as the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and converter stations, may require outages of the Project to be conducted safely.

Planned maintenance will be undertaken as much as possible during favorable weather windows, which include periods of low wind speeds and summer months. This will minimize overall production loss and maximize winter generation while favorable ocean conditions ensure safe crew access to equipment being serviced. In scheduling maintenance activities, SouthCoast Wind will adhere to all ISO-NE outage coordination requirements to minimize system impacts.

3.1.1 Planned Maintenance Activities

Periodic inspections and tests will be conducted for each major component as specified in the O&M plan in **Section 11**, to ensure all equipment is in safe operating condition in accordance with its specifications. Planned maintenance activities will be scheduled to maximize total Project availability; this includes replacing consumable materials (for example, lubricants and brake pads). **Table 3-1** below details the expected outage requirements associated with planned maintenance activities, and [REDACTED] below details planned preventive inspection activities without expected outages. While WTG maintenance will typically affect only the serviced turbines, onshore converter station / offshore converter platform preventive maintenance may require a more extensive shutdown of the wind farm. This more significant outage is planned periodically to maintain the system to optimize overall availability during the equipment's lifetime. Maintenance schedules for the offshore and onshore converter stations will be carefully planned and coordinated with ISO-NE to optimize the frequency and duration of outages to limit production loss and ensure the electrical grid's stability.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



3.1.2 Equipment Overview

3.1.2.1 Wind Turbine Generators



3.1.2.2 Offshore and Onshore Converter Platforms

Planned maintenance of the Project’s offshore and onshore converter platforms will be conducted routinely, with expected outages indicated in **Table 3-1**. These planned outages, similar to those for WTGs, will be scheduled preferably for low-wind periods and coordinated with ISO-NE. The outage duration will vary based on the equipment manufacturer’s requirements and the extent of maintenance required and is subject to change following front-end engineering design (FEED) engagements. Offshore platform and onshore station outages will be conducted simultaneously. Part of the WTG outages will be aligned with these complete outages to minimize production losses.

3.1.2.3 Foundations, Export Cables, and Inter-Array Cables

SouthCoast Wind does not expect planned maintenance outages for these components.

Maintenance of the Project’s foundations, export cables, and inter-array cables will include:

- Real-time condition and structural health monitoring for predictive maintenance (strain gauges, corrosion sensors, distributed acoustic sensing / distributed temperature sensing), and

- Periodic inspections, both subsea and above the surface, in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations, without outage.

3.2 Operating Constraints

3.2 Operating Constraints - Specify all the expected operating constraints and operational restrictions for the project (e.g., limits on the number of hours a unit may be operated per year or unit of time).

Operating constraints and restrictions are imposed on the Project to ensure personnel safety and the asset’s longevity. The most relevant constraints and restrictions are WTG operating parameters and maintenance activities, which influence the overall performance and availability of the Project. Maintenance activities are addressed in **Section 3.1**. Operating parameters are discussed in greater detail below.

3.2.1 Wind Turbine Generator Operating Parameters

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

3.2.2 HVDC Operating Parameters

Site-specific conditions, such as ambient temperature, are considered in the design and procurement of the onshore converter station and offshore converter platform, further described in **Section 8 Engineering & Technology; Commercial Access to Equipment**.

3.2.3 Consideration of Environmental and Fisheries Resources to Avoid Operating Constraints

SouthCoast Wind does not anticipate environmental or fisheries-related requirements that create operating constraints. This is supported through comprehensive work completed during the development phase, including incorporating feedback from stakeholders into the design of the Project (i.e., WTG layout) in such a way as to minimize impacts to fisheries.

As part of the development process, SouthCoast Wind evaluated risks and considered mitigation for environmental and fisheries impacts, which are fully detailed in the Environmental Mitigation Plan (**Appendix J**) and the Fisheries Mitigation Plan (**Section 7.4**). The mitigation measures allow SouthCoast Wind to build and operate the Project while avoiding significant habitat loss or disturbance to other users. This supports the availability of the Project assets and limits any operational constraints associated with environmental and fisheries resources. Specific measures include:

- Cable burial and siting to avoid entanglement with anchors, fishing gear, and marine life;
- Vessel collision risk reduction measures, including navigation speed restrictions and protected species observers;
- Comprehensive Fisheries Communication Plan; and
- Long-term monitoring and research (as further described in **Section 7 Environmental Assessment, Permit Acquisition Plan, and Environmental Attributes Certification** and the Project's Fisheries Mitigation Plan and Environmental Mitigation Plan (**Appendix J**).

3.3 Reliability

3.3 Reliability - Describe how the proposal would provide enhanced electricity reliability, system safety and energy security to Massachusetts, including its impact on transmission constraints.

3.3.1 Interconnection at Brayton Point Increases Reliability for New England

The Project will provide enhanced electrical reliability to New England by providing new renewable energy generation to replace the decommissioned fossil-fuel Brayton Point and Montaup Power stations, restoring stability in the heart of the Southeast Massachusetts/Rhode Island load zone. The Project will enhance regional electrical reliability and system safety by helping offset major recent generation unit retirements in the region, including shutdown of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in 2019 and the Brayton Point Power Station in 2017, the future shutdown of the West Springfield plant in 2024 and 2025, and the potential future shutdowns of power plants in Southern New England, identified by ISO-NE as generators at

risk. These include Canal, Montville, Middletown, and New Haven, as shown in **Figure 3-1**. Without the addition of offshore wind generation, new natural gas plants will be needed to provide an equivalent level of electrical reliability to the region.



Figure 3-1. Generators at Risk of Retiring or Already Retired, per ISO-NE¹

¹Source for information: 2022 Power Plan Retirements, ISO New England Inc. See here: <https://www.iso-ne.com/about/what-we-do/in-depth/power-plant-retirements>

Note: Salem Harbor was updated from a coal site to a major new natural gas project as of 2018. See here: <https://www.power-technology.com/projects/salem-harbour-combined-cycle-gas-turbine-power-plant-massachusetts/>

3.3.2 The Project Reduces ISO-NE's Exposure to Fossil Fuel Volatility

The Project will reduce ISO-NE's exposure to fossil fuels providing energy security and reducing price volatility driven by geopolitical events. As discussed above, it will likely offset the need for new and additional natural gas generation. This will offset the demand for natural gas and oil generation that may be vulnerable to gas pipeline and supply constraints, particularly during the coldest winter periods. Recent historic winter electricity rates are driven by increasing global demand for natural gas due to geopolitical instability. Offshore wind with long-term supply contracts will reduce exposure to price volatility. **Figure 3-2** from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the wide-range in possible fossil fuel price scenarios - driven by the underlying volatility of the oil and natural gas commodity.

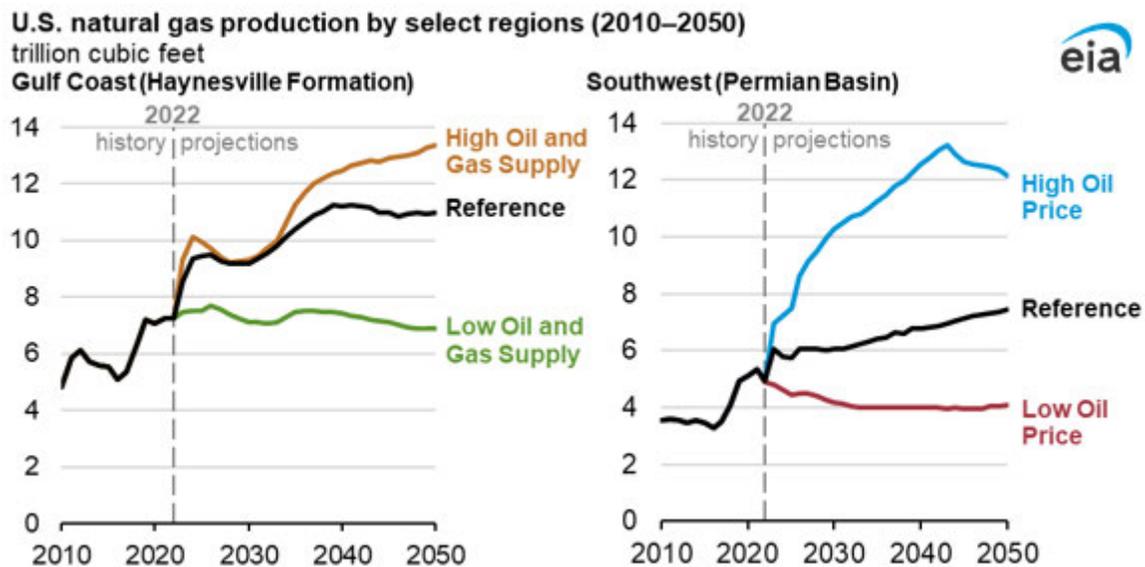


Figure 3-2. U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2023

3.3.3 Offshore Wind will Reduce Vulnerability to Winter Price Spikes

ISO-NE recently modeled the impacts of extreme winter weather events². A specific sensitivity of interest in their modeling is an event similar to January 1961 occurring in 2032. If ISO-NE pursues no further incremental offshore wind capacity (capped at 1.6 GW instead of reaching 5.6 GW), their results show an increased shortfall of 312,493 MWh. An average home load of 0.8 kW equates to a dramatic 1.6 million homes over ten days. Increasing electrical loads in ISO-NE will increase the overall energy consumption in the 2030s, significantly increasing the probability and consequence of load shortages. Offshore wind is the only carbon-free mitigant to load shortages, especially during extreme winter weather, which is certain to occur, according to ISO-NE modeling. To mitigate these reliability challenges, ISO-NE incorporates

² https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100005/a08_operational_impact_of_extreme_weather_events.pdf

state procurement targets into forecasted models to protect against outages during extreme winter weather.

3.3.4 The Project Minimizes Transmission Impacts through Interconnection in a Robust part of the Grid

As a part of its regional system planning, ISO-NE conducted an economic study in 2019 of the impact of interconnecting 8,000 MW of offshore wind energy into New England’s wholesale electricity markets and operations³. The study assumed offshore wind generation would interconnect to the grid at four substations in southern New England—Barnstable, Brayton Point, Montville, and Kent County, and additional interconnection locations requiring significantly higher upgrade costs. ISO-NE’s study results show that up to 8,000 MW of offshore wind power can be interconnected into southern New England without significant transmission reinforcements. The study also indicates that high levels of offshore wind interconnection do not cause significant transmission-interface congestion; therefore, significant levels of renewable energy curtailment will not occur.

[Redacted]

3.4 Moderation of System Peak Load

3.4 Moderation of System Peak Load - Describe how the proposal would contribute to moderating system peak load requirements and provide the following information:

- i) Estimated average output for each summer period (June- September) from 3:00 - 7:00 pm
- ii) Estimated average output for each winter period (October-May) from 4:00 - 9:00 pm

3.4.1 The Project’s Energy Production

[Redacted]

³ 2019 Economic Study: Evaluation of Offshore Wind Integration, ISO New England Inc., June 30, 2020.

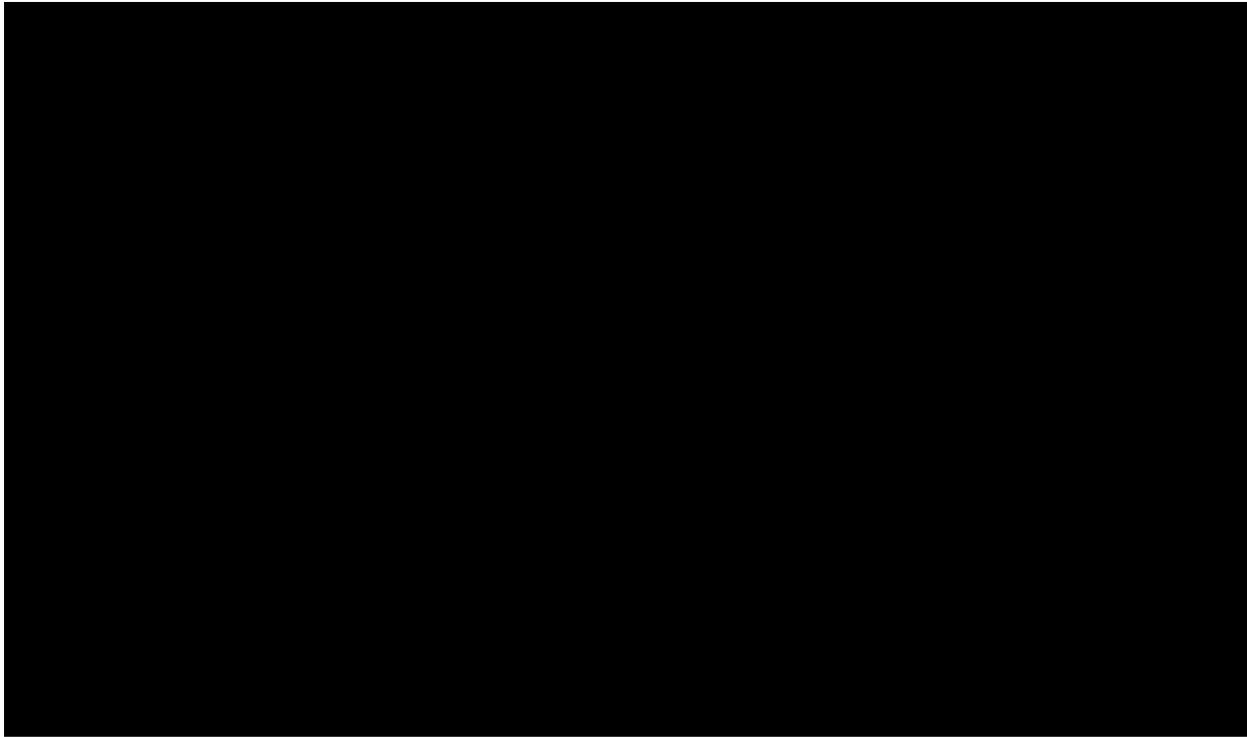
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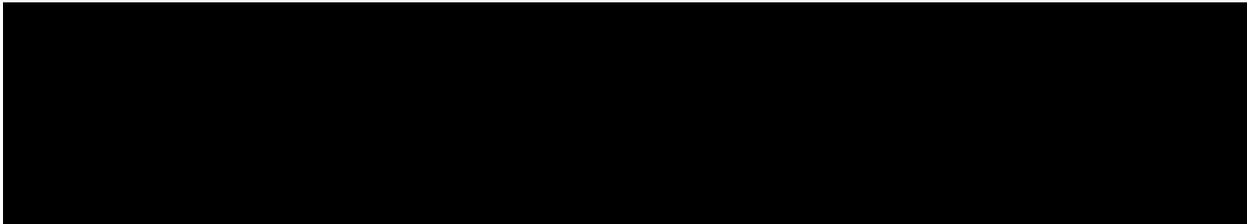
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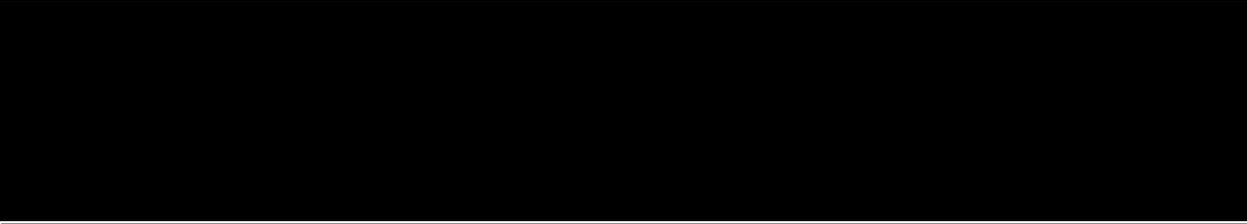
[Redacted]

Table 3-3 and **Table 3-4** show the estimated energy production from the Project during the peak load periods for the proposal.

[Redacted]



[Redacted]



3.4.2 Reduction in Winter Electricity Price Spikes

[REDACTED]

With constrained supply, natural gas prices spike, and less-efficient, higher-priced oil units are dispatched to meet demand. This ultimately results in electricity price spikes for ratepayers.

As illustrated in **Figure 3-4** above, the Project will deliver its maximum output during winter when demand for space heating and fuel for power generators is at its highest. The electricity generated by the Project will help reduce the natural gas demand and the corresponding risk of natural gas price spikes. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In addition to the economic benefits that could be provided during winter price spikes, the Project also provides reliability benefits during such conditions, as discussed in **Section 3.3**. As a future large source of electricity not dependent on the fossil fuel market, the Project will ease the demand on fuel-dependent resources and improve the ability of the system to meet the load reliably at a predictable cost.

SECTION 4 ENERGY RESOURCE AND DELIVERY PLAN

Section Overview

SouthCoast Wind’s proposal is designed to deliver a Project with a 2030 Commercial Operation Date (COD) in time to support Massachusetts’ decarbonization goals. To do this, SouthCoast Wind focused on gathering best-in-class data and a conservative approach to yield assessment to ensure ratepayers receive the energy promised and financial institutions are ready to support the project. The SouthCoast Wind Lease Area will be developed as two projects: SouthCoast Wind Project 1 in the north half of the Lease Area and SouthCoast Wind Project 2 in the south. This section only concerns energy yield estimates for SouthCoast Wind Project 1 (Project) as the subject of this proposal.

SouthCoast Wind’s Energy Resources development and assumptions are crafted to ensure bankability and schedule credibility for the Project:

- **Best-in-Class and Comprehensive Data Gathering** - SouthCoast Wind built this proposal from wind data acquired at the Project site over 24 months and using comprehensive long-term wind models. SouthCoast Wind’s methodology is built on the experience of SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsor, Ocean Winds, in operating over 1,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind and conducting offshore wind resource assessments for a portfolio of over 15,100 MW under construction or development.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

4.1 Energy Resource Plan

4.1 For Eligible Facilities, the bidder is required to provide an energy resource plan and a production/delivery profile for its proposed project, including supporting documentation. The energy resource and profile information should be consistent with the type of technology/resource option proposed and the term proposed. Bidders should respond to all information requests which are relevant to the bid in a timely manner.

All Projects

Provide a summary of all collected wind data for the proposed site. Identify when and how (e.g. meteorological mast or LiDAR - for "Light Detection and Ranging") the data was collected and by whom.

Indicate where the data was collected and its proximity to the proposed facility site. Include an identification of the location and height for the anemometers and/or "range gate" heights for sensing by LiDAR that were used to arrive at an assessment of the site generation capability.

Describe any additional wind data collection efforts that are planned or ongoing.

Provide (a) at least one year of hourly wind resource data. Real Data collected from the site is preferred, though projected data is permissible. Methodology must also be included. and (b) a wind resource assessment report for the proposed facility from a qualified unaffiliated third-party wind resource assessment firm. Include an analysis of the available wind data which addresses the relationship between wind conditions and electrical output. Provide a projection of net annual energy production, including projections of average net hourly energy production, based on the wind resource data (hourly 8760 data profile and a 12 x 24 energy projection) at both P50 and P90 levels.

Provide a site-adjusted power curve. Each curve should list the elevation, temperature and air density used.

Identify the assumptions for losses in the calculation of projected annual energy production, including each element in the calculation of losses.

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item]

- [Redacted list item]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

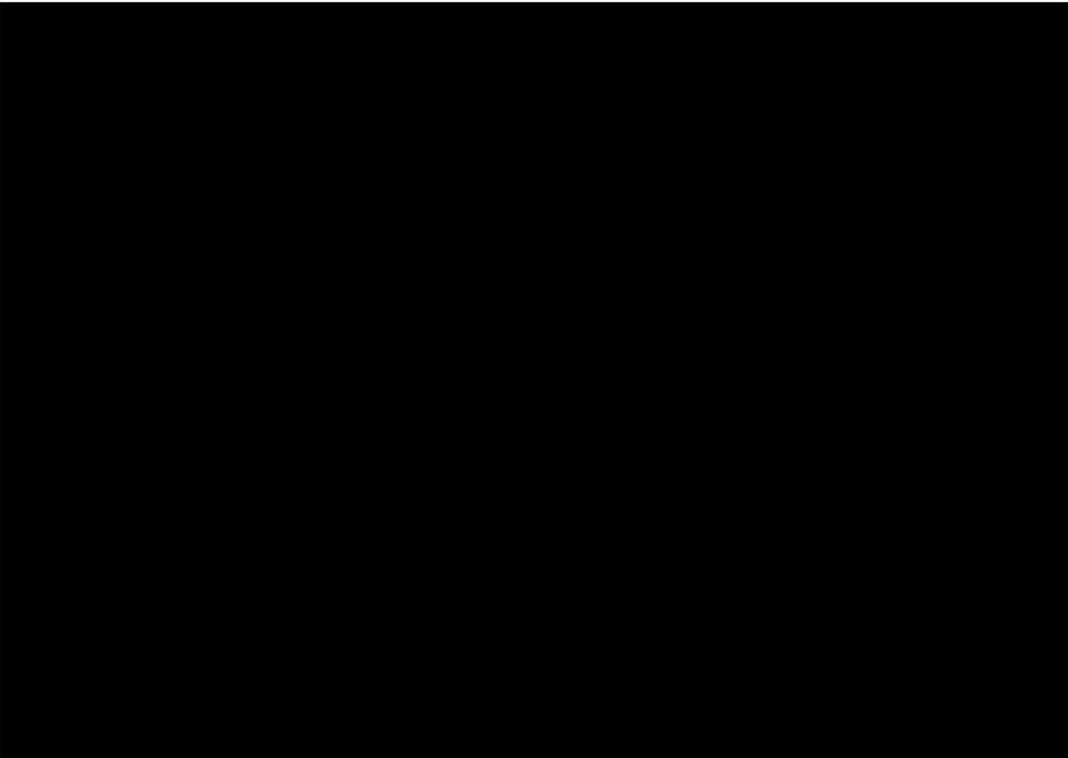
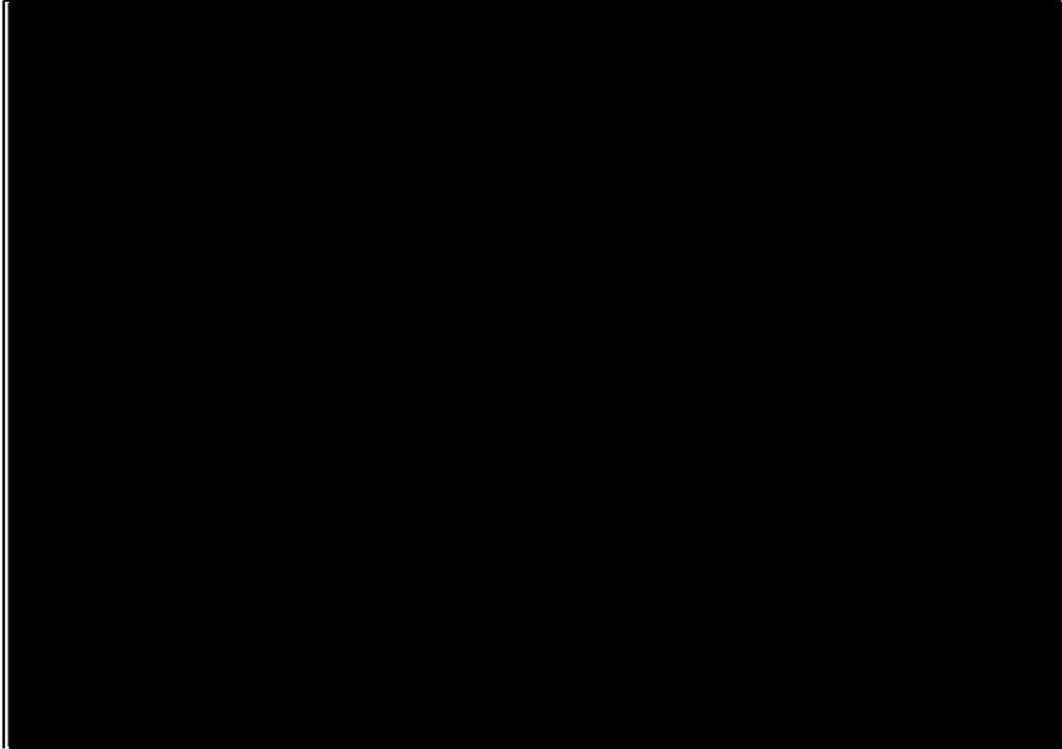
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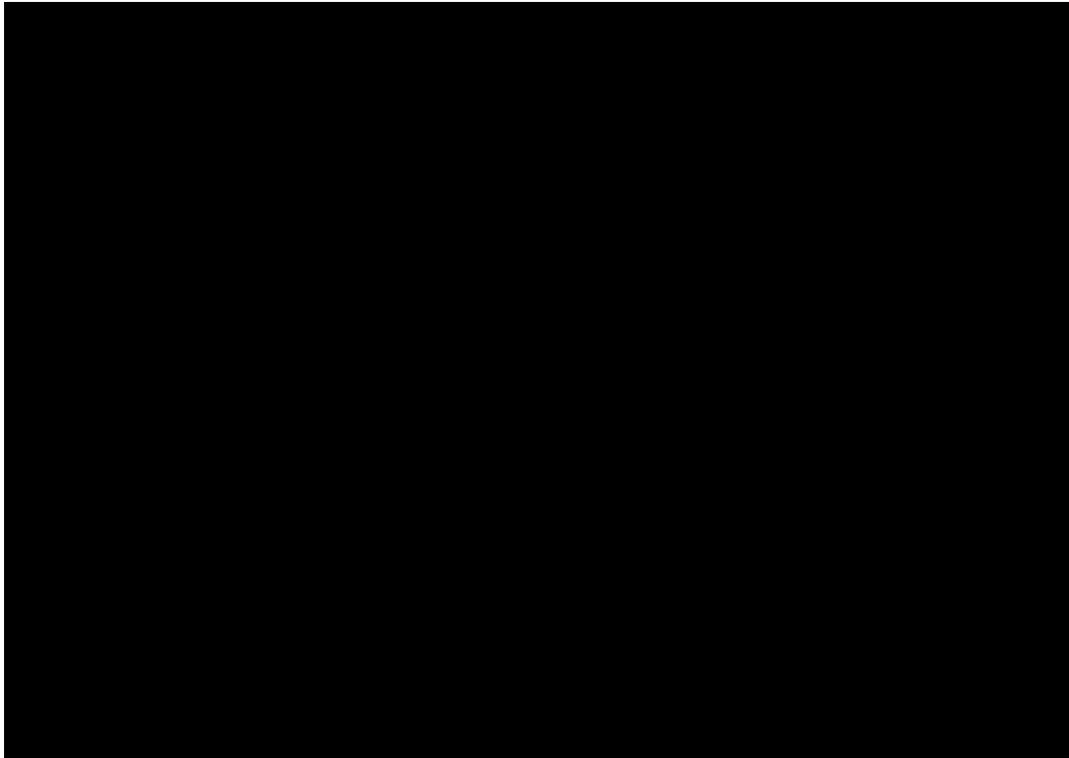
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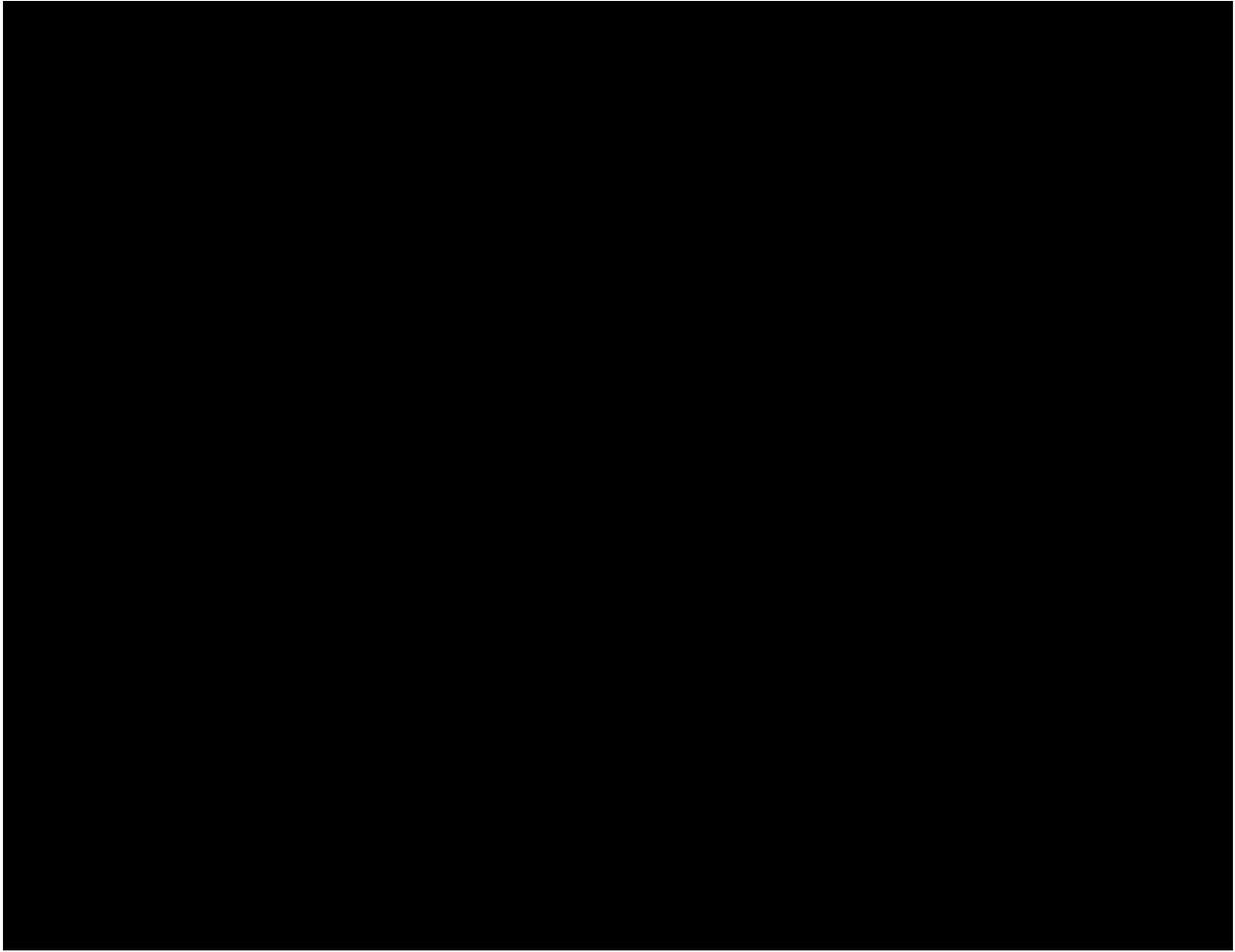


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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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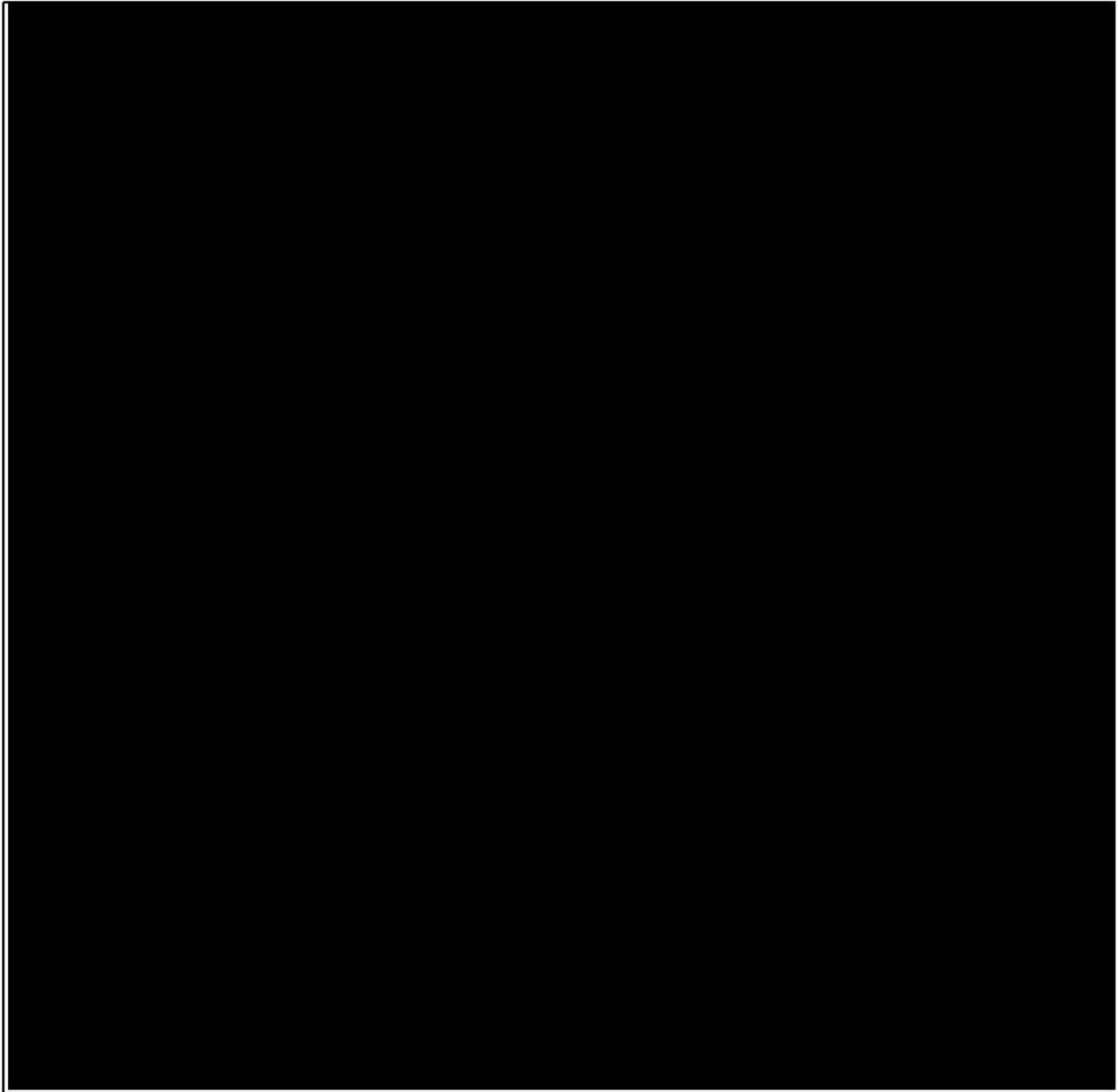
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

³ Hysteresis losses represents production losses when WTGs are starting up and shutting down at high wind speeds.



[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

4.1.3 Annual Energy Production Estimates with Loss Assumptions

The energy production estimates include Project specific losses that follow industry standard practices accepted by developers, WTG original equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, and independent engineers and verification agencies.

[REDACTED]

The Project-specific losses are calculated from the detailed engineering completed for the design of the Project. The losses and Project loss assumptions are detailed in Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.; the loss calculation methodology is described below the table.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

⁴ Framework for the Categorization of Losses and Uncertainty for Wind Energy Assessments, DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability, 5 February 2013

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

WTG Availability represents the long-term WTG availability rate that includes expected operational downtime and downtime required to perform the maintenance and inspection of the WTGs offshore.

Balance of Plant (BoP) Availability includes planned and unplanned downtime for all infrastructure, from the WTG foundations to the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Grid and Transmission Asset Availability (i.e., production downtime) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wake Losses (Internal) represent wake production losses caused by WTGs within the SouthCoast Wind Project 1 Lease Area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wake Losses (External and Future) represent wake production losses caused by WTGs located in projects in adjacent offshore lease areas. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

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[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

[Redacted text block]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.2 Offshore Wind Energy Generation Delivery Plan

4.2 Offshore Wind Energy Generation Delivery Plan

Please provide an energy delivery plan and a production/delivery profile for the proposed project, including supporting documentation. The energy delivery plan and production/delivery profile must provide the expected Offshore Wind Energy Generation to be delivered into the ISO-NE market settlement system and permit the Evaluation Team to determine the reasonableness of the projections for purposes of Sections 2.2.1.3 Eligible Bids and 2.2.1.8 Capacity Requirements, and 2.2.1.9 Interconnection and Delivery Requirements of the RFP. Such information should be consistent with the energy resource plan and

production/delivery profile provided above and also considering any and all constraints to delivery into ISO-NE.

SouthCoast Wind, or its assigned agent as Lead Market Participant, will schedule and deliver its energy into the Independent System Operator New England Inc. (ISO-NE) system at the 345 kilovolt (kV) Brayton Point Substation, Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard (CCIS). The Project’s connection with required upgrades will not cause any adverse impact on the reliability, stability, and operability of the ISO-NE system, as discussed [REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind will complete the Forward Capacity Auction qualifications process outlined in Section III 13.1 of Market Rule 1 of ISO-NE’s Transmission Markets and Services Tariff. The ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction template is included in **Attachment 1-13**.

Consistent with the energy delivery plan and production/delivery profile, the information presented here will permit the Evaluation Team to determine the reasonableness of the projection for purposes of Eligible Products, Allowable Contract Term, Minimum/Maximum Contract Size, and Allowable Alternative Bids, and Interconnection and Delivery Requirements of the RFP.

The Project’s energy delivery profile is fully described in the independent wind resource analyses and energy production estimations completed by Wood. It is summarized in **Section 4.1.2** above. The following data sets and tables can be referenced:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

4.4 Additional Long-Term Contracts with Third-Parties

4.4 Additional Long-Term Contracts with Third-Parties

Please describe any commitments to enter into long-term contracts to purchase offshore wind energy with businesses, nonprofit organizations, a municipality or group of municipalities with an approved municipal load aggregation plan pursuant to section 134 of chapter 164 of the General Laws or other government entities directly or through an aggregation pursuant to section 137 of said chapter 164.

Please describe the status of the commitments with any offtakers, including any executed agreements, provided that such agreements may be contingent on the project being selected for contracting under this RFP.

SouthCoast Wind is focused on delivering maximum clean energy and the extensive associated benefits to ratepayers in southern New England. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.5 Energy Storage System Operations

4.5 Energy Storage System Operations (if applicable) PROJECT SUMMARY: Please provide the following:

- Identify if New or Existing Facility, or an upgrade to Existing Facility: Technology Type
 - Point of Interconnection Deliverability Restrictions (if any)
 - Nameplate MW AC (at 100% project completion) Net Contract MW AC (at 100% project completion) Storage Energy (MWh)
 - Discharge Duration (hours) Full Duty Cycle Efficiency (%)
 - Required Cycles per year/per day
 - Expected annual capacity degradation (%) Specific Battery Chemistry (if applicable)
- Describe the operation of the proposed Energy Storage System: (i.e. run hour limitations, ramp rates, spinning reserves, regulation up, regulation down). Please provide proposed operational management terms that memorialize the operational commitments of the facility.

Describe the location of the Energy Storage System, the anticipated interconnection point, and the value of the relative proximity of the system to the Offshore Wind Energy Generation facility, including any decreased risk of curtailment and/or deferred investment for the Offshore Wind Energy Generation Facility.

Describe the proposed technology and equipment manufacturer by name and model (include inverter characteristics if applicable).

Describe the viability and operational reliability of the proposed technology and track record of the manufacturer. Provide examples of similar applications of the same size and scope.

Please provide an energy delivery plan and production/delivery profile for the proposed project, including supporting documentation. This documentation may be either an hourly storage use schedule separately from the hourly wind production/delivery schedule, or the following parameters of the storage technology that will be used in conjunction with the bid: Charge rate (MW), Discharge rate (MW), Storage capacity (MWh), Round-trip efficiency (%). The energy production/delivery profile must provide the expected Offshore Wind Energy Generation to be delivered into the ISO-NE market settlement system by the Energy Storage System and permit the Evaluation Team to determine the reasonableness of your projections. Such information should be consistent with the energy resource plan provided above and also considering any and all constraints to physical delivery into ISO-NE.

Describe the operation of the Energy Storage System as it relates to ISO-NE's implementation of FERC Order No. 841, including whether the proposed Energy Storage System will be classified as a Binary Storage Facility or Continuous Storage Facility, the designation of the ISO-NE Markets that the Energy Storage System would participate in, and the plan to operate in multiple ISO-NE Markets.

Please list all anticipated revenue streams associated with the Energy Storage System

- For existing facilities,
 - describe existing operations, revenues, and participation in ISO-NE Markets
 - describe any planned changes in operation, participation in ISO-NE Markets, and revenue streams

Please describe (a) (i) the specific services and/or products that will be provided to the Distribution Companies due to the proposed operation of the Energy Storage System under your proposal and (ii) the specific costs to be paid by the Distribution Companies through the power purchase agreement for such services and/or products and (b) a statement of how the proposal complies with RFP requirements.

Please describe any additional benefits the Energy Storage System may provide not captured in the benefits provided through the operational commitments, including but not limited to:

- any non-monetizable benefits including but not limited to price changes in capacity and ancillary services markets, reduction in future market needs such as reserves or ramping, and increased capacity rating for Offshore Wind Energy Generation facility

- Emission reductions associated with the operation of the Energy Storage System and providing emission-free resources to the ancillary service markets including reserves and frequency regulation
- Value of procuring the Energy Storage System at the same time and as paired with the Offshore Wind Energy Generation facility

[Redacted content]

SECTION 5 FINANCIAL LEGAL

Section Overview

Bidders are required to demonstrate the financial viability of their proposed project. Bidders should provide the following information:

The proposed project is build-ready, with the experience, credibility, and financial strength of the SouthCoast Wind parent corporations acting as the cornerstones of the Project’s robust financial viability. SouthCoast Wind is 100% owned by OW North America LLC (Ocean Winds), an award-winning joint venture (JV) formed by EDPR and ENGIE SA (ENGIE), the “Sponsors” with the exclusive purpose to develop, build and operate Offshore Wind globally. Between them, the Sponsors have a diverse renewable portfolio consisting of 50,000 MW in operation across solar, wind, and hydro. In the US alone, EDPR has 9,100 MW of renewables in operation financed through over \$7 billion in tax equity partnerships since 2007. Together as Ocean Winds they have an offshore wind portfolio of 1,500 MW in operation, an additional 1,900 MW under construction, and 13,200 MW in development. This breadth of real-world experience in designing, permitting, financing, and constructing wind energy projects empowers SouthCoast Wind to fully accommodate the recent changes in the energy finance landscape to ensure that lessons learned are part of the going-forward strategy which secures the Project to withstand future risk and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

5.1 Long Term Contract Documentation

5.1 Please submit information and documentation that demonstrates that long term contracts resulting from this RFP Process would either permit the bidder to finance its proposal that would otherwise not be financeable, or assist the bidder in obtaining financing of its proposal.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5.2 Business Entity Structure Description

5.2 Please provide a description of the business entity structure of the bidder’s organization from a financial and legal perspective, including all general and limited partners, officers, directors, managers, members and shareholders, involvement of any subsidiaries supporting the project, and the providers of equity and debt during project development. Provide an organization chart showing the relationship between the equity and debt participants and an explanation of the relationships. For jointly owned facilities, identify all owners and their respective interests, and document the Bidder’s right to submit a binding proposal.

SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. SouthCoast Wind is a project under OW North America LLC, a subsidiary of Ocean Winds Offshore, S.L. SouthCoast Wind and associated member ownership structures are shown as shown in **Figure 5-1** and **Figure 5-2**. As is typical during any project lifecycle, SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC may undergo restructuring as the Project transitions into the financing and later operations phases. SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC has planned for this

possibility and embedded this concept into its contracting and business plans. This is common for energy projects at all sizes and scales and is simply a product of the complex tax and regularly framework overlaid on US and global energy projects.



Figure 5-1. SouthCoast Wind Organization

SouthCoast Wind (formerly Mayflower Wind Energy LLC) was formed on June 7, 2018, by filing a Certificate of Formation in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware under and pursuant to the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, as amended, and is governed by its Operating Agreement (as amended). Pursuant to the Operating Agreement, SouthCoast Wind is authorized to acquire, develop, construct, own, operate, and maintain any offshore wind renewable energy project developed, or operated or to be developed, constructed, or operated in any federal, state, or municipal territorial waters offshore of, or for delivery of power to, the U.S. Coast.



President Joe Biden with Ocean Winds North America LLC CEO Michael Brown

Affiliated entities are further described in **Section 5.19**.

5.2.1 Ocean Winds North America LLC

On January 23, 2020, EDPR and ENGIE formed a strategic 50-50 JV in offshore wind named OW Offshore, S.L. (Ocean Winds). EDP Renovaveis, S.A. (EDPR) is a Spanish Corporation (Sociedad Anónima), whose majority shareholder, EDP-Energias de Portugal, Sociedade Anónima, Sucursal em Espanha (EDP-Spanish Branch), is the Spanish branch of EDP-Energias de Portugal, S.A. (EDP). ENGIE SA is a French Corporation (Société Anonyme) whose principal

shareholders include the State of France, Blackrock, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, and CNP Assurances.

Ocean Winds is a global player, bringing together the expertise and development capacity of both EDP and ENGIE. OW Offshore S.L. created OW North America LLC as a holding company for all projects and investments in the United States. Ocean Winds replaced EDP Renewables N.A. in the chain of ownership of SouthCoast Wind. Ocean Winds has two additional subsidiaries to SouthCoast Wind: Bluepoint Wind, situated in the New York Bight, and Golden State Wind, a project in the Morro Bay area of California.



Figure 5-2 details the ownership and relationships of Ocean Winds' business entities.

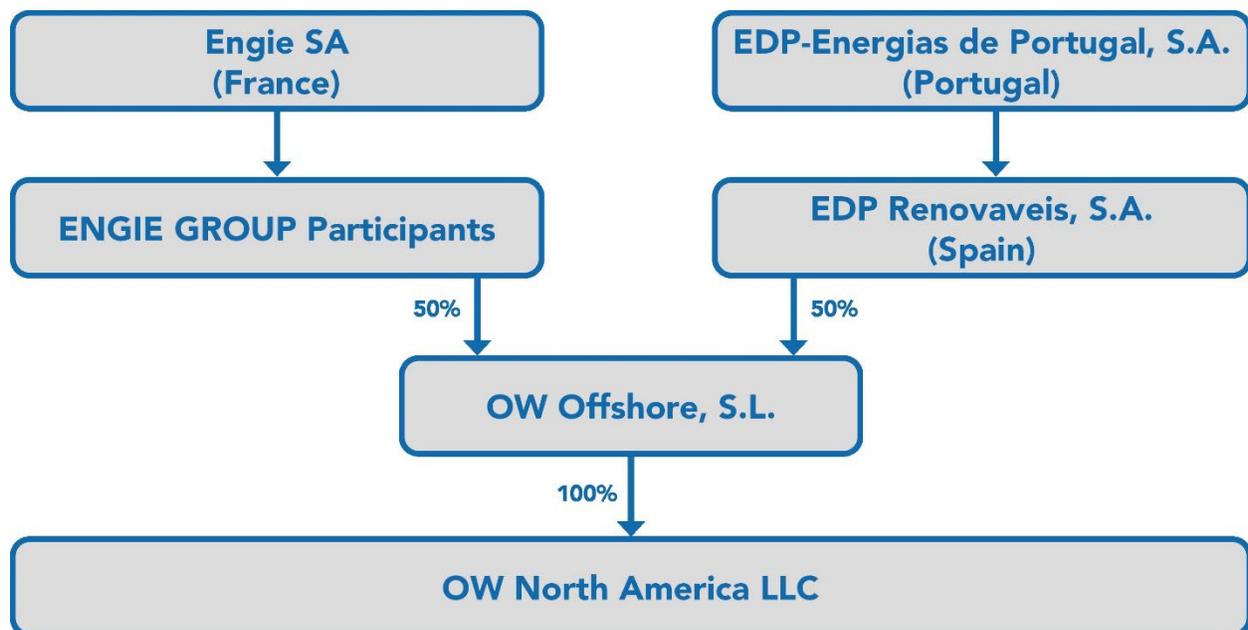


Figure 5-2. Ocean Winds Organization

5.2.2 Governance

The balanced partnership between EDP and Engie in governance of Ocean Winds maximizes the complementary strengths of the Sponsors to deliver a cost-effective project, limit execution risks, and ultimately achieve the State’s environmental, policy, economic, and reliability goals. Through Ocean Winds, the Sponsors have created a Board of Directors overseeing the overall management of SouthCoast Wind and an Executive Committee that leads day-to-day Project



execution and manages the Project team. The Board of Directors, Officers, and Trustees are listed in **Section 5.9**.

5.2.2.1 Equity and Debt Participants

Through development until Final Investment Decisions (FID) and Financial Close, SouthCoast Wind will develop and fund the Project with Sponsor equity investments. Construction financing will be structured as described in **Section 5.3** below.

SouthCoast Wind intends to qualify for the ITC as further described in **Section 5.12**, monetizing via tax credit transfer near the start of construction, with the monetization partnership agreement typically closing 18 to 24 months before the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the Project.

5.2.2.2 Right to Submit a Binding Proposal

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors have authorized SouthCoast Wind to submit binding proposals, as evidenced by the Proposal Certification Form signed by an officer of SouthCoast Wind that is provided in **Appendix C**.

[REDACTED]

5.3 Financing Plan Description

5.3 Please provide a description of the financing plan for the project, including construction and term financing. The financing plan should address the following:

- i. Who will finance the project (or are being considered to finance the project) and the related financing mechanism or mechanisms that will be used (i.e. convertible debenture, equity or other) including repayment schedules and conversion features
- ii. The project’s existing initial financial structure and projected financial structure
- iii. Expected sources of debt and equity financing
- iv. Estimated construction costs
- v. The projected capital structure

vi. Describe any agreements, both pre and post commercial operation date, entered into with respect to equity ownership in the proposed project and any other financing arrangement.

In addition, the financing plan should address the status of the above activities as well as the financing of development and permitting costs. All bidders are required to provide this information.

As further demonstrated in **Section 8.1.2**, SouthCoast Wind has a robust contracting plan to deliver the Project within the required timeline. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.3.1.1 *Development Period Financing*

SouthCoast Wind will continue to finance the development phase of the Project through equity investment of the Sponsors, as outlined in **Section 5.2**. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The ramp of this commitment begins immediately upon execution of the PPA, requiring an initial payment exceeding hundreds of millions of dollars to the supply chain and growing from there on the path to FID and construction. This demonstrates the commitment that SouthCoast Wind has to delivering the Project, particularly after the very difficult last several years which caused several painful PPA terminations, including for SouthCoast. Not all projects have the maturity or Sponsor mandate to be able to make this necessary investment to deliver timely to meet State requirements, but SouthCoast does.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.4 SouthCoast Wind’s Experience Securing Financing

5.4 Provide documentation illustrating the experience of the bidder in securing financing for projects of similar size and technology. For each project previously financed provide the following information:

- i. Project name and location
- ii. Project type and size
- iii. Date of construction and permanent financing
- iv. Form of debt and equity financing
- v. Current status of the project

Project Experience 1

Project Experience 2

Project Experience 3
Project Experience 4 Additional Project Experience

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors have extensive experience financing offshore wind projects, including successful financing of 3,600 MW of offshore wind projects and over 50,000 MW of onshore renewable energy projects, as further described in **Section 12.4**. Information regarding financing for several Sponsor projects like SouthCoast Wind is provided in **Table 5-4** below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Moray East, Moray West, Noirmoutier, and Dieppe Le Treport, summarized in **Table 5-4** and further detailed below, are similar in project size and technology to the Project. These projects were financed by the Sponsors in partnerships with other companies in the energy sector and demonstrate the financing experience and capabilities for the Project. An overview of these projects and their financing is provided below:

5.4.1 Moray East

Moray East is a 950 MW offshore wind project located off the Caithness Coast in Scotland. It reached Financial Close in 2018 and commercial operations in April 2020.

A long-term non-recourse project finance structure with a total facility amount of GBP 2.6 billion was used. Additional financing was secured for the offshore transmission infrastructure.

Ocean Winds' (EDPR and ENGIE's) share of equity in the project was financed through a combination of project finance and an equity bridge loan repaid at COD. A parent company guarantee from both sponsors backed the equity bridge loan.

The lender consortium comprised JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation); 16 Commercial Banks (including Santander, Société Générale, MUFG, SMBC, NAB, Bank of China, ING, Mizuho, Natixis, CACIB, Commerzbank, ICBC, SMTB, BBVA) and EKF, Denmark's Export Credit Agency.

The deal won the PFI Awards 2018: European Power Deal of the Year².

5.4.2 Moray West

Moray West is an 882 MW offshore wind project located off the coast of the Moray Council in the Moray Firth. The project will comprise 60 turbines of 14.7 MW and two substations. It reached Financial Close in April 2023.

The project used a long-term non-recourse project finance structure with a total facility amount of GBP 2 billion. Additional financing was secured for the offshore transmission infrastructure.

In addition to the project financing, Ocean Winds' (EDPR and ENGIE's) share of equity in the project was financed with an equity bridge loan that will be repaid at COD. The equity bridge loan was backed by a parent company guarantee from both sponsors.

² Additional information can be found at <http://www.morayoffshore.com/moray-east/the-project/>.

The lender consortium comprised EKSFIN (Norway Export Credit Agency) and 15 commercial banks (including Bank of China, CACIB, National Westminster Bank, Sumitomo, Lloyds Bank, Barclays Bank, Mizuho, Standard Chartered, KBC Bank, Commerzbank, BNPP, Siemens Bank, Credit Industriel et commercial, CIBC, and BBVA). The deal won the PFI Awards 2023: European Power Deal of the Year³.

5.4.3 Les Eoliennes en Mer des îles d'Yeu et de Noirmoutier

Eoliennes en Mer des îles d'Yeu et de Noirmoutier is a 500 MW project located near l'île de Noirmoutier in France. It reached Financial Close in May 2023.

The financing was structured around a long-term non-recourse project financing with total facilities amount of €2.6 billion, including ancillary facilities.

In addition to the project financing Ocean Winds' (EDPR and ENGIE's) share of equity in the project was financed with an equity bridge loan that will be repaid at COD. The equity bridge loan was backed by a parent company guarantee from both sponsors.

The lender consortium comprised JBIC; 15 commercial banks (including Santander, Société Générale, MUFG, SMBC, Natixis, CACIB, Rabobank, DZ Bank, Mizuho, Norinchukin, La Banque postale, Standard Chartered, National Westminster Bank, Caixabank; Mizuho); and BPI, French Export Credit Agency.

5.4.4 Les Eoliennes en Mer Dieppe Le Tréport

Les Eoliennes en Mer Dieppe Le Tréport is a 500 MW project located near Tréport, France. It reached Financial Close in May 2023.

The financing was structured around a long-term non-recourse project financing (18 year post COD) with total facilities amount of €2.7 billion, including ancillary facilities.

In addition to the project financing Ocean Winds' (EDPR and ENGIE's) share of equity in the project was financed with an equity bridge loan that will be repaid at COD. The equity bridge loan was backed by a parent company guarantee from both sponsors.

The lender consortium comprised JBIC; 15 commercial banks (including Santander, Société Générale, MUFG, SMBC, Natixis, CACIB, Rabobank, DZ Bank, Mizuho, Norinchukin, La Banque postale, Standard Chartered, National Westminster Bank, Caixabank; Mizuho); and BPI, French Export Credit Agency.

5.5 Financial Resource and Strength Evidence

5.5 Please provide evidence that the bidder has the financial resources and financial strength to complete and operate the project as planned, including contingencies for project delays or cost overruns.

³ Additional information can be found at <https://www.moraywest.com/about-us/project>

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors are global energy industry leaders and have the resources and financial strength to ensure it can deliver and operate the Project. Financial reports and credit ratings documenting the ‘Sponsors’ financial strength are provided in **Attachments 5-2** and **Attachment 5-3**.

5.5.1 OW Offshore, S.L.

Ocean Winds was formed in 2019 as a 50-50 JV partnership between EDP Renovaveis, S.A. and ENGIE SA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5.5.2 EDP Renovaveis, S.A.

EDP Renovaveis, S.A. (EDPR) is a multinational, vertically integrated utility company. Over its 44-year history, EDPR has become a global energy leader, operating in 20 countries on four continents. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5.5.3 ENGIE SA

ENGIE is a multinational energy company headquartered in La Défense, Courbevoie, France, with operations in electricity generation and distribution, natural gas, nuclear, renewable energy, and petroleum. Formed in 2008 by a merger of Gaz de France (GDF) and Suez, ENGIE provides power to 27 European countries and 48 countries worldwide. [REDACTED]

The main financials of ENGIE are included in **Table 5-7** below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.6 SouthCoast Wind’s History of Financial Difficulties

5.6 Please provide details of any financial difficulties by the bidder or any of its past or present affiliates which impaired the viability and/or financing of the development and construction of projects of similar type, size, and complexity of the proposed eligible project or other large scale renewable energy project, including any past terminated projects and claims of financial difficulties. Bidders must demonstrate how the proposed eligible project materially differs from any past projects and demonstrate fully the financial viability of the project as bid.

The extraordinary global economic conditions from the 83CIII award through the negotiated termination and amendment in August 2023 included unexpected and significant commodity price increases and supply shortages that were unforeseeable following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in March 2022. These changes materially increased the expected cost of financing and constructing the Project without contractual mechanisms to adjust. These unprecedented global economic conditions could not have been reasonably anticipated by SouthCoast Wind

and imposed insurmountable economic hardship on not only the Project, but the whole US Offshore Wind Industry. Furthermore, the cost of financing the Project changed dramatically and unexpectedly as interest rates had risen sharply, presenting significant challenges to the SouthCoast Wind Project’s economics.

SouthCoast Wind has taken the lessons outlined above and incorporated these learnings into this bid. Specifically, as discussed below, SouthCoast Wind has incorporated up to date prices and commercial conditions from the supply chain now consistent with the worldwide economic landscape and has developed a robust contingency approach to account for potential changes in procurement, market terms, and timelines. This contingency takes a balanced approach based on the best available market information whilst still protecting SouthCoast Wind against the exposure it will still hold between PPA award and COD throughput FID. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.7 SouthCoast Wind’s Forecast Changes in Costs, Interest Rates, & Commodity Prices

5.7 Describe the assumptions applied by Bidder regarding forecast changes in project costs during the contract term, interest rates over the development period, key input commodity prices, and the methodology used to establish the project contingency amount. Bidder must explain why these assumptions are reasonable and describe and quantify how the project as proposed is designed to absorb sufficient risk to ensure the project can be successfully financed at the proposed price, including the Indexing Adjustment, if applicable.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Table 5-11 shows previous members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Table 5-11. Previous Members of SouthCoast Wind’s Board of Directors and Executive Committee

Other Individuals on the Executive Committee during the Past 3 Years		
Position	Name	Dates
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Michael Brown	7/16/20 - 10/14/22
	Francis Slingsby	10/14/22 - 3/20/24
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Michael Brown	2/19/19 - 11/3/20
	Justin Johns	11/3/20-10/20/22
Finance Director	Justin Johns	10/20/22 - 3/20/24
Delivery Director	Jonathan Heneghan	12/1/20-12/20/21
	William Follett	12/20/21-10/20/22
Development Director & Project 2 Director	William Follett	10/20/22 - 3/24/23
Engineering Director	William Follett	8/10/20 - 10/20/22
External Affairs Director	Seth Kaplan	8/1/20 - 10/1/21
	Daniel Hubbard	10/1/21 - 6/26/23
Permitting Director	Susan Childs	8/3/20 - 2/11/22
Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Director	Peter Sutton	10/14/22-9/18/23

5.9.1.1 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of six members designated by Ocean Winds. Each Director brings unique capabilities and complementary skills to steer the Project and support

the Executive Committee and the wider Project team. For additional information on the Board of Directors, please refer to **Section 12 Project Management/Experience**.

Key capabilities brought by Ocean Winds:

- U.S. grid connection and regulations expertise
- U.S. permitting and environmental mitigation expertise
- European and Asian offshore wind development, construction, and operation experience
- Offshore logistics and engineering complemented with European offshore wind experience

5.9.1.2 *Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee comprises seven individuals appointed by Ocean Winds with decades of combined professional experience, primarily in executing offshore energy projects of equivalent size and complexity and in community engagement for large-scale wind and other energy projects. For additional information on the Executive Committee, please refer to **Section 12**.

A detailed biography of SouthCoast Wind 's Directors, members of the Executive Committee, and key personnel of the Project team is provided in **Section 12**.

5.10 SouthCoast Wind's Demonstrated Ability to Provide Security

5.10 The bidder should demonstrate its ability (and/or the ability of its credit support provider) to provide the required security, including its plan for doing so.

SouthCoast Wind will provide the required security by Letter of Credit from a bank, aligned with the requirements of each state's RFP. Ocean Winds has extensive relationships with several large commercial banks to provide credit support for their obligations, including credit support provided under their numerous PPAs.

SouthCoast Wind maintained the required level of development period security for the MA 83CII and MA 83CIII PPAs without issue and through termination. SouthCoast Wind has been proactively communicating with the EDCs in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut to ensure that securities are posted correctly and in a timely manner. SouthCoast Wind will continue to proactively engage with its financial partners, advisors, and the EDCs through the entire approval and award processes.

5.11 SouthCoast Wind’s Credit

5.11 Provide a description of any current or recent credit issues/ credit rating downgrade events regarding the bidder or affiliate entities raised by rating agencies, banks, or accounting firms.

Neither SouthCoast Wind, Ocean Winds, nor any subsidiary of Ocean Winds have currently or recently been subject to a credit issue/credit downgrade event, nor any issues raised by rating agencies, banks, or accounting firms.

5.12 Role of Federal Production Tax Credit and Investment Tax Credit in Project Financing

5.12 Describe the role of the Federal Production Tax Credit (“PTC”) or Investment Tax Credit (ITC”), and any other incentives, on the financing of the project In your response, please describe (a) your plan to qualify for the ITC/PTC and the level of the ITC/PTC for which you plan to qualify, (b) the facilities, investment in which, the ITC is expected to apply, (c) your plan to utilize the tax credits and the relationship to your financing plan, and (d) how qualification for the ITC/PTC is reflected in your proposed pricing.

[Redacted content]

[REDACTED]

5.13 Availability of Federal or State Tax Credits, Subsidies, or Grants or Other Incentives Assumptions

5.13 Bidders must clearly state their assumptions regarding the availability of federal or state tax credits, subsidies, or grants or other incentives, including but not limited to those available under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2022.

As demonstrated above, SouthCoast Wind is dedicated to maximizing the use of all tax credits available, whether they are listed out in the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as well as any current or future beneficial legislation. Through multi-years of engagement and adviser support, SouthCoast Wind considers that it is currently accommodating all reasonable tax benefits which would be prudent to consider at this time.

5.14 Federal Domestic Content and Labor Requirements

5.14 Bidders should describe any plans to meet federal domestic content and labor requirements in order to maximize federal tax credits available to the project under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Bidders should also describe plans to pursue state funding available to offshore wind projects through MassCEC.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Additionally, the Project includes the requirements into all contract language and RFP language when addressing the market and potential suppliers. SouthCoast Wind along with its sponsors will constantly monitor any changes or adjustments to the legislation to achieve the requirements.

SouthCoast Wind will continually monitor and evaluate the availability of all possible funding sources, including the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and Build America, Buy America. The Build America, Buy America Act only applies to projects receiving Federal Financial Assistance as that term is defined in 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200.1. This proposal does not include a plan to apply for or receive Federal Financial Assistance. SouthCoast Wind will utilize the Federal Investment Tax Credit described in 26 United States Code (U.S.C.) 48 and 26 U.S.C. 48E, as applicable. The Build America, Buy America Act does not apply to the Federal Investment Tax Credit.

[REDACTED]

5.15 Pending or Past Litigation or Disputes

5.15 Bidders must disclose any litigation or disputes in the last three year period related to projects developed, owned or managed by Bidder or any of its affiliates in the United States, or related to any energy product sale agreement.

[Redacted]

5.16 Project Operating Life

5.16 What is the expected operating life of the proposed project? What is the depreciation period for all substantial physical aspects of the bid, including generation facilities, delivery facilities to move power to the grid, and mandatory and voluntary transmission system upgrades?

The expected operating life of the Project is 33 years, with all major components of the facility having a useful life well beyond the 20-year PPA term. Through an adequate O&M strategy the project can be operated for 33 years at least. **Table 5-12** details the assumed tax depreciation of offshore wind project components.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

5.17 Financing Status

5.17 Has the bidder already obtained financing, or a commitment of financing, for the project? If financing has not been obtained, explain how obtaining a long-term agreement as proposed will help you in obtaining financing for the proposed project, in obtaining more favorable terms for the financing of the proposed project, or in supporting the future capital investment.

[REDACTED]

5.18 Other Agreements' Status for this Project

5.18 State whether the bidder or its affiliates have executed agreements with respect to energy, RECs and/or capacity for the proposed project (including any agreements that have been terminated) and provide information regarding the associated term and quantities, and whether bidder has been alleged to have defaulted under or breached any such agreement. State whether the bidder or its affiliates have submitted proposals to other buyers, the status of consideration of such proposals, and the impact of such proposal(s), if they result in an executed contract or contracts, on the proposal(s) submitted in response to this RFP.

Over the last few years, the energy industry has experienced significant cost increases and supply chain challenges from external factors, namely the effects of a global pandemic and a war in Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine created an energy supply crisis for all of Europe, which triggered rapid increases in energy costs and new energy security challenges. The effects of inflation and a European energy crisis - embodied in both supply chain costs and project finance costs - have shocked renewable projects and increased energy costs for customers.

Offshore wind developers have been particularly impacted by the unforeseen and unprecedented cost increases from supply chain disruptions, inflation, and financing, in addition to the costs of permitting and interconnecting into the electric grid. It takes years to acquire an offshore lease area, secure a state contract, reach financial close, obtain permits, and commence construction. For SouthCoast Wind and other developers, dynamics related to inflation for goods and services, interest rates, supply chain and macroeconomic factors materially changed during development, rendering the projects unfinanceable with PPAs that did not account for such material changes.

SouthCoast Wind requested termination of its 2020 and 2022 PPAs (see history below) having concluded the projects were not economically financeable with the PPAs in place based on its projections of construction and operating costs and available financing at the time of the

termination. The economic circumstances leading to this conclusion are not unique to SouthCoast Wind or Massachusetts or even offshore wind. Large-scale renewable developers across the Northeast have reached the same conclusion and sought to renegotiate, terminate or walk away from state commitments in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. To address these unforeseen and unprecedented circumstances, New York offered an accelerated offshore wind procurement with a clear termination process for existing state contracts. Through this process, NY re-awarded 1,700 MW of contracts to Sunrise Wind and Empire 1, recognizing the importance of preserving early projects to sustaining the industry and meeting the state's climate mandates.

Neither SouthCoast nor its affiliates have executed agreements or submitted proposals to other buyers with respect to energy generated by the Project.

The history of SouthCoast's 2020 and 2022 PPAs is described below:

After a successful selection in 2019 by the Massachusetts EDCs through the solicitation process established by Section 83CII of the Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2019 (the "GCA"), SouthCoast Wind entered 20-year PPAs with Eversource Energy, National Grid and Utilil in January 2020 for the sale of 804 MWs (the "83CII PPAs"). In November 2020, the Massachusetts DPU issued an order approving the 83CII PPAs, and following an appeal process they were finally approved in June 2021. The 83CII PPAs were amended in May 2022 to change the point of interconnection to Brayton Point and memorialize prior commitments as well as to update critical project milestones. In December 2021, SouthCoast Wind was awarded 405 MWs in PPAs by the Massachusetts EDCs through the solicitation process established by Section 83CIII of the GCA and executed PPAs with the EDCs in April 2022 (the "83CIII PPAs"). On August 23, 2023, SouthCoast Wind entered into mutual termination agreements with Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company d/b/a Utilil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("EDCs"). These voluntary and mutual agreements terminated power purchase agreements ("PPAs") approved in 2020 and 2022 in exchange for termination payments totaling more than \$60 million. The Department of Public Utilities stamp approved the agreements on September 29, 2023. Singling out SouthCoast Wind for adverse treatment on the basis of exercising its legal rights would be discriminatory. Solicitations under Section 83C should ensure an open, fair, and transparent solicitation and bid selection process. The 2020 and 2022 PPAs have been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of SouthCoast Wind and the EDCs, including financial damages per the contract terms, and their termination approved by the Department of Public Utilities.

5.19 Affiliated Entities

5.19 List all of the Bidder's affiliated entities and joint ventures transacting business in the energy sector.

[REDACTED]

5.20 Bankruptcy and Insolvency

5.20 Has Bidder, or any affiliate of Bidder, in the last five years, (a) consented to the appointment of, or been taken in possession by, a receiver, trustee, custodian or liquidator of a substantial part of its assets, (b) filed a bankruptcy petition in any bankruptcy court proceeding, (c) answered, consented or sought relief under any bankruptcy or similar law or failed to obtain a dismissal of an involuntary petition, (d) admitted in writing of its inability to pay its debts when due, (e) made a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, (f) been the subject of an involuntary proceeding seeking to adjudicate that Party bankrupt or insolvent, (g) sought reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, or composition of it or its debt under any law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization or relief of debtors?

Neither SouthCoast Wind nor any Sponsor of SouthCoast Wind has undertaken any of the actions described in clauses (a) through (g), inclusive.

5.21 Conflicts of Interest

5.21 Briefly describe any known conflicts of interest between Bidder or an affiliate of Bidder and any Distribution Company, or any affiliates of the foregoing.

SouthCoast Wind is not aware of any conflicts of interest between SouthCoast Wind or its Sponsors and any Distribution Company, any affiliates of any Distribution Company, any entity on the Evaluation Team, and any affiliate of any entity on the Evaluation team.

5.22 Litigation

5.22 Describe any litigation, disputes, claims, complaints or notices of violation or potential violation involving the project or other offshore wind projects involving the Bidder or an affiliate of the Bidder.

SouthCoast Wind currently knows of no material litigation, disputes, claims, complaints, or notices of violation or potential violation involving SouthCoast Wind or any other subsidiary of Ocean Winds NA.

5.23 Previous Failures to Reach COD

5.23 Describe any failures to achieve commercial operation dates under other PPAs. Bidders should also provide a credible description of how the current proposed project will avoid similar project delays or development issues.

Please refer to **Section 5.18**.

5.24 Litigation with Distribution Companies

5.24 Describe any litigation, disputes, claims or complaints involving the Bidder or an affiliate of Bidder, against any Distribution Company or any affiliate of any Distribution Company.

SouthCoast Wind is not involved in litigation proceedings, disputes, claims, or complaints involving SouthCoast Wind or an affiliate of SouthCoast Wind against any Massachusetts EDC, Rhode Island Energy or any affiliate of Rhode Island Energy, or against any Connecticut EDC or the Connecticut Evaluation Team or any affiliate.

5.25 Litigation Involving Energy, Capacity, RECs or Products

5.25 Describe any litigation, disputes, claims or complaints, or events of default or other failure to satisfy contract obligations, or failure to deliver products, involving Bidder or an affiliate of Bidder, and relating to the purchase or sale of energy, capacity or renewable energy certificates or products.

SouthCoast Wind currently knows of no material litigation, disputes, claims or complaints, or events of default or other material failure to satisfy contract obligations, or failure to deliver products involving SouthCoast Wind or any other subsidiary of Ocean Winds.

5.26 Ongoing Investigations or Convictions

5.26 Confirm that neither Bidder nor any directors, employees or agents of Bidder, nor any affiliate of Bidder are currently under investigation by any governmental agency, and that none of the above have in the last four years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by State or Federal law in any jurisdiction involving conspiracy, collusion or other impropriety with respect to bidding on any contract, or have been the subject of any debarment action (detail any exceptions).

SouthCoast Wind confirms that no director, employee, agent, or affiliate of SouthCoast Wind is currently under investigation by any government agency; nor has any director, employee, agent, or affiliate of SouthCoast Wind been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by state or federal law in any U.S. jurisdiction involving conspiracy, collusion, or other impropriety with respect to bidding on any contract; nor has any director, employee, agent, or affiliate been the subject of any debarment action.

5.27 Regulatory Approvals Required to Execute Binding Sale

5.27 Identify all regulatory and other approvals needed by Bidder to execute a binding sale agreement.

SouthCoast Wind will require customary internal company and Sponsor approvals for execution of a final PPA. Such approval will be initiated during the negotiation process, if selected.

However, for any executed sale agreement to become binding, SouthCoast Wind will require at least two regulatory approvals. The first is the approval of the Long-Term Contracts, Rate Schedules, and Tariffs and associated cost recovery by all the relevant State utility regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over any capacity awarded to SouthCoast Wind. In the event of a multistate award, all State utility regulatory agencies must approve for all agreements to become binding. The second is, for rates that fall under federal authority, their approval by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pursuant to the Federal Power Act.

5.28 FERC Compliance

5.28 Describe how the project will conform to FERC's applicable regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to, FERC requirements relating to allocation of transmission capacity and open access, the justness and reasonableness of rates, the potential for undue preference or discrimination, and affiliate dealings, if any. Describe how your proposed approach is consistent with FERC precedent and ratemaking principles.



[REDACTED]

5.29 Bidder’s Relationship with Distribution Companies

5.29 Describe and document any and all direct and indirect affiliations and affiliate relationships, contractual, financial or otherwise in the past three years between the bidder and one or more of the Distribution Companies and their affiliates, including all relationships in which one of the Distribution Companies or their affiliates has a financial or voting interest (direct or indirect) in the bidder or the bidder’s proposed project. These relationships include:

- Corporate or other joint arrangements, joint ventures, joint operations whether control exists or not;
- Minority ownership (50% or less investee);
- Joint development agreements;
- Project agreements;
- Operating segments that are consolidated as part of the financial reporting process;
- Related parties with common ownership;
- Credit, debenture, and financing arrangements, whether a convertible equity feature is present or not;
- Wholly owned subsidiaries; and
- Commercial (including real property) relationships with any Distribution Company

SouthCoast Wind knows of no direct or indirect affiliations or affiliate relationships, financial or otherwise, of any of the types described in the section above in the past three years with any of the Distribution Companies or their affiliates participating in this solicitation.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SECTION 6 SITING, INTERCONNECTION, AND DELIVERABILITY

Section Overview

This section of the proposal addresses project location, siting, real property rights and interconnection issues. Bidders should ensure that the threshold criteria outlined in Section 2.2.2 of the RFP are verified in their responses.

SouthCoast Wind is build-ready and primed to deliver on the region’s decarbonization goals by transforming a brownfield site into the renewable energy resource that our local communities demand. SouthCoast Wind's core values include minimizing impacts on the environment and neighboring communities through careful siting, interconnection, and delivery. Building on community input and our core values, [REDACTED] has the following strategic advantages:

- **Repurpose the Brayton Point Power Station** as the site of the onshore converter station and final export cable landfall. Ratepayers will benefit from the Energy Communities Bonus in the IRA, and the local community will see an underutilized site once again contributing to the tax base.
- **Minimize Impacts on the Community** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This prudent planning measure minimizes siting, costs, and environmental and community impacts to meet future clean energy needs.
- **Community Support** from an enduring presence in the region, with long-standing relationships throughout the south coast of New England. SouthCoast Wind executed a host community agreement (HCA) with Portsmouth, Rhode Island, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] These HCAs benefit the Project’s neighbors and derisk permitting.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

- **Executed Interconnection Agreements** with ISO New England, Inc. (ISO-NE) and National Grid demonstrates interconnection maturity and commitment to deliver clean energy to New England.
- **Advanced Grid Connection with Minimal Upgrades** identified directly by ISO-NE in applicable Interconnection Studies. Less upgrades mean they can be completed quickly and significantly reduce the risk of delay.

6.1 Site Plan

6.1 Provide a site plan (or plans) including a map (or maps) that clearly identifies the location of the proposed project site, Offshore Delivery Facilities project locations, the assumed right-of-way width, the total acreage for Eligible Facilities, the anticipated interconnection point (or, if applicable, multiple interconnection points), the related onshore and offshore transmission and interconnection facilities, deployment facilities, and the relationship of the site to other local infrastructure, including transmission facilities, roadways, federal and state waters, and waterways. In addition to providing the required map(s), provide a site layout plan which illustrates the location of all major equipment and facilities described above.

Plan included? Yes No If not, please explain:

Describe how the proposed project is sized and designed to efficiently and cost-effectively use available lease area(s), interconnection point(s), transmission cabling, and other infrastructure required for the production and delivery of the Offshore Wind Energy Generation.

6.1.1 Project Location and Delivery Facilities

The Project will generate offshore wind energy from within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)-A 0521 Lease Area in federal waters.

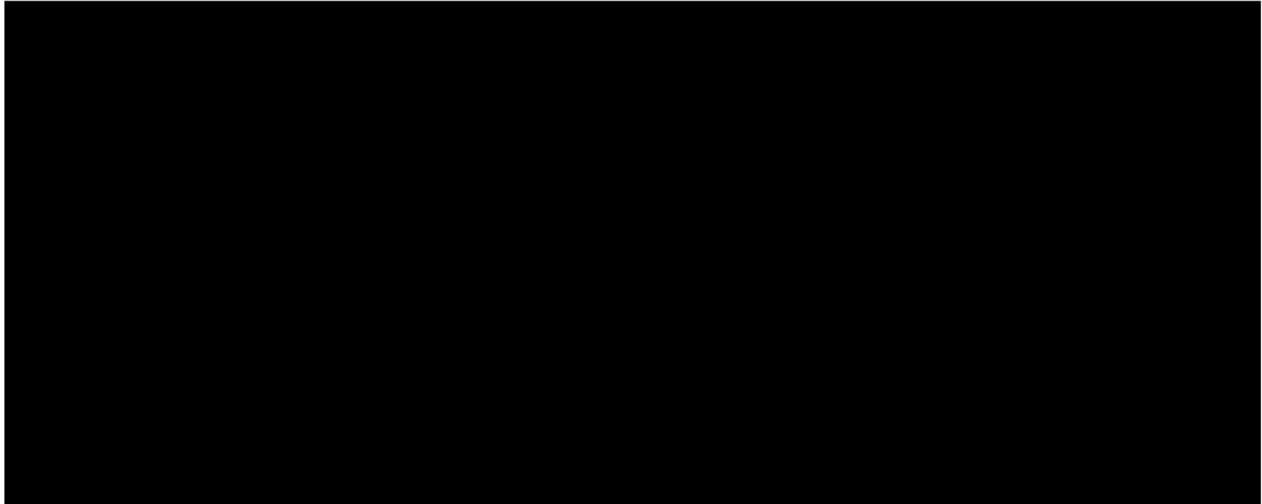
[Redacted]

The export cable route runs from the Lease Area in federal waters through Rhode Island Sound and the Sakonnet River. From the Sakonnet River, the route proceeds with an intermediate landfall on Aquidneck Island in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, continuing into Mount Hope Bay and making final landfall at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts.

All Project transmission assets in Somerset, Massachusetts, are sited at Brayton Point. This approximately 300-acre (ac) (121-hectare [ha]) brownfield site was formerly occupied by the Brayton Point Power Station, a 1,600-MW coal-burning power plant that operated at the site for over 50 years. Brayton Point was selected as the Project’s Point of Interconnection (POI) and onshore HVDC converter station location because it offers significant injection capacity and

many other siting benefits, discussed further in **Section 6.1.2**. The onshore converter station converts the power delivered by the export cable from ± 320 kV HVDC to 345 kV HVAC. From the onshore converter station, 345-kV HVAC interconnection cables will route a short distance (0.2 miles) to the existing National Grid Substation at Brayton Point, the POI for the Project.

The Project delivery facilities are depicted in **Figure 6-1**.



SouthCoast Wind prepared a series of maps demonstrating the advanced stage of siting efforts for the Project facilities. **Figure 6-2** provides a map of the proposed facilities, illustrating the layout of all major equipment from the Lease Area to the onshore POI with ISO-NE Pool Transmission Facilities. **Figure 6-3** and **Figure 6-4** show the Project's onshore transmission siting. **Section 6.2.1** discusses the statuses of property agreements; additional mapping of nearby land use, infrastructure, wetlands, and flood zones is provided in **Attachment 6-1** and described further in **Section 6.4**.

The Project's export cable route crosses federal and state jurisdictions, where SouthCoast Wind is in the mature stages of securing permits and site control, discussed further in **Section 6.2.1**. A summary of the export cable route segments is provided in **Table 6-1**. The Project routing results from a comprehensive and thoughtful siting effort focused on minimizing environmental impacts and costs while prioritizing deliverability and reliability.







6.1.2 Point of Interconnection

The existing National Grid 345-kV Brayton Point Substation in Somerset, Massachusetts, is SouthCoast Wind's POI. The Brayton Point Substation is classified as a Pool Transmission Facility (PTF). It is considered by ISO-NE to be one of the most robust interconnection points for offshore wind in Southern New England.

Brayton Point enables a low-cost injection of [REDACTED] of offshore wind into the ISO-NE transmission system by reusing existing 345-kV infrastructure. SouthCoast Wind's interconnection at the POI requires minimal grid upgrades, repurposes a brownfield site, provides ready access for landfall export cables connecting to the Lease Area, and supplies investment and economic development in the community through jobs and a long-term tax base.



Brayton Point (Figure 6-5) is a 300-ac (121-ha) brownfield site on a peninsula surrounded by Mount Hope Bay, the Lee River, and the Taunton River. The Project represents an essential part of the regional vision to revitalize Brayton Point into a renewable energy hub.



Figure 6-5. National Grid Brayton Point Substation, the Project's Point of Interconnection

6.1.3 Efficient and Cost-Effective Transmission Design

[REDACTED]

The Project’s export cable route up the Sakonnet River to Brayton Point is the product of careful analysis considering route length, offshore physical hazards, existing submarine cables, economic and recreational use areas, protected marine areas, and availability/capacity at existing POIs. The short, intermediate onshore crossing of Aquidneck Island avoids a narrow, constrained portion of the North Sakonnet River with tight bridge abutments (Old Stone Bridge), severe scour, and frequent mooring fields. Safe, long-term burial of export cables up the North Sakonnet would be challenging and costly. **Attachment 6-2** provides further analysis of routing considerations in this area. The Project’s onshore, underground crossing of Aquidneck Island follows public roadways and avoids dense residential areas within Portsmouth.

Maps of the onshore components depict the underground cable route on Aquidneck Island, including one route variant (**Figure 6-3**) and the onshore Project components at Brayton Point (**Figure 6-4**).

[REDACTED]

Table 6-2 below provides information about the footprint of Project facilities. Descriptions note how key facilities are efficiently planned for use by two projects delivering to ISO-NE. These facilities are also included as figures in **Attachment 6-1**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

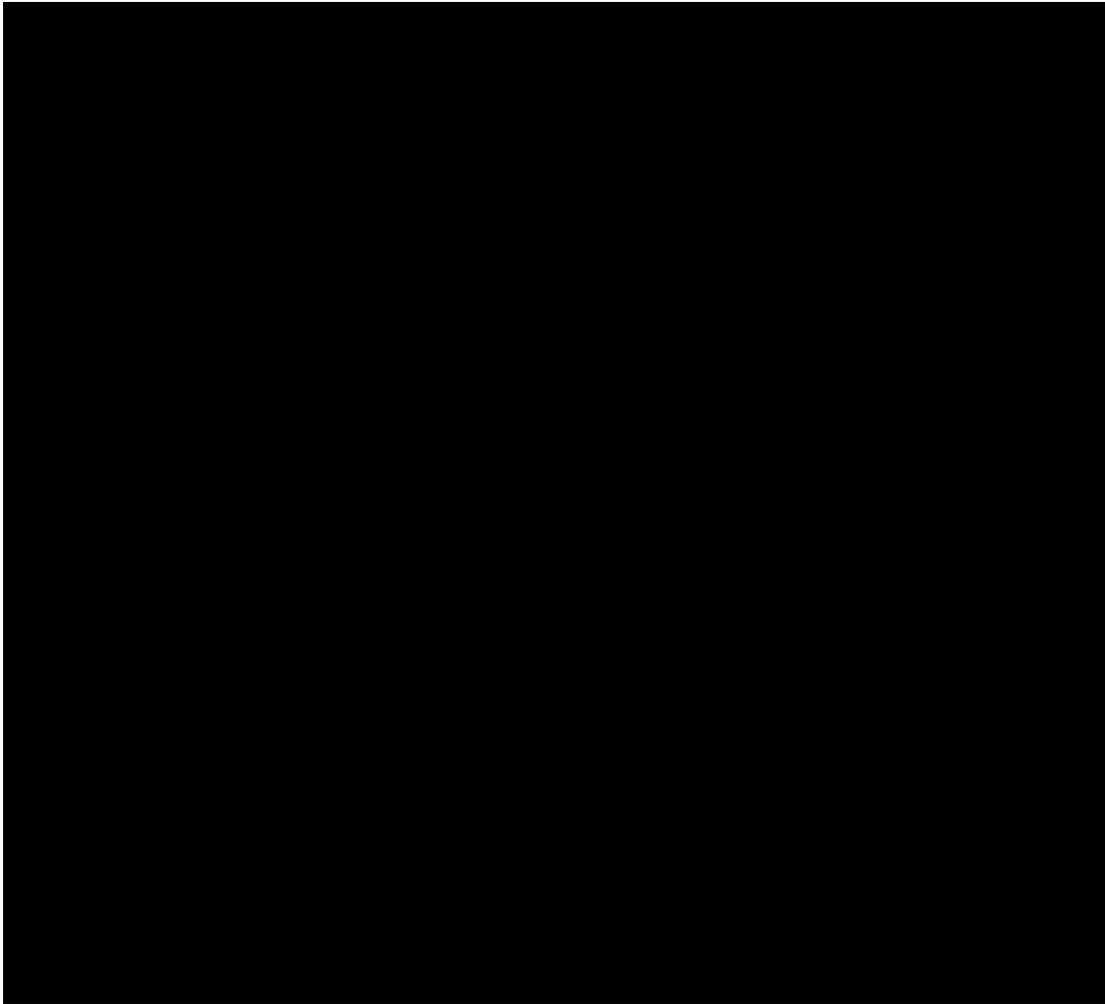
6.1.4 Alternative Routes

SouthCoast Wind evaluated multiple POIs before selecting Brayton Point as the most deliverable and mature. The selected Project route was determined to be the lowest-impact solution to reach Brayton Point.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[Redacted text block consisting of several lines of blacked-out content]

[Redacted text block consisting of several lines of blacked-out content]

[REDACTED]

6.2 Real Property Rights

6.2 Identify any real property rights (e.g., fee-owned parcels, rights-of-way, development rights or easements or leases, or options to purchase or lease) that provide the right to use the Eligible Facility site and Offshore Delivery Facilities locations including for Eligible Facilities and any rights of way needed for interconnection.

i. Does the project have a right to use the Eligible Facility site and/or Offshore Delivery Facilities locations for the entire proposed term of the PPA (e.g., by virtue of ownership or land development rights obtained from the owner)?

Yes No If not, please explain:

ii. If so, please detail the Bidder’s rights to control the Eligible Facility site and/or Offshore Delivery Facilities and interconnection locations.

iii. Describe the status of acquisition of real property rights, any options in place for the exercise of these rights and describe the plan for securing the necessary real property rights, including the proposed timeline. Include these plans and the timeline in the overall project timeline.

iv. Identify any joint use of existing or proposed real property rights

v. Provide a copy of each of the leases, agreements, including option agreements, easements, rights of way and related documents granting the right to use the Offshore Wind Energy Generation site, Offshore Delivery Facilities, and transmission and interconnection locations (and applicable letters of intent if formal agreements have not been executed).

SouthCoast Wind has secured rights to develop an offshore wind farm in Lease Area OCS-A 0521 through a competitive federal lease process (**Attachment 6-4**). These rights will be maintained for the term of the PPA.

The Project secured the majority of critical onshore property rights needed to develop and operate for the entire term of the PPA and beyond, and remaining efforts to obtain site control are on schedule. This section will cover:

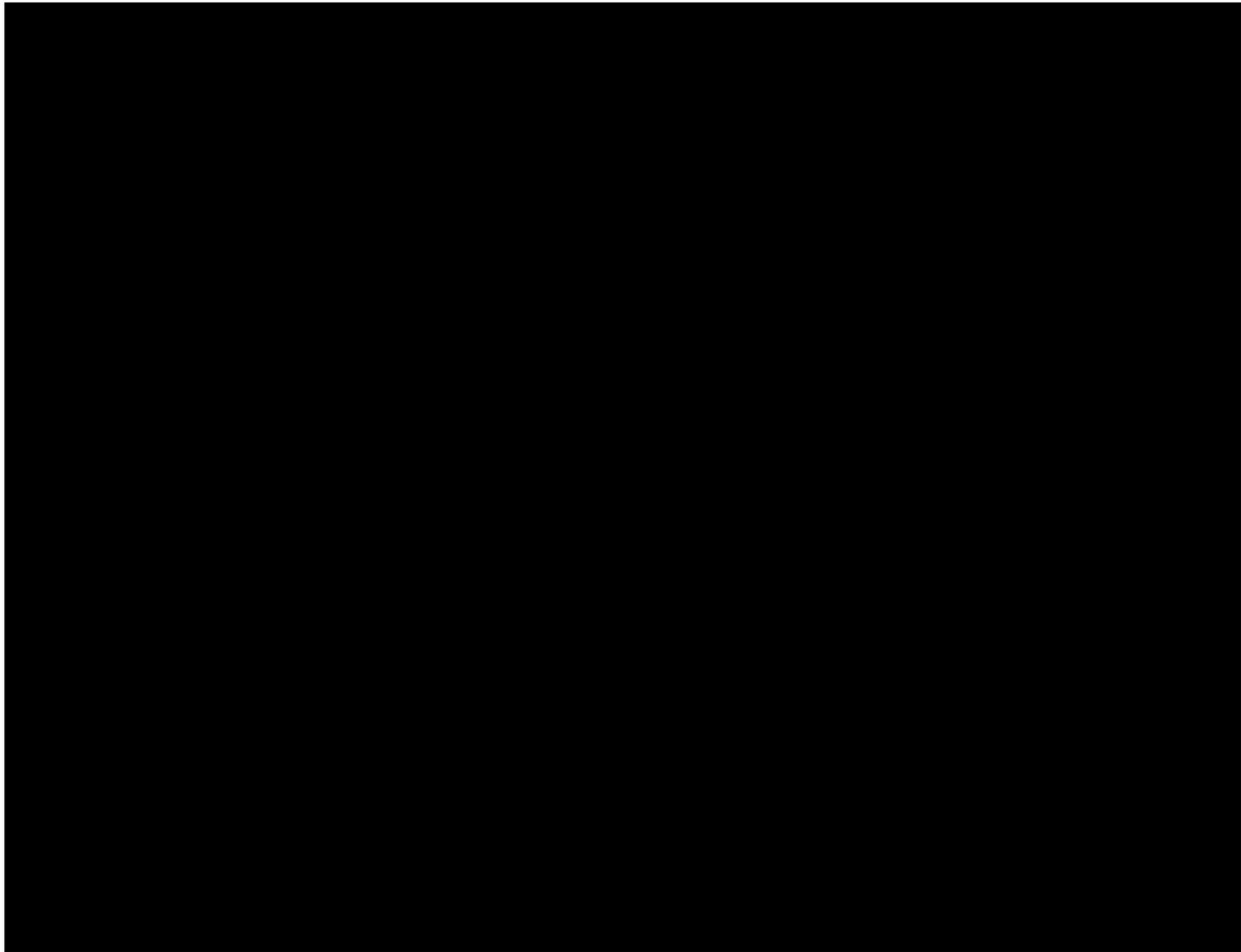
- The status of property rights, permitting, and zoning for the transmission and interconnection facilities.
- The status of the port facilities agreements for construction and O&M.

6.2.1 Transmission and Interconnection Facilities

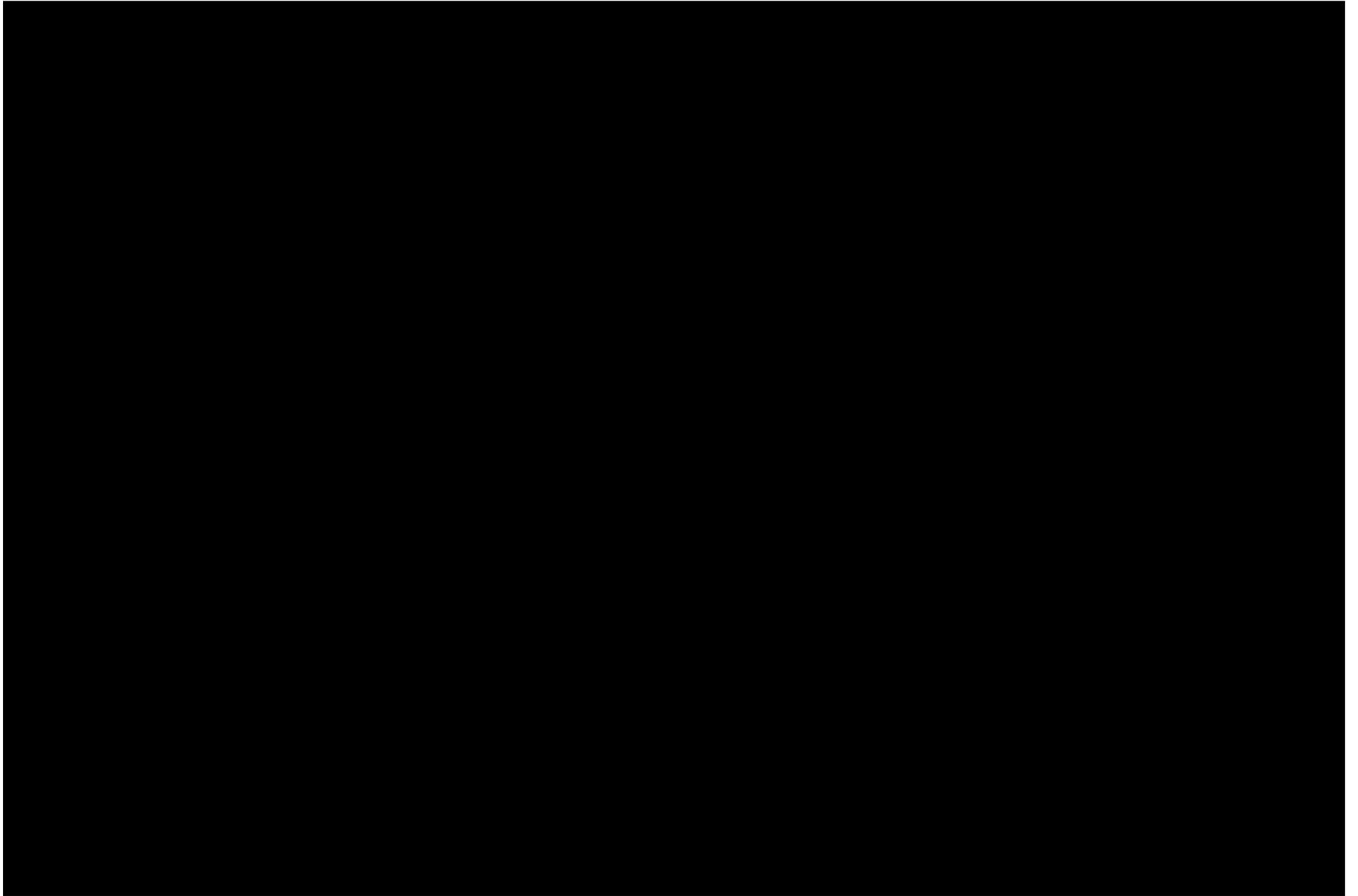
The Project's transmission facilities pass through a few key jurisdictions labeled along the delivery route in **Figure 6-7**. The status of acquisition, planning, permitting, and zoning for securing all necessary rights (including real property) is detailed in **Table 6-3**, which uses a numbering scheme that correlates to **Figure 6-7**. As federal and state waters are public, approval of the permits described in **Section 7, Environmental Assessment, Permit Acquisition Plan, And Environmental Attributes Certification** grants SouthCoast Wind the rights to build, operate, and maintain the interconnection facilities offshore. These activities are all on track.

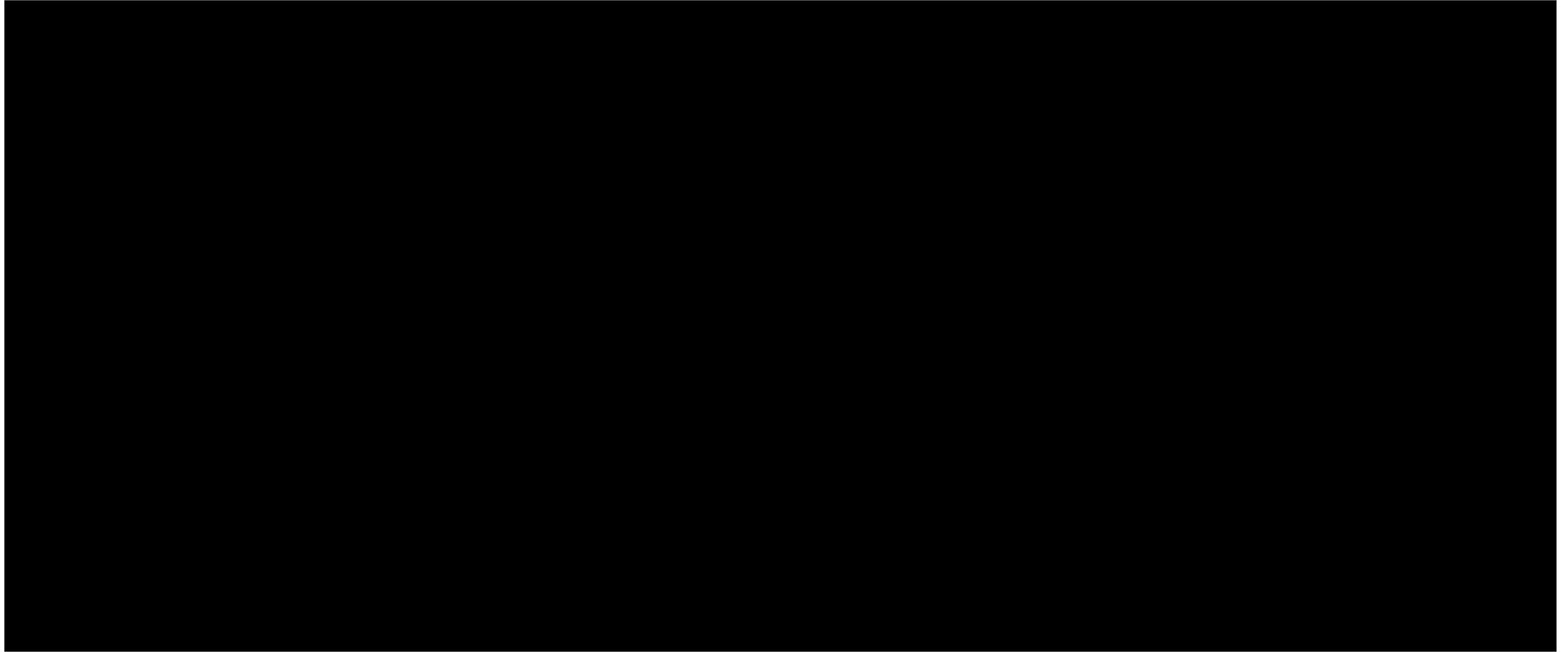
The Project's onshore, underground crossing of Aquidneck Island follows public roadways wherever possible and avoids passing through dense residential areas. Sections of applicable roadways are controlled by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT). In December 2023, RIDOT initiated a preliminary review with all sections of the agency. SouthCoast Wind is on track to secure an easement one year prior to the commencement of construction per RIDOT's required timelines. SouthCoast Wind has an HCA in place with Portsmouth, Rhode Island, covering sections of roadway owned by the Town. The Portsmouth Town Council voted on and approved the agreement at a special public meeting held on January 16, 2024 (**Attachment 6-5**). The HCA defines a collaborative, non-oppositional process for Town involvement in Project siting and construction. It locks in the Project's payments to the community, providing certainty via fixed payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for the first ten years after the start of construction. The funding will support Town efforts to fund climate resiliency or other beneficial projects in the community.











[REDACTED]

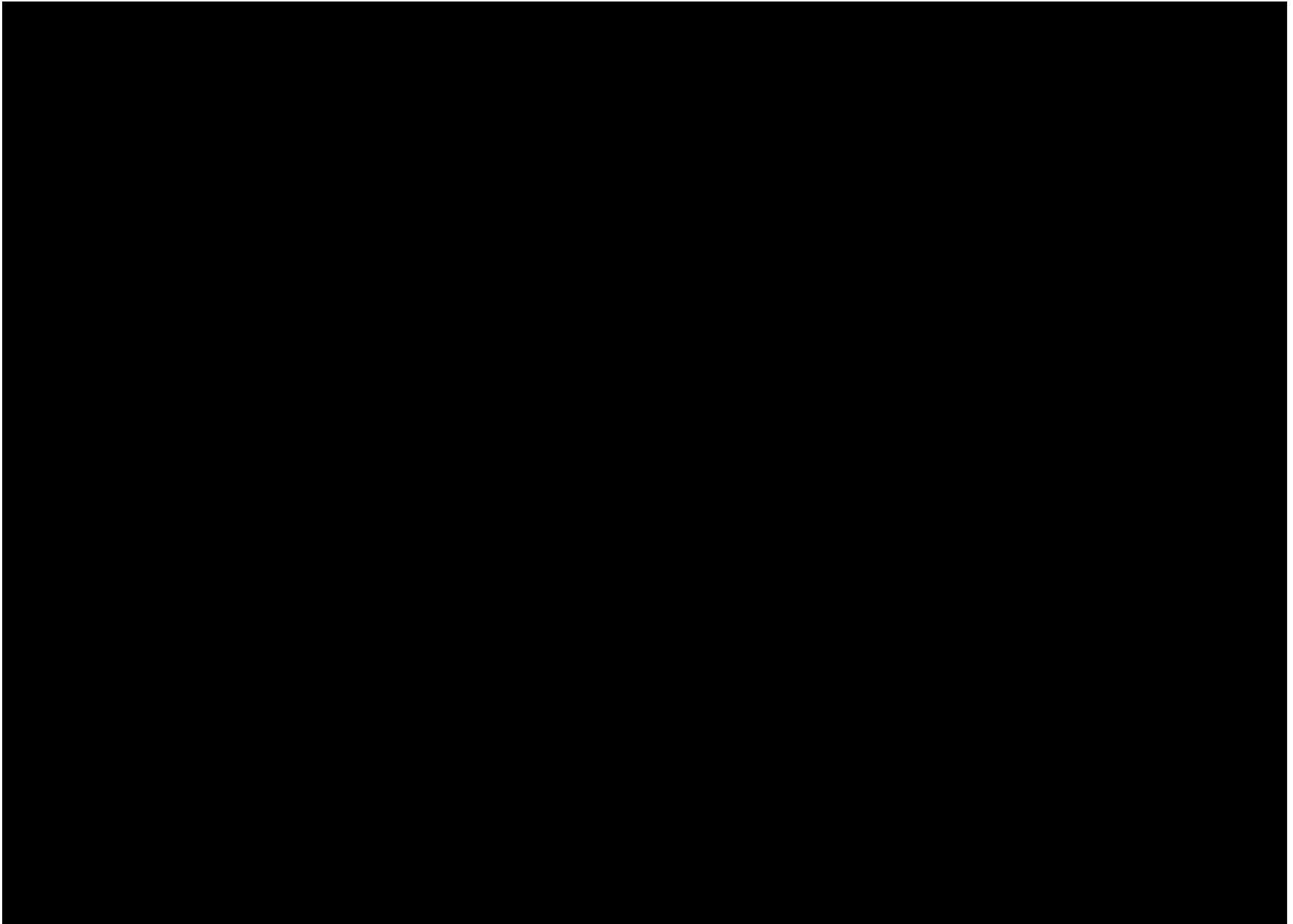
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.3 Zoning and Permitting Evidence

6.3 Provide evidence that the Eligible Facility site and Offshore Delivery Facilities and interconnection locations are properly zoned or permitted. If the Eligible Facility site and Offshore Delivery Facilities and interconnection locations are not currently zoned or permitted properly, identify present and required zoning and/or land use designations and permits and provide a permitting plan and timeline to secure the necessary approvals.

Detail the zoning and permitting issues:

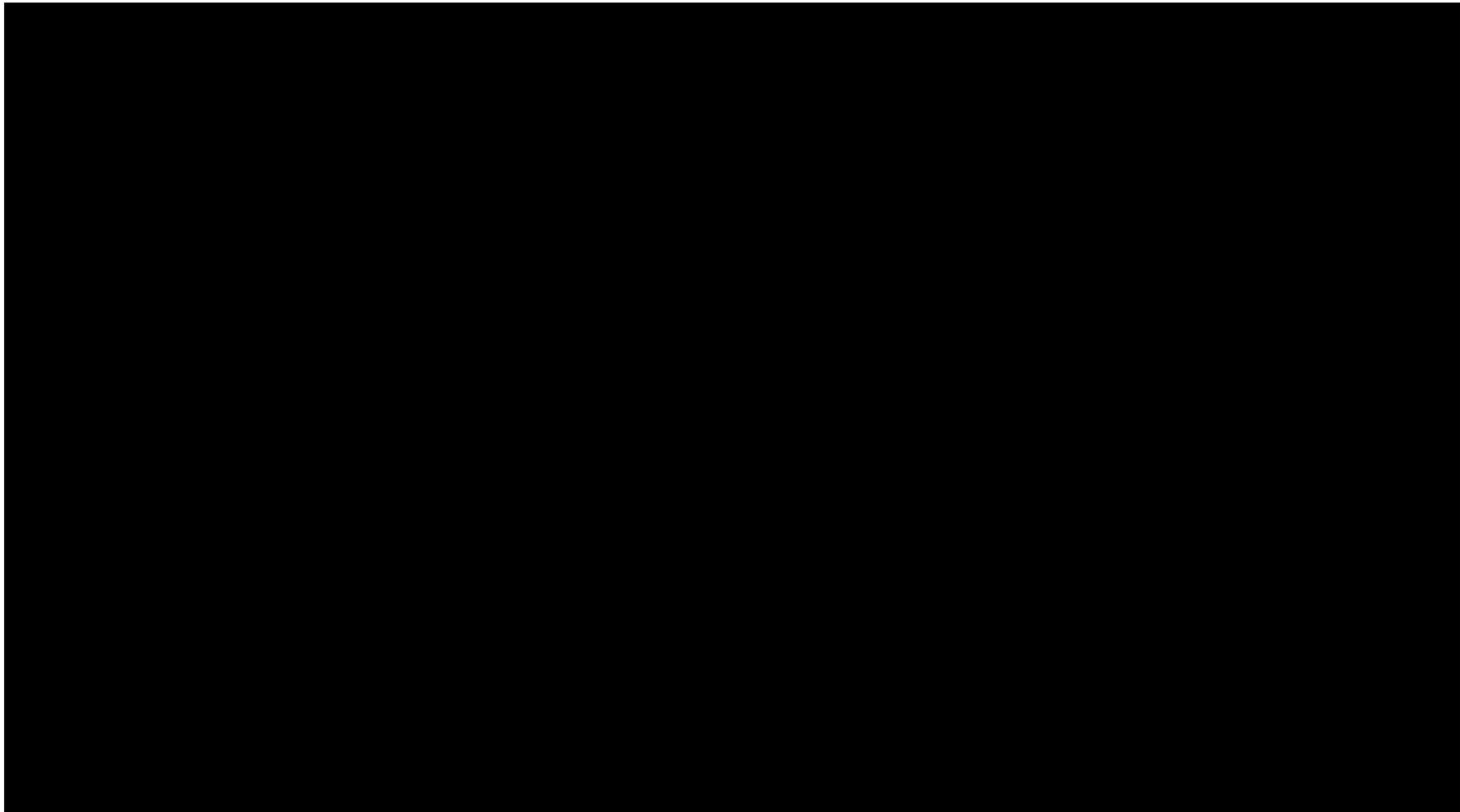
Permitting plan and timeline:

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

SouthCoast Wind is on track and in advanced stages for all local, state, and federal zoning and permit applications needed for all offshore and onshore Project components. [REDACTED]

The proposed uses for the onshore parcels are consistent with the historical uses and zoning ordinances, and no new zoning enactments or significant changes are anticipated for the construction and operation of the Project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please refer to **Section 6.4** for more information on the surrounding area and zoning and **Section 7** for further details on specific permit reviews, approvals, status, and timeline.



6.4 Description of Project Site and Surrounding Area

6.4 Provide a description of the area surrounding the Eligible Facility site and Offshore Delivery Facilities and interconnection locations (including landfall), including a description of the local zoning, flood plain information, existing land or waterway use, and setting.

SouthCoast Wind will HDD all transitions between the offshore and onshore components of the Project to avoid impacts on coastal resource areas such as barrier beaches, coastal beaches, coastal banks, and rocky intertidal shores. Project cables will be buried, and the onshore route is sited to avoid dense residential areas, instead utilizing public roadways and industrial property. This section will cover:

- Description of the onshore area surrounding Portsmouth, Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island) transmission facilities and Somerset, Massachusetts.
- Summary of outreach efforts in South Coast communities.
- Summary of the onshore area surrounding port facilities

6.4.1 Intermediate Landfall at Aquidneck Island

The intermediate landfall in Portsmouth, Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island) passes near land that is zoned as Commercial (C) and Residential (R-10 and R-20). In Rhode Island, zoning approvals are pre-empted by the Rhode Island EFSB. Advisory Opinions are required from the Portsmouth Zoning Board of Review, Planning Board, and Portsmouth Town Council regarding zoning considerations.

The onshore export cable route and HDD construction areas run along transportation corridors (state and local roadways) located within the coastal community of the Town of Portsmouth, interspersed with areas of upland development and bordered by coastal and freshwater wetlands. Representative photographs along the onshore route are shown in **Figure 6-10**, and mapping of nearby land use, infrastructure, wetlands, and flood zones is provided in **Attachment 6-1**. Any construction near wetlands will follow the protocols required by the permitting agencies.

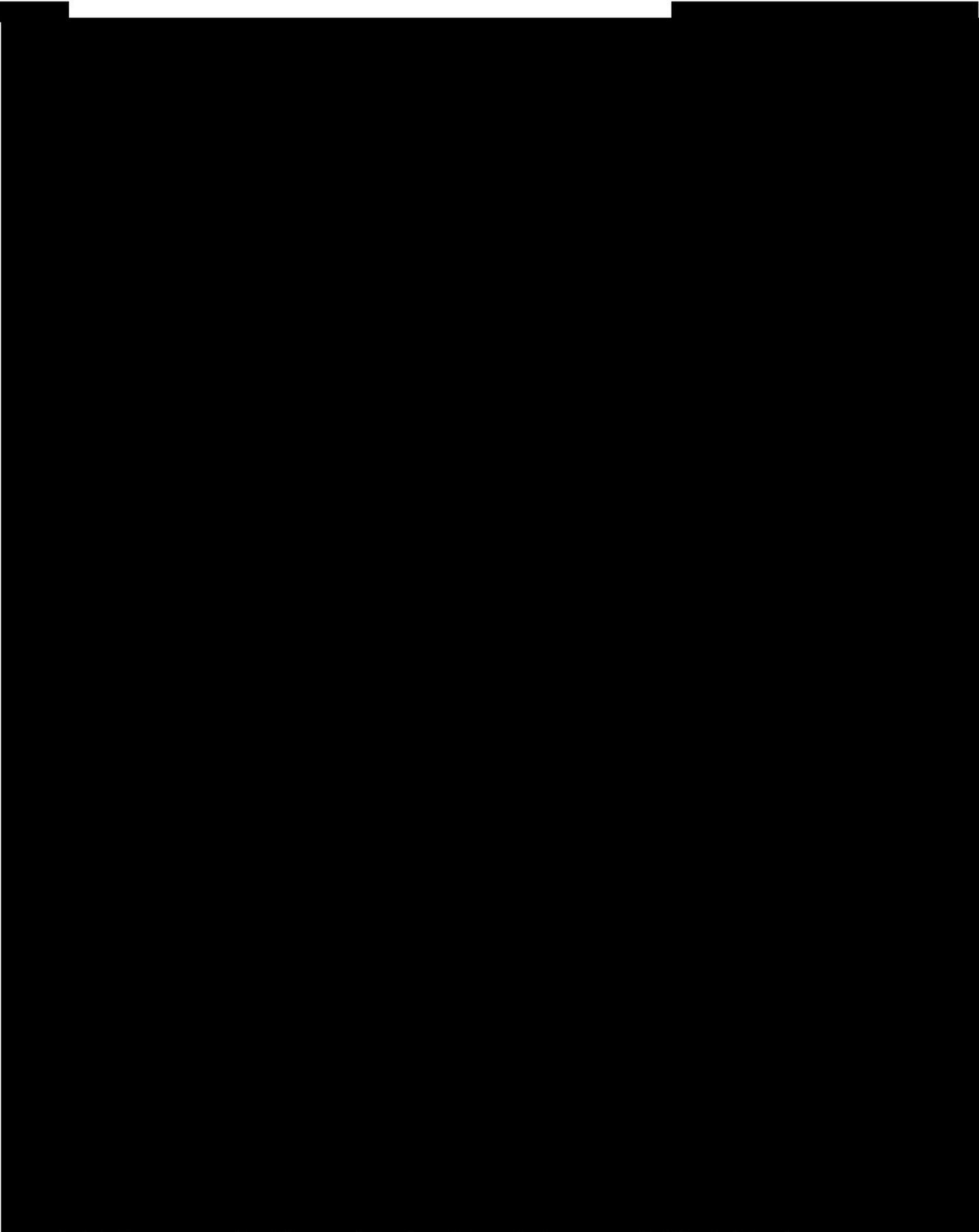


Figure 6-10. Representative Photos of Onshore Route in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

The sea-to-shore HDDs and the onshore route in Portsmouth cross through FEMA-designated Coastal Velocity Zone (VE), Zone AE, and Zone X. The Project infrastructure will be entirely below ground within these flood zones and will not be affected by these hazard conditions. SouthCoast Wind will ensure all facilities are designed and constructed to withstand applicable flood inundation events while maintaining safe operation. Cable vaults and other subsurface installations will not affect surface water flow.

6.4.2 Final Landfall and Interconnection at Brayton Point

Brayton Point is an area zoned and intended for industrial uses, including the development of substations. Brayton Point is on a peninsula surrounded by Mount Hope Bay, the Lee River, and the Taunton River. No sensitive land uses are located adjacent to the Project's onshore facilities, and the Project will have no post-construction impacts on any sensitive receptors.

Brayton Point is an ideal site for the Project's onshore converter station and POI for several reasons, including the robust 345-kV regional transmission infrastructure, the brownfield legacy of the site—which both reduces impacts on the natural environment and provides an opportunity to revitalize the area for clean energy uses, the waterfront location, and lack of residential abutters.

The closest residents are more than 0.2 mi (0.3 km) from the proposed onshore converter station in the Town of Somerset. SouthCoast Wind maintains active community outreach, starting with the inception of the proposed development at Brayton Point and working with Town officials and residential neighbors of the Project, as well as coordinating with Brayton Point LLC and other prospective subdivision owners and tenants at Brayton Point to minimize impacts from multiple separate construction and operation activities.

The sea-to-shore HDDs cross through FEMA-designated Zone VE, as shown in **Attachment 6-1**. The HDD onshore construction compound and onshore route are located outside the floodplain, as are the onshore converter station and HVAC interconnection to the POI. Significantly, the Project's onshore converter station is sited in an upland area, above coastal inundation from storms and forecasted sea level rise.

Representative photographs of the onshore siting at Brayton Point are shown in **Figure 6-11**.



Access road between sound wall and landfill cells 1-8 (HDD construction compound). Facing S.



Access road near wind screen, north of SouthCoast Wind parcel (onshore route). Facing E.



SouthCoast Wind onshore converter station site and interconnection route. Facing S.



SouthCoast Wind onshore converter station site. Facing SW.



SouthCoast Wind access road meets Town-owned Brayton Point Road. Facing E.



Overhead transmission right-of-way at Brayton Point. Facing NE

Figure 6-11. Representative Photos of Onshore Siting at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts

6.4.3 Project Outreach in South Coast Communities

SouthCoast Wind has regularly met with officials and residents in Somerset, MA, and Portsmouth, RI, over the past several years to present Project updates, listen to concerns, and answer questions. SouthCoast Wind is committed to robust, inclusive, and transparent public involvement and will continue outreach efforts to ensure local communities welcome, understand, and benefit from the proposed Project. **Table 6-6** summarizes critical touch points with host municipalities over the past two years.

SouthCoast Wind representatives also attend community events to share information about the Project when possible, such as the SouthCoast Open Air Market at the Arthur Chick March and Park in Somerset in May 2022. Public events allow interested residents and officials to learn about Project details, connect with Project representatives, have their questions answered, and provide feedback.

Table 6-6. Project Meetings and Outreach in Portsmouth, Somerset, and Swansea

Date	Location	Topic
February 2022	Somerset, MA	Met with the new Town Administrator and Select Board representative to present a Project update and answer questions
March 2022	Somerset, MA	Met with the Somerset Economic Development Committee to present the Project and discuss potential collaboration
May 2022	Portsmouth, RI	Met with the Portsmouth Economic Development Committee to present the Project and discuss potential collaboration
May 2022	Portsmouth, RI	Met with the Portsmouth Conservation Commission to present an overall Project update
May 2022	Somerset, MA, and Portsmouth, RI	Hosted a Virtual Open House for Somerset and Portsmouth residents to present a Project update and take questions
July 2022	Portsmouth, RI	Met with the Portsmouth Harbor Commission to present the Project and answer questions
August 2022	Somerset, MA	Presented a Project update at the Somerset Select Board Meeting and took questions from the public
November 2022	Somerset, MA	Met with the Building Inspector and the Conservation Agent to share preliminary engineering plans and step through the points within the zoning exemption petition
December 2022	Portsmouth, RI	Hosted back-to-back informational drop-in sessions at the Portsmouth Public Library and Ragged Island Brewing Company, where SouthCoast Wind team members were available with Project materials to answer questions and connect with community members
January 2023	Somerset, MA	Met with the Town Administrator to provide a Project update and review the need for a zoning exemption

Date	Location	Topic
April 2023	Somerset, MA	Met with the Town Administrator and multiple department leads to step through the points within the zoning exemption petition.
April 2023	Somerset, MA	Hosted an Open House at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Somerset to present a Project update and take questions
May 2023	Portsmouth, RI	Participated in a Town Council Workshop to present on the Project and answer questions from Council and community members
June 2023	Somerset, MA	Hosted an informational drop-in session at the Somerset Public Library
July 2023	Swansea, MA	Presented and took questions from community members at the Council on Aging Center in Swansea
July 2023	Portsmouth, RI	Hosted an informational drop-in session at the Common Fence Point Community Center in Portsmouth
October 2023	Portsmouth, RI	Hosted an informational drop-in session at the Common Fence Point Community Center in Portsmouth
November 2023	Somerset, MA	Hosted an informational drop-in session at the Somerset Public Library
November 2023	Swansea, MA	Met with the Swansea Harbor Advisory Committee to give a Project presentation and take questions
January 16, 2024	Portsmouth, RI	The Portsmouth Town Council held a meeting where they approved the HCA with SouthCoast Wind
February 6, 2024	Swansea, MA	Participated in the Swansea Harbor Advisory Committee Meeting, providing a project update and discussed Chapter 91 Water Quality & MA Wetland Protections Act NOI filing.
March 25, 2024	Swansea, MA	Participated in the Swansea Conservation Commission Hearing, provided a project presentation and discussed the Chapter 91 Water Quality & MA Wetland Protections Act NOI filing
April 4, 2024 (planned)	Swansea, MA	Swansea Council on Aging; 260 Ocean Grove Ave, Swansea, MA 02777. Will host a presentation and Q&A for residents / community members with <i>panel of experts</i>

6.4.4 Deployment Facilities

For information about deployment facilities and the surrounding area, refer to **Section 6.1.5** and **Section 10**. For the Operations and Maintenance Ports, refer to **Section 11.1.2**.

6.5 Site Control of Interconnection Facilities

6.5 If the bidder does not have interconnection facilities site control describe the status of the plan to obtain that control.

SouthCoast Wind is on schedule to secure all the property rights needed to develop and operate the Project’s interconnection facilities for the project's life, including the PPA term. The status of site control and the plan to acquire the remaining rights are summarized in **Section 6.2.1**.

6.6 Interconnection Request at the ISO-NE CCIS

6.6 Please provide documentation to show evidence of the interconnection request to ISO-NE, the applicable New England Transmission Owner, or any neighboring control areas, to interconnect at the Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard. Please describe the status of any planned interconnection to the grid.

The Project [REDACTED]

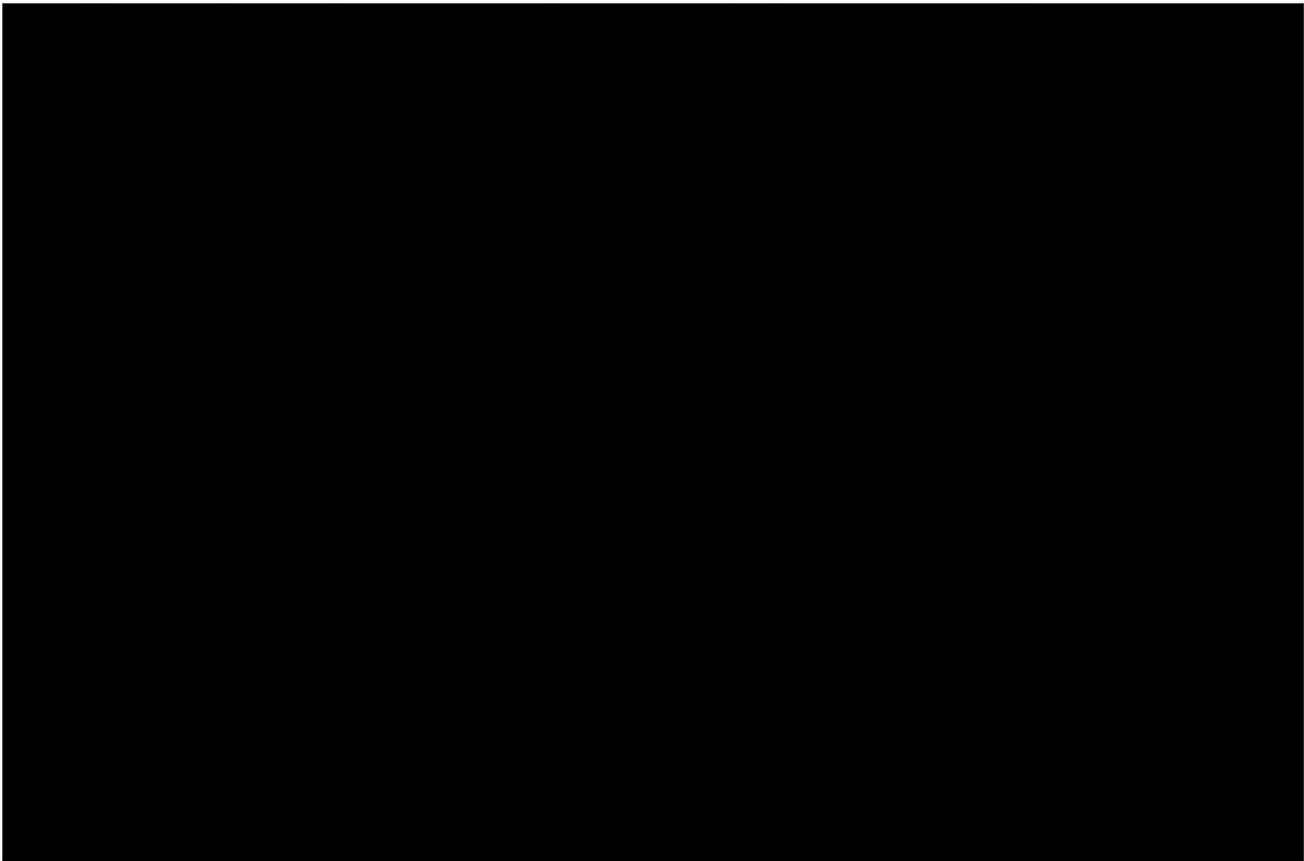
Brayton Point substation from the SouthCoast Wind Lease Area. [REDACTED] is a Large Generator Interconnection requesting to interconnect to the transmission system at the Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard using [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These procedures require projects to comply with the requirements for the interconnection of elective transmission upgrades (Schedule 25) and large generators (Schedule 22) to the ISO-NE Transmission System and review impacts on interregional ties.



The standard ISO-NE interconnection process is summarized in **Figure 6-13**. The high-level sequence begins with an interconnection request to ISO-NE, followed by subsequent scoping meetings, interconnection studies, and data requests. Once the interconnection process is complete, an Interconnection Agreement (IA) is executed, detailing the terms and conditions for interconnection service administered by ISO-NE. A project must enter into an Interconnection Agreement before beginning construction and operation. In parallel to negotiating the Interconnection Agreement, a project must submit a Proposed Plan Application (QP-PPA) to the Reliability Committee (RC) to obtain I.3.9 Approval.



██████████ is positioned to be the anchor of the Joint State Innovation Partnership for Offshore Wind (JSIPOW) proposal. The HCA negotiated with Portsmouth will promote acceptance of offshore wind and transmission connections by delivering tangible benefits to the community. ██████████

██████████ is ready to be delivered, and the Project's selection will demonstrate the viability and need for the JSIPOW proposal, making the proposal more competitive in future competitions for federal support.

6.8 Electrical System Performance Studies

6.8 Provide studies that describe the Project's electrical system performance, its impact to the reliability of the New England Transmission system, how the project would satisfy ISO NE's I.3.9 requirements, and how the project will interconnect at an equivalent to the Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard. Projects that do not have I.3.9 approval from ISO-NE must include technical reports or system impact studies that approximate the ISO-NE interconnection process, including but not limited to clear documentation of study technical and cost assumptions, reasoning, and justification of such assumptions. All projects must also provide analysis that approximates the ISO-NE CCIS interconnection analysis as defined in Planning Procedure 10. Please also provide the status and expected completion date of any additional interconnection studies already underway with ISO-NE and/or the transmission owner. All studies must follow the current ISO-NE interconnection procedures and detail any assumptions regarding resources ahead of the Project in the ISO- NE interconnection queue. All network upgrades identified in these studies must be clearly documented and included in the bid price. Provide a copy of an interconnection agreement, if any, executed by the bidder with respect to the proposed project. If an interconnection agreement has not been executed, please provide the steps that need to be completed before an interconnection agreement can be executed and the associated timeline.

Performance and its impact:

Copy of completed I.3.9 approval or I.3.9-equivalent study attached:

If none, please explain:

Enter appropriate explanation in this space or reference applicable attachment(s)

Copy of completed CCIS-equivalent study attached:

If none, please explain:

Copy of Interconnection Agreement attached:

If none, please explain:

Additionally, any other studies undertaken by ISO-NE or the bidder must be provided.

6.9 Deliverability Constraint Analysis Documentation

6.9 Please provide documentation of the deliverability constraint analysis set forth in Appendix I to the RFP. Provide a description of the findings of the deliverability constraint analysis, including but not limited to a list of thermal overloads and voltage violations identified.

Copy of completed deliverability constraint analysis:

If the deliverability constraint analysis was performed as a portion of a separate study, please explain and provide the study:

The deliverability constraint analysis was conducted per the updated parameters specified in the RFP and is included in **Attachment 6-7-15**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] throughout the term of the contract.

6.10 Interconnection Requests

6.10 If multiple interconnection requests have been made, please specify all such active requests which have not been superseded by subsequent requests and information regarding the status of each. Provide copies of any requests made and studies completed.

SouthCoast Wind has continually refined its interconnection strategy to benefit the Project and maximize ISO-NE grid compatibility. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind is working to expand the greater Brayton Point area interconnection capacity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

- | [Redacted list item]

[Redacted text block]

6.11 Necessary Network Upgrade Cost Estimates

6.11 Please provide cost estimates for any necessary network upgrades identified in the studies identified in Section 6.7

ISO-NE identified system upgrades in the [Redacted text]

- | [Redacted list item]

- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ISO-NE also identified system upgrades [REDACTED]. The system upgrades include:

- █ [REDACTED]
 - █ [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

6.12 Information on Alternative Interconnection Scenario

6.12 To the extent that you provide an alternative interconnection scenario based on ISO-proposed interconnection process changes, you must also include studies using the proposed ISO-NE process. Any such studies must be accompanied with clear documentation of study technical and cost assumptions, reasoning, and justification of such assumptions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.13 Electrical Models

6.13 Provide the electrical models of all energy resources supporting the proposed project in accordance with the filing requirements of the ISO-NE Tariff Schedule 22 and 23. Electrical models attached: If none, please explain:

[Redacted]

6.14 Electrical One-line Diagram

6.14 Provide a copy of an electrical one-line diagram showing the interconnection facilities, the relevant facilities of the transmission and/or distribution provider, and any required network upgrades identified in the studies required in section 6.9 of this document

Electrical one-line diagram attached: If none, please explain:

An electrical one-line diagram showing the Project's interconnection facilities for [Redacted]

6.15 Current or New Interconnection Facilities

6.15 Specify and describe the current or new interconnection facilities (lines, transformers, switching equipment, system protection and controls, etc.) that bidder owns or is intending to construct or have constructed in order to deliver the proposed energy.

SouthCoast Wind will construct an HVDC system [Redacted] to connect the generation portion of the Project [Redacted]

SouthCoast Wind provided the IDV files modeling upgrades to the transmission system for [REDACTED] in PSSE v34 format, the version required by ISO-NE when the System Impact Study was performed. These are included in **Attachment 6-7-22**.

6.17 Constraints and Curtailment due to Interconnection Upgrades

6.17 Please detail with supporting information and studies (as available) that the production/delivery profile contemplated in your proposal reflects constraints or curtailments, if any, after the upgrades that are expected to take place pursuant to interconnection at an equivalent to the CCIS. If you are planning to make voluntary upgrades beyond those associated with the CCIS-equivalent standard, as more fully described in the RFP, please describe the transmission network upgrades necessary, their estimated cost (for which the bidder would have cost responsibility, and the impact on the proposed generation schedule by reducing remaining constraints or curtailments.

[REDACTED] conducted a third-party Overlapping Impact Study for the Project. The study was conducted in accordance with the CCIS, as described by ISO-NE in Planning Procedure 10. The study was performed using the 2032 Transmission Planning (TPL) Case based on CELT 2022 data. The generators maximum power values were updated with the Capacity Network Resource Capability (CNRC) in the 2023_celt_report. Additional details on the study case and results are discussed in **Section 6.8** and **Attachment 6-7-14**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SECTION 7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, PERMIT ACQUISITION PLAN, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES CERTIFICATION

Section Overview

This section addresses environmental and other regulatory issues associated with project siting, development and operations for all aspects of the project (including generation, delivery, storage, interconnection, etc.), and in all jurisdictions (federal, all interested states, etc.).

SouthCoast Wind began working in April 2019 to establish the needed federal, state, and local permits for the OCS-A 0521 Lease Area. Over this time, the Project progressed through the lengthy permitting process, and we are proud to present a mature project ready to start construction in 2025. Through the process, SouthCoast Wind has maintained constant lines of communication with our local stakeholders and has been able to incorporate their feedback into the Project's design. We also had the opportunity to collect extensive site data, including geophysical and geotechnical surveys, and incorporate this data into the project's design. We've leveraged the feedback of stakeholders and site data to provide a project our communities will be proud of and one that we are confident we can deliver.

Selecting a project designed around only preliminary data at the beginning stages of the permitting process is a risk for ratepayers. This risk is highlighted in recent federal approvals of an offshore wind farm where the developer contracted their project and NEPA Alternatives were identified before site investigation was completed. The developer determined that [REDACTED] were present, and some of the proposed foundation positions were not feasible for the foundation type they selected. Luckily, the number of positions affected was small, and BOEM could still approve the project. However, SouthCoast Wind saw this as a warning signal that preliminary site data does not provide ratepayers with certainty that projects can be built as proposed in the early permitting stages. [REDACTED] completed the site investigation and engaged with our host communities and neighbors to obtain their consent to deliver this Project. Through this exhaustive permitting and surveying process, we proudly offer a project ready to construct in 2025 and deliver clean power to the grid by 2030, meeting State's laudable climate mandates.

SouthCoast Wind has the progress, plan, and experience to obtain final permits and approvals, enabling a [REDACTED]

- **Mature Progress on Federal and State Permit Roadmap as Demonstrated by the Submittal of Major Applications** - SouthCoast Wind submitted its Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in 2021.

This included years of comprehensive data collection and analysis. Federal permitting achieved a significant milestone with BOEM's issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in 2021 and the Draft EIS (DEIS) in 2023; [REDACTED] At the state level, receipt of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificate in December 2023 [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] - Permitting often defines the critical path to FID for offshore wind projects. SouthCoast Wind's mature permitting status supports the credibility of its timeline for FID and COD and limits the risk of permitting uncertainty driving changes to SouthCoast Wind's delivery program. SouthCoast Wind is confident in obtaining all necessary permits and authorizations to reach the planned FID and Financial Close milestones on track to support a [REDACTED]
- **Comprehensive and Robust Stakeholder Relationships De-risk Potential Permitting Delays** - Engagement has continued for over five years, with early feedback initiated prior to the lease auction in December 2018 facilitating an understanding of stakeholder and agency concerns—in particular, scientific, socioeconomic, and environmental impacts associated with the Project. Feedback captured through stakeholder engagement is directly incorporated into Project design.

7.1 Permit List and Responsible Agencies and Governing Bodies

7.1 Provide a list of all the permits, licenses, and environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements required to construct and operate the project. Along with this list, identify the governmental agencies and States that are responsible for issuing approval of all the permits, licenses, and environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements. If a bidder has secured any permit or has applied for a permit, please indicate this in the response.

Table 7-1 provides a summary of government-issued permits, approvals, licenses, environmental assessments (EAs), and environmental impact statements (EISs) required to construct and operate the Project. Copies of the permits, approvals, and licenses listed in **Table 7-1** are available to the public and can be found on the SouthCoast Wind website¹. A narrative form of the permit process is available in **Attachment 7-1**. A detailed description of documents not available at that link can be provided upon request. The location of the Lease Area, the proposed onshore interconnection and transmission locations, and associated Offshore Delivery facilities for the Project are detailed in **Section 6.1** and **Attachment 6-1**.



Major Permitting Milestones Achieved:



SouthCoast Wind's Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in February 2023 and the Project's MEPA Certificate was issued in December 2023.

¹ www.southcoastwind.com/documents

SouthCoast Wind is a mature project that has achieved major federal and state permitting milestones. Currently, SouthCoast Wind is supporting BOEM and its third-party National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) contractor in developing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Consultations under the NEPA process and other federal permits are significantly advanced, including the conclusion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

SouthCoast Wind continues to engage with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) stakeholders - a critical strategy to expedite obtaining necessary permits and approvals on a timely basis. Informal and formal coordination completed to date includes pre-construction survey notifications, pre-application agency meetings, stakeholder outreach meetings, and regular status updates to regulators and communities. **Attachment 7-2** includes SouthCoast Wind's Agency Correspondence Tracker, and **Attachment 7-3** includes a stakeholder engagement summary in the Regional Stakeholder Engagement Plan and corresponding Stakeholder Mapping Workbooks. Additional details on key Stakeholder outreach meetings are outlined in **Section 7.3**. This coordination will continue throughout the Project's development, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases.

Table 7-1. Required Permits, Licenses, and Environmental Assessments

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
Federal		
BOEM	Site Assessment Plan (SAP)	Approved by BOEM May 26, 2020
	Certified Verification Agent (CVA) Nomination	Approved by BOEM November 4, 2020
	COP	COP filed February 15, 2021
	NEPA Review	BOEM published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the review of the COP on November 1, 2021. Draft Environmental Impact Statement published in the Federal Register on February 17, 2023.
	Facility Design Report and Fabrication and Installation Report	Filing planned for post-COP Approval.
U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Clearinghouse	Informal Project Notification Form	Submitted May 11, 2020
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Individual Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit	Submitted December 2, 2022. Application deemed complete on February 2, 2023.
	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Section 10 Permit	
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Private Aids to Navigation Authorization	Filing planned for 3-6 months prior to offshore construction
	Local Notice to Mariners	Filing planned prior to offshore construction
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit - Offshore	Submitted October 31, 2022. Application deemed complete on September 29, 2023.
	NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities (onshore at Brayton Point)	Filing planned prior to construction
	Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Clean Air Act Permit	Submitted November 23, 2022. Application deemed complete on April 7, 2023.

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
USFWS	ESA Section 7 Consultation Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) compliance	ESA consultation concluded on September 1, 2023 with “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect Determinations”.
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) or Letter of Authorization (LOA)	Pre-construction: Concurrence for 2019 Geophysical and Geotechnical (G&G) surveys was issued by NMFS on July 26, 2019. IHA for 2020 G&G surveys issued on July 23, 2020. IHA for 2021 G&G surveys issued on July 1, 2021. IHA for 2023 G&G surveys issued on May 12, 2023. LOA Application for offshore construction and operations filed March 18, 2022 and deemed complete on September 19, 2022.
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Determination of No Hazard	It is not currently anticipated that a Determination of No Hazard will be required for offshore structures in the Lease Area due to their location outside of 12 nautical mile (nm) (22 kilometers [km]) jurisdiction; nor will this be required for the onshore converter station due to the maximum height of this structure. SouthCoast Wind continues to engage with the FAA with regards to whether any review and/or authorization is required for offshore equipment deployed to support horizontal directional drilling (HDD) installation of the export cables.
State - Rhode Island		
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)	Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Consistency Determination under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U. S. Code [USC] §§ 1451-1464) and in accordance with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program and Special Area Management Plans.	Filed in Q3 2021 (COP Appendix D2). Revised version filed March 16, 2022. Executed first stay agreement on June 22, 2022, and a second stay agreement on March 24, 2023. Executed a third stay agreement on June 30, 2023. Executed fourth stay agreement on November 20, 2023 with CRMC federal consistency decision due by December 29, 2023. On December 19, 2023 the council issued its Federal Consistency Concurrence for the SouthCoast Wind Project.

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
	Category B Assent and Submerged Lands License pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws (R.I.G.L.) § 46-23 and 650-Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR)-20-00-1 and 650-RICR-20-00-2.	Filed on February 24, 2023. Updated filing on March 6, 2023.
	Freshwater Wetlands Permit pursuant to the Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast (650-RICR-20-00-2.1 et seq.) (R.I.G.L. § 46-23-6).	Filed on February 24, 2023. Updated filing on March 6, 2023.
	LOA/Survey Permit, if needed, in accordance with the R.I.G.L. § 46-23 and 650-RICR-20-00-1.	Approved July 7, 2021 for Summer 2021 benthic surveys. Approved February 4, 2022, for Spring 2022 benthic surveys.
Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board (RI EFSB) and Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (RI PUC)	Certificate of necessity/public utility.	Filed May 31, 2022. Docketed as of June 24, 2022 (Docket Number SB-2022-02). Upon Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) award, process will be re-initiated.
Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC)	Permission to conduct archaeological field investigations (pursuant to the Antiquities Act of Rhode Island, G.L. 42-45 and the Rhode Island Procedures for Registration and Protection of Historic Properties).	Marine Survey approved on July 2, 2021. Phase 1 Permit (No. 21-32) issued on December 17, 2021. Terrestrial Archaeological Resources Assessment (TARA - Phase 1A/1B Report) filed March 14, 2022. Marine Archaeological Resources Assessment (MARA) submitted March 16, 2022.
	Section 106 Consultation	Initiated by BOEM November 1, 2021
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM)	Consultation with the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program and RI DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife (RI DFW)	Information provided by RI DEM on June 24, 2021. Updated information provided by RI DEM on April 11, 2022. RI Natural Heritage Program confirmed state-listed species data on February 10, 2023.
	Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq. and RIGL § 46-12-3 and Dredging Permit pursuant to the Marine Infrastructure Maintenance Act of 1996 and	Filed March 17, 2023. The Project received comments on August 11, 2023, responded to comments, and submitted a revised application on October 16, 2023. The application was deemed

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
	RI Rules and Regulations for Dredging and the Management of Dredged Materials (RIGL §§ 46-6.1 et seq.) and Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations (RIGL §§ 46.12 et seq.); (Dredging permit is issued jointly by RI DEM and Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management [RI CRMC] under RI DEM dredging regulations).	complete on November 15, 2023. RIDEM issued the 401 WQC and Marine Dredge Permit on March 15, 2024.
	Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity pursuant to RIGL § 42-12 as amended.	Filing planned prior to construction (if applicable)
RI DFW	LOA and/or Scientific Collector’s Permit (for surveys and pre-lay grapnel run), if needed.	Filing will be planned based on consultations with RI DEM & RI Department of Fish & Wildlife
Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)	Utility Permit/Physical Alteration Permit pursuant to RIGL Chapter 24-8.	Preliminary easement review by RIDOT ongoing.
Local (for portions of the SouthCoast Wind Project within local Rhode Island jurisdiction)		
Portsmouth Department of Public Works, Board of Selectman, and/or Town Council	Street Opening Permits/Grants of Location	Filing planned prior to construction (if applicable)
Portsmouth Zoning and Planning Board(s)	Local Planning/Zoning Approval(s) (if needed)	Pre-empted by RI EFSB; engage for Advisory Opinions
State - Massachusetts		
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	MEPA Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and/or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Certificate of Secretary of EEA.	██████████ ENF (EEA #16596) filed August 12, 2022; ENF Certificate of EEA Secretary issued on October 11, 2022. Filing of ██████████ Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on February 1, 2023; DEIR Certificate of EEA Secretary issued on May 10, 2023.

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
		Filing of Final EIR (FEIR) on July 21, 2023; FEIR Certificate issued September 15, 2023. Filing of Supplemental FEIR on October 31, 2023; Certificate of EEA Secretary issued on December 15, 2023.
Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board (MA EFSB)	Approval to construct the proposed Project, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (MGL.) c. 164, 69J (Siting Petition)	██████████ filed a MA EFSB Siting Petition and supporting Analysis on May 27, 2022. Public Comment Hearing held on October 11, 2022. Six (6) days of evidentiary hearings concluded on August 7, 2023; Initial Brief filed on November 22, 2023; Reply Brief filed on December 6, 2023. Decision anticipated in Q1 2024.
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (MA DPU)	Approval to construct and use proposed Project pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72 (Section 72 Petition) Individual and comprehensive exemptions from the zoning bylaws of Somerset for the proposed Project, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A § 3 (Zoning Petition)	██████████ MA DPU petitions were filed concurrently with the MA EFSB Siting Petition on May 27, 2022. Consolidated for hearing with MA EFSB matter on July 5, 2022.
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Chapter 91 Waterways License/Permit for dredge, fill, or structures in waterways or tidelands	██████████ filed an application on December 20, 2023.
	Section 401 Water Quality Certification	██████████ filed an application on December 20, 2023.
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM)	CZM Consistency Determination	Submitted February 15, 2021 (COP, Appendix D1). Revised version filed January 13, 2022. Executed stay beginning on December 30, 2021, with CZM’s review re-starting on December 30, 2022. Executed a second stay on May 5, 2023, with anticipated consistency decision on December 1, 2023. Executed a third stay effective on November 8, 2023, with anticipated consistency decision by April 10, 2024.
Massachusetts Department of Transportation	State Highway Access/Easement/Right-of-Way Permit(s)	Filing planned prior to construction (if applicable)
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR)	Special Use Permit (SUP)	██████████ Provisional SUP was issued on June 25, 2021. Filed MA BUAR SUP application for SouthCoast Wind 1 on August 26, 2021. SUP approved on September 30, 2021. SUP renewals were approved at Board meetings on September 30, 2022, and September 28, 2023.

Governmental Agency	Permit/License/Approval	Status
Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)	Project Notification Form/Field Investigation Permits (980 CMR § 70.00)	<p>██████████ Project Notification Form submitted July 26, 2021.</p> <p>Brayton Point TARA (Phase 1A Report) filed on March 14, 2022.</p>
	Section 106 Consultation	Initiated by BOEM on November 1, 2021
Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) - Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)	<p>Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) Checklist</p> <p>Conservation and Management Permit (if needed) or No-Take Determination</p>	NHESP issued letter identifying species in Brayton Point Project Area (SouthCoast Wind 1) on April 28, 2022, (NHESP Tracking No. 19-38917); determined that site is not mapped as Priority or Estimated Habitat.
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF)	LOA and/or Special License (for surveys), if needed	Filing will be planned based on consultations with the MA DMF.
Local (for portions of the SouthCoast Wind Project within local Massachusetts jurisdiction)		
Somerset Planning & Zoning Board	Local Planning/Zoning Approval(s) (if needed)	Request for individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions filed pursuant to G.L. c. 40A § 3 filed on May 27, 2022. Consolidated for hearing with MA EFSB matter on July 5, 2022. Decision anticipated in Q1 2024.
Somerset Conservation Commission	NOI and Order of Conditions (Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act)	██████████
Somerset Department of Public Works, Board of Selectmen, and/or Town Council	Street Operating Permits/Grants of Location (if needed)	██████████ filing planned prior to construction (if applicable)
Swansea Conservation Commission	NOI and Order of Conditions (Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act)	██████████

7.2 Permitting Timeline

7.2 Provide the anticipated timeline for seeking and receiving the required permits, licenses, and environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements. Include a project approval assessment which describes, in narrative form, each segment of the process, the required permit or approval, the status of the request or application and the basis for projection of success by the milestone date. All requirements should be included on the project schedule in Section 10.

7.2.1 Permitting Schedule

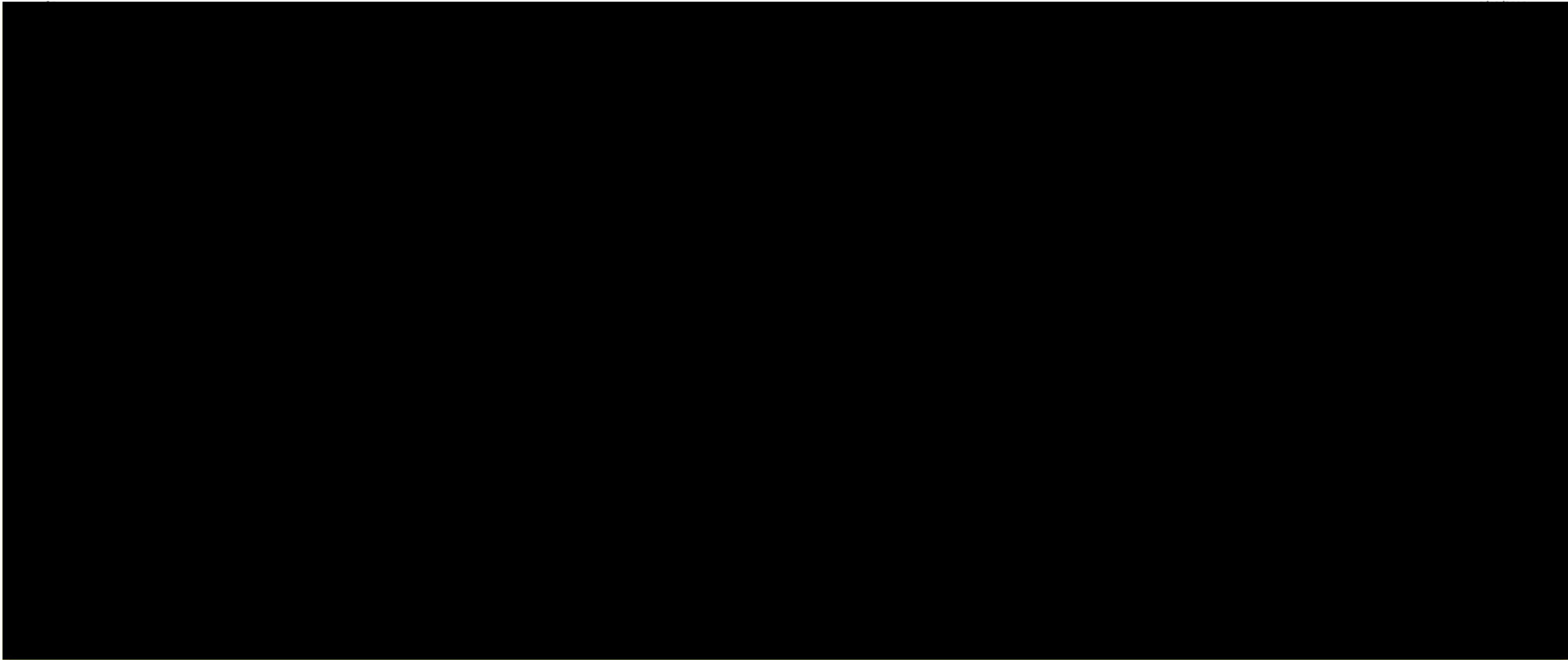
The timeline for receipt of all permits is summarized in **Table 7-1**. **Figure 7-1** shows the anticipated timeline required to obtain the permits, licenses, and approvals required to construct and operate the Project.

SouthCoast Wind is a Covered Project under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). FAST-41 maintains a permitting dashboard to keep regulators and stakeholders current on SouthCoast Wind's federal permitting milestones and progress.² The Project benefits from increased transparency and inter-agency coordination due to FAST-41 coverage.

7.2.2 Project Approval Assessment

The SouthCoast Wind Project approval assessment, which describes each segment of the permitting process, the status of the request or application, and the basis for success projection by milestone date, is detailed below. The Project schedule in **Attachment 9-1** provides a comprehensive overview of all permits, licenses, EAs, and EISs. The Project's schedule is informed by SouthCoast Wind's experience and extensive engagements with federal and state regulators.

² SouthCoast Wind's FAST-41 dashboard can be found at: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/southcoast-wind-energy-llc-southcoast-wind>.



7.3 Relationships and Track Record

7.3 Provide information (a) demonstrating past and current productive relationship with environmental, commercial and recreational fishing, federally recognized and state acknowledged tribes, Environmental Justice, and onshore stakeholders; and (b) demonstrating your track record of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating environmental, fishing, tribal, environmental justice, and onshore impacts from projects similar to the proposed project.

The Project's commitment to stakeholder engagement is evidenced by its robust outreach efforts through nearly 700 stakeholder meetings which include hosting community discussion forums, regular interagency coordination, site visits, public drop-ins, and hearing-style meetings. While these efforts will be ongoing throughout the life of the Project, a comprehensive summary of engagements to date is provided in the Agency Correspondence Tracker (**Attachment 7-2**) and the Regional Stakeholder Engagement Plan and corresponding Stakeholder Mapping Workbooks (**Attachment 7-3**). Our community engagement and permitting strategies are informed by the experience our sponsor OW gained in permitting nearly 3,000 GW of offshore wind farms in Europe. We also benefit from the experience of OW's parent companies, EDPR and Engie, who are two of the largest renewable energy developers in the United States with a combined portfolio of 16,000+ MW operating in the North America. Further details on their experience are available in **Section 12**.

Starting in 2018, SouthCoast Wind has made significant progress in engaging with and gaining support from stakeholders across southern New England. SouthCoast Wind met with municipal officials of impacted communities, including the Town of Somerset, the Town of Swansea, the City of Fall River, the City of New Bedford in Massachusetts, and the Town of Portsmouth in Rhode Island, among others. SouthCoast Wind held many formal presentations and question-and-answer sessions with local community members, including appearing before Select Boards, Town Councils, Conservations Commissions, Planning Boards, etc.

SouthCoast Wind held virtual Open Houses to allow the public to interact with Project subject matter experts, ask questions, and share concerns. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many SouthCoast community engagement activities were held remotely in 2021 and 2022, including five virtual open houses for the local communities as part of *The Future of Clean Energy is Here* series. SouthCoast Wind has also hosted several in-person public forums for communities:

- SouthCoast Wind held two in-person office hour events in Fall River; the first in November 2021 focused on supply chain development, and the second in December 2021 focused on workforce training and education opportunities.
- SouthCoast Wind hosted back-to-back informational drop-in sessions on December 6 and December 7, 2023, at the Portsmouth Public Library and Ragged Island Brewing Company, where SouthCoast Wind team members were available with Project

materials to answer questions and connect with community members. SouthCoast Wind hosted additional informational drop-in sessions in Portsmouth at the Common Fence Point Community Center on July 25, 2023, and October 12, 2023.

- On April 20, 2023, at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Somerset, SouthCoast Wind gave a Project presentation and took questions from over 60 community members.
- On July 12, 2023, at the Council on Aging Center in Swansea, SouthCoast Wind gave a Project presentation and took questions from over 70 community members.
- SouthCoast Wind hosted an informational drop-in session on June 27, 2023, at the Somerset Public Library, where SouthCoast Wind team members were available with Project materials to answer questions and connect with community members. This event was advertised in the Fall River Herald, New Bedford Guide, and Facebook Live Fall River show. SouthCoast Wind hosted an additional drop-in session at the Somerset Public Library on November 7, 2023.

SouthCoast Wind deeply values input from our community partners and intentionally incorporates stakeholder feedback across the Project. SouthCoast Wind's productive relationships with critical Project stakeholders are evidenced by the following examples:

- Incorporating agency feedback into Project survey plans, including geophysical, geotechnical, benthic, and avian surveys;
- Developing pre-, during, and post-construction monitoring programs, such as benthic and fisheries monitoring programs, based on federal and state agency consultation, guidelines, and feedback;
- Refining the Project Design Envelope (foundation types, WTG hub height, etc.) in federal permits based on agency concerns related to benthic and avian resources;
- Establishing and following through on the Project's fisheries gear loss compensation program;
- Training and hiring Native American Tribal members as Protected Species Observers (PSOs), creating job opportunities on this Project and beyond; and
- Incorporating feedback from host community officials and residents into Project design and compliance. For example, SouthCoast Wind recognized that noise during construction and operations is a crucial concern for Somerset residents. SouthCoast Wind modeled the Project's HVDC converter station against state and local regulations. SouthCoast Wind is committed to developing construction hours per the Somerset Noise Control By-Law and continues communicating with Town officials to understand better how local noise regulations apply to the Project.

SouthCoast Wind will continue actively engaging with its various stakeholders and incorporating their feedback into the Project design and implementation.

7.4 Fisheries Mitigation Measures

7.4 Please provide information on any fisheries mitigation measures designed to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts on the commercial fishing industry, including but not limited to addressing all criteria specified under Fishing Impacts and Fisheries Mitigation Plan in Appendix J.

SouthCoast Wind is committed to minimizing disruptions to fishing activities throughout the lifetime of the Project. SouthCoast Wind developed and implemented comprehensive measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to fishermen and fisheries. Some examples of these measures include:

- The use of high-resolution benthic survey data to enable micro-routing of cables around complex habitats and glacial moraines,
- Using a bundled cable configuration along the majority of the cable route to reduce impacts associated with the cable installation footprint,
- A commitment to 1 nm (1.9 km) by 1 nm (1.9 km) turbine layout to allow commercial and recreational fishing operations and navigation in the Lease Area,
- A commitment to using bubble curtains as a noise attenuation tool during foundation installation. SouthCoast Wind is also committed to working with state and federal agencies on agreeable Time of Year (TOY) restrictions associated with various stages of construction to mitigate impacts to protected and commercially and recreationally important fish species and marine mammals.

Outreach and communication to the fishing industry began in 2019 and will continue throughout all phases of the Project. SouthCoast Wind collaborates with fishermen and fisheries managers to develop and sustain innovative data monitoring efforts supporting sustainable and healthy fisheries and responsible offshore wind development. These efforts include a Fisheries Communication Plan (FCP) (included as **Attachment 7-4**), fisheries monitoring plans, fisheries mitigation measures, the use of fisheries liaisons and fisheries representatives, working with local fishermen in site characterization efforts, participation in federal, state, regional, and industry working groups, and supporting priority fisheries research.

7.4.1 Fisheries Communications Plan

SouthCoast Wind developed a Fisheries Communication Plan (FCP) to guide outreach and communication with the fishing industry, included in **Attachment 7-4**. The FCP describes the

strategies and methods the Project employs to communicate with fisheries stakeholders before and during offshore activities and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Communication methods and tools;
- Measures under consideration to reduce potential impacts on fishery resources and operations;
- Potentially affected fisheries;
- Methods to monitor the effectiveness of impact-reduction measures; and
- Roles of the fisheries liaison and fisheries representatives.

Specific communication methods and tools detailed in the FCP include informing local fishing groups and federal, regional, and state fishery management organizations about project-related activities that may impact them. These notifications include details on the location and timeline of offshore survey and construction activities before mobilization and ongoing updates until activities are completed.

SouthCoast Wind reviewed and incorporated input from the following federal documents during the development of its FCP:

- BOEM's Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic OCS Pursuant to 30 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 585;
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts Between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic OCS Report on Best Management Practices BMPs ; and
- Mitigation Measures: A Final Report for the U.S. Department of the Interior, BOEM, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Herndon, VA, OCS Study .

Key fisheries stakeholders that SouthCoast Wind has engaged to date include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • BOEM | • Massachusetts Offshore Wind Habitat and Fisheries Working Groups |
| • Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island | • MassWildlife |
| • Fisheries Survival Fund | • Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council |
| • MA CZM | • New Bedford Port Authority (NBPA) |
| • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries | • New England Fishery Management Council |
| • Massachusetts EEA (MA EEA) | • New England Aquarium, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life |
| • Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) | |

- New York (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority [NYSERDA]) Environmental and Fisheries Technical Working Groups
- NMFS
- Owners and operators of fishing vessels that fish in and around the Project Area
- Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC)
- Responsible Offshore Development Alliance
- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
- Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
- Rhode Island DEM
- USFWS

7.4.2 Fisheries Liaisons and Fisheries Representatives

SouthCoast Wind contracted three Fisheries Representatives: the MLA, the NBPA, and the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island (CFCRI) (**Figure 7-2**). Fisheries Representatives help SouthCoast Wind understand potential impacts to fishermen and fisheries and develop and implement measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

The MLA is a member-driven organization that supports the interdependence of species conservation and its members' collective economic interests. Over the past 60 years, the MLA has become a trustworthy voice for the industry on important issues and is looked at by both the fishing industry and the management community. SouthCoast Wind scientists will continue to work together with the MLA to identify potential impacts to the lobstering community in the Project Area, collaborate on science initiatives that can help to understand natural impacts on lobster in the region, and investigate potential impacts or changes to lobster populations with the introduction of offshore wind developments.

The NBPA's primary charge is to support the Port of New Bedford by implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) over port resources and developing economic growth strategies. New Bedford is America's largest commercial fishing port by value of annual commercial fishery landings.

The CFCRI was founded to preserve commercial fishing as a profession, culture, and way of life by promoting the resource's sustainability. The CFCRI brings fishermen, scientists, managers, and elected officials together in a collaborative effort to improve fisheries and the understanding of the marine environment.

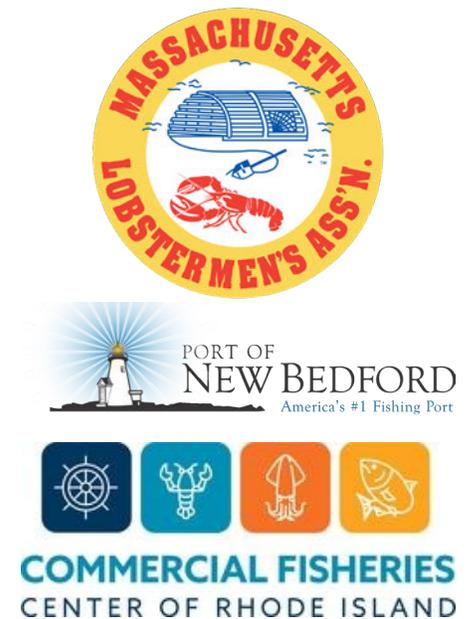


Figure 7-2. SouthCoast Wind's Fisheries

SouthCoast Wind's full-time Fisheries Manager, Sam Asci (**Figure 7-3**), acts as a conduit between fishermen and the Project through SouthCoast Wind's emphasis on early and continuous engagement. The Fisheries Manager facilitates information flow between the fishing industry and SouthCoast Wind, compiling input from fishermen to inform longer-term efforts such as Project design and communicating Project information to fishermen on shorter-term activities such as the status of site characterization surveys. The Fisheries Manager participates in monthly port hours at the Ports of New Bedford and Point Judith to engage with local fishermen and provide regular Project updates. The information that fishermen provided to the SouthCoast Wind Fisheries Manager has already proven very valuable in enabling the coexistence of fishing and offshore wind, as evidenced by the successful completion of multiple surveys in the Project Area.

7.4.3 Participation in Federal, State, and Industry Working Groups

SouthCoast Wind participates in the Massachusetts Habitat and Fisheries Working Groups on Offshore Wind Energy and industry consortiums such as Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) and Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC). SouthCoast Wind representatives are also active participants and attendees at federal fisheries meetings and scientific conferences such as the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including the New England Fishery Management Council Habitat Committee, which frequently discusses the overlap of fisheries and offshore wind.

SouthCoast Wind participates in the NYSERDA Environmental and Fisheries Technical Working Groups, as these groups have a regional focus consistent with the scope and scale of the Project. SouthCoast Wind representatives participated in the Fishes and Mobile Invertebrates Working Group launched by the NYSERDA State of the Science conference in November 2020.

SouthCoast Wind actively participates in ROSA efforts to understand how fisheries and offshore wind development coexist. Additionally, SouthCoast Wind staff serve on the Advisory Council of ROSA and maintain active engagement with numerous subcommittees of the RWSC.



Figure 7-3. Sam Asci - SouthCoast Wind Fisheries Manager

Sam grew up on the water in a fishing family and has worked closely with commercial fishermen throughout his professional career. Sam worked with fishermen on the water through collaborative industry-based fisheries surveys, as well as onshore in the federal fisheries management process. He is an avid recreational fishermen.

7.4.4 Project Siting and Design

SouthCoast Wind collaborates with state and federal agencies, fishermen, and other offshore wind developers to implement Project design solutions that will allow safe transit and continued operation of fishing vessels through the Lease Area. The Project will continue to leverage the shared knowledge and experience of SouthCoast Wind and its fisheries partners to coexist seamlessly with the fishing industry.

The Project layout (**Figure 7-4**) provides spacing of 1.0-nm (1.9-km)-wide transit corridors between WTG rows in north-south and east-west directions and 0.7-nm (1.3-km)-wide transit corridors in northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest directions. Coordinated with neighboring leaseholders, this layout provides fishermen with consistent, navigable routes through the Lease Area.

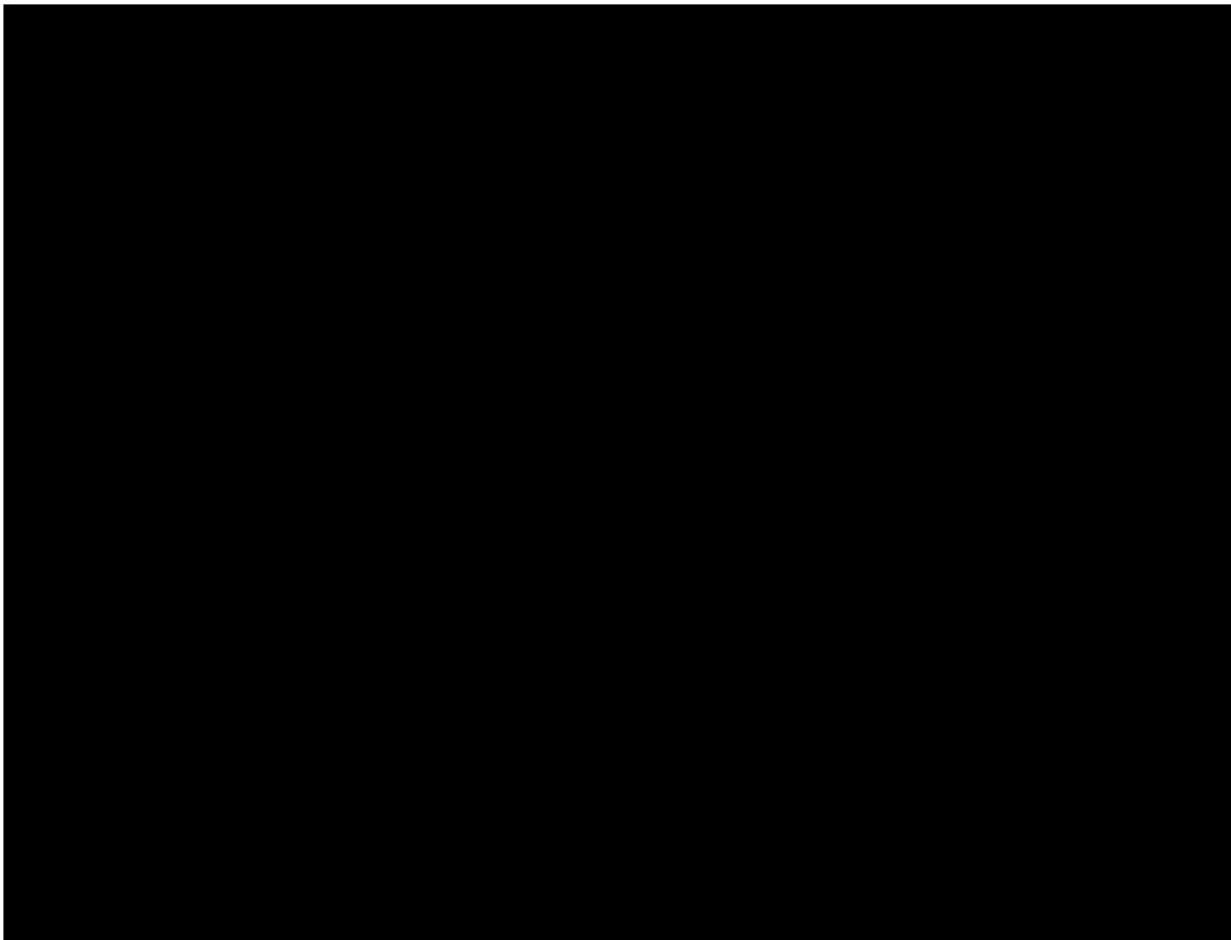


Figure 7-5 shows the Lease Area with respect to fishery management areas.



7.4.5 Impacts to Fishing Gear or Vessels

SouthCoast Wind invested significant effort in developing and implementing mitigation procedures and measures that address fishing gear entanglements resulting from project activities. While SouthCoast Wind prioritizes avoiding fishing gear, the dynamic nature of survey activities and weather can sometimes result in a survey vessel or its gear entangling fishing gear. To address these situations, SouthCoast Wind worked with other leaseholders to establish a direct channel of communication with fishermen and provide a mechanism for compensation for lost gear. The Joint Developer Gear Loss Claim Application Form, created in consultation with Fisheries Representatives from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is available on SouthCoast Wind's website.³

SouthCoast Wind takes responsibility for reporting gear losses resulting from Project activities rather than consistently placing this burden on fishermen. The survey vessel immediately

³ www.southcoastwind.com

reports any evidence of interaction between SouthCoast Wind vessels and fishing vessels or gear to the SouthCoast Wind Fisheries Manager and operational survey team. The Fisheries Manager then immediately begins contacting the affected fishermen to assist them in completing the Gear Loss Claim Application Form. The gear loss program has been in place for pre-construction site assessment survey activities and will remain in place through the project's construction phase.

SouthCoast Wind is developing direct and indirect compensation programs for construction, operation, and decommissioning to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishermen during these phases. These direct and indirect compensation programs are being developed with the fishing industry, Fisheries Representatives, state and federal regulatory agencies, and joint developer task forces.

For further information on gear loss compensation and plans to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and offset impacts to commercial fishing, see **Appendix J**.

7.4.6 Fisheries Mitigation Measures

SouthCoast Wind will continue to develop fisheries mitigation measures that evolve to reflect the current best available science, best management practices, and available technology. SouthCoast Wind recognizes that available science and management practices will evolve during the lifetime of the Project, and this evolution may affect changes or adaptations to mitigations proposed at earlier stages. Engagement conducted under the FCP and the input received by the Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Representatives, and fisheries monitoring research will inform the fisheries mitigation strategy throughout the lifetime of the SouthCoast Wind Project.

There is a need for experienced mariners to support the construction and operations of the Project, and SouthCoast Wind recognizes that many roles are ideally suited for experienced fishermen from the region. As such, SouthCoast Wind is partnering with several community organizations to provide fishermen jobs, increase fishing fleet safety standards, and support safe navigation in and around the SouthCoast Wind Project Area. This effort will be accomplished through signed agreements with local organizations that leverage regional fishing vessels' local expertise to serve as guard vessels, scout vessels, and support research studies (**Attachment 7-5**). As part of its WindUp Program, SouthCoast Wind is also actively identifying opportunities within its project scopes that fishermen could deliver. Through that program, fishermen will receive prequalification by SouthCoast Wind's tier 1 partners and develop the requisite skills and equipment to serve as subcontractors. This program seeks to provide new employment opportunities to local fishermen by leveraging their existing assets and skills.

Table 7-2 presents the measures SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on fish and fisheries during construction, operations, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-2. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Fish and Fisheries

Project Phase	Potential Impacts	Measures
All phases (lifetime of Project)	Research, Monitoring, and Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term Monitoring & Research – SouthCoast Wind compiled existing fisheries data and economics from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, RI DEM, and federal sources to inform the development of fisheries mitigation and monitoring plans. • SouthCoast Wind developed pre-construction, construction, operations, and decommissioning fisheries monitoring and research programs. SouthCoast Wind will conduct and contribute research funds for collaborative fisheries studies and monitoring for impacts. • FCP – SouthCoast Wind will continue implementing the FCP that describes the strategies for communicating with fisheries stakeholders before and during offshore activities. As a component of the FCP, SouthCoast Wind provides notifications to state and federal regional fishery management organizations and local fishing groups on the location and timeframe of survey and construction activities well before the mobilization and with updates throughout the period. • Additional communications – The SouthCoast Wind Fisheries Manager participates in federal and state working groups. The Fisheries Manager works directly with fishing vessels and ports to solicit feedback on concerns and recommendations for mitigations, research, and data needs conducted as part of SouthCoast Wind’s environmental research investments. • SouthCoast Wind participates in the Massachusetts/Rhode Island joint developer Marine Affairs Working Group. • SouthCoast Wind will work with port agencies and port agents to schedule and communicate activities to minimize impacts to fishing vessels coming in to prevent delays in entering the port and delivering their haul.
	Habitat loss or disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchored vessels will avoid sensitive seafloor habitats to the greatest extent practicable, including eelgrass beds and other special, sensitive, or unique habitats, as long as it does not compromise cable installation or the health and safety of personnel.
Pre-construction	Gear Entanglement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting and Routing – SouthCoast Wind will minimize export and inter-array cable crossings. • Opportunities for local expertise – SouthCoast Wind will continue to work with Fisheries Representatives and local fishing vessels that can serve as scouting vessels. These local fishermen can serve as Fisheries Onboard Representatives and fishing vessels in the Lease Area and regional vicinity to map potential locations for fishing gear. • Compensation for Gear Loss – SouthCoast Wind implemented a mechanism to compensate fishermen for direct impacts (e.g., damage to, or loss of, fishing gear) that can be attributed to the Project (e.g., site characterization surveys).

Project Phase	Potential Impacts	Measures
	Working with fishermen in Project development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fishermen jobs, increase fishing fleet safety standards, and support safe navigation in and around the Project Area. This will be accomplished by leveraging regional fishing vessels' local expertise to serve as guard vessels, scout vessels, and support research studies. • Identify other work opportunities within the Project scope that are well-suited to interested fishermen.
	Habitat loss or disturbance/use conflicts - Known Fishing Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scour Protection - SouthCoast Wind will design a scour protection system to reduce and minimize scour and sedimentation and use materials that could enhance fish habitat at the base of offshore foundations. • Cable Installation - SouthCoast Wind will apply construction methods for cable laying activities that align with the Convention for Protection of Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) guidelines. • SouthCoast Wind will work closely with municipal shellfish constables to coordinate shellfish seeding with planned activities before construction. Mitigation that addresses the anticipated level of impact will be developed in consultation with the shellfish constables, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the fishing community, and other stakeholders.
	Use conflicts - General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit corridor(s) - The proposed Project layout, based on a joint developer agreement to establish a coordinated spacing and placement convention, establishes 231 transit corridors. • Spacing between turbines - The Project layout provides spacing of 1.0-nm-wide transit corridors between WTG rows in north-south and east-west directions and 0.7-nm-wide transit corridors on the diagonals. This coordinated layout aligns with neighboring leaseholders and is supported by the USCG to provide fishermen with consistent, navigable routes.
Construction	Gear Entanglement/Loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel operations - SouthCoast Wind will implement direct communications of vessel schedules and locations during site characterization and construction activities through the Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Representatives, and other networks. This provides direct opportunities for stakeholders to communicate with SouthCoast Wind representatives to report gear loss and voice concerns. • Cable Burial Depth - SouthCoast Wind will install subsea cables to target burial depth based on best management practices agreed upon by developers, regulatory agencies, and fishermen. • Cable Protection - SouthCoast Wind will investigate and deploy cable shielding materials where needed to avoid conflict with fishing vessels and gear operations. • Cable Burial Depth/Inspections - SouthCoast Wind will inspect cable burial depth periodically during Project operation to ensure adequate coverage to avoid interference with fishing gear/activity. • Compensation for Gear Loss - SouthCoast Wind has developed a mechanism that allows fishermen

Project Phase	Potential Impacts	Measures
		to be compensated for impacts that can be attributed directly to Project activities (e.g., damage to, or loss of, fishing gear from survey activities).
	Use conflicts - General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-Area Restrictions - SouthCoast Wind will implement construction safety zones in consultation with USCG and work with fishermen to determine appropriate courses of action for areas temporarily closed during specific construction activities.
	Working with fishermen in Project development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fishermen jobs, increase fishing fleet safety standards, and support safe navigation in and around the SouthCoast Wind Lease Area and Project envelope. This will be accomplished by leveraging regional fishing vessels' local expertise to serve as guard vessels, scout vessels, and support research studies. • Identify other work opportunities within the Project scope that are well-suited to interested fishermen. • Where possible, SouthCoast Wind will avoid particularly important areas and common fishing grounds inshore and offshore.
	Habitat loss or disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable Burial Depth - SouthCoast Wind will install subsea cables to adequate depth (and consider using cable-shielding materials to minimize potential but unlikely effects of magnetic fields and electromagnetic fields [EMF]). • Construction Methods - SouthCoast Wind will minimize construction impacts to juvenile fish and EFH by choosing the appropriate and least impactful installation method for each portion of the offshore route that can achieve the necessary burial depth with a relatively minor, temporary impact on the seabed. For example, installing submarine cables using jetting, jet-plow, or mechanical trenching should minimize the area of dredging and direct seafloor impact. • SouthCoast Wind will apply construction methods for cable-laying activities aligned with the OSPAR and DOI guidelines. • Time-of-Year Restrictions - When necessary, SouthCoast Wind will adhere to species-specific state and federal designated time-of-year restrictions for designated diadromous fish, finfish, mollusk, and arthropods identified within the Project Area to avoid spawning periods, larval settlement, and juvenile development.
	Operations	Use conflicts - General

7.4.7 Fisheries Research

Through engagement with fisheries managers, regulators, fishermen, and research organizations, SouthCoast Wind conducts and supports research to answer outstanding questions on potential impacts to fisheries and fishing from offshore wind development. SouthCoast Wind is contributing financial support for environmental research funding to support organizations such as ROSA and the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium. SouthCoast Wind has contributed over \$400,000 to ROSA and is committed to contributing \$625,000 through 2027. Scientists from each group will work together to establish and execute monitoring of highly migratory fish species that transit in and around the Lease Area. Funding will support data collection related to movement ecology, biology, and population structure of key fish species and other efforts to increase the understanding of how migratory and resident species may respond to the installation and operations of offshore wind turbines. SouthCoast Wind believes working with the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life will enable novel approaches to complex issues facing the co-existence of offshore wind and fisheries.

In addition to supporting regional fisheries research, SouthCoast Wind will continue to support fisheries monitoring within the Project Area before, during, and after construction to understand the potential impacts of offshore wind development. SouthCoast Wind is developing an integrated monitoring approach that includes academic institutions, local fishermen, and environmental consultants to identify and implement monitoring measures to inform Project development and construction activities. This monitoring plan has been developed alongside ROSA's Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines and BOEM's Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic OCS Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585.

SouthCoast Wind is working with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School for Marine Science & Technology, the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, and INSPIRE Environmental to conduct fisheries monitoring and impact assessment surveys that will assist in creating a baseline of existing fisheries information in and around the Lease Area and in nearshore portions of the ECC. Marine fisheries surveys included in SouthCoast Wind's fisheries monitoring plans include trawl surveys, acoustic surveys, underwater video/ photography surveys, and highly migratory species acoustic telemetry and recreational fishing monitoring. This baseline data collection and continued monitoring and data collection will be critical in determining any potential short- and long-term impacts and identifying potential fit-for-purpose and effective mitigation strategies.

7.5 Preliminary Environmental Characterization

7.5 Provide a preliminary environmental characterization of the site and project, including both construction and operation. In addition, the bidder should identify environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and any potential impediments to development. A plan to avoid, minimize, or mitigate such impacts or impediments should also be included. The analysis should address all criteria specified under Environmental Impacts and Environmental Mitigation Plan in Appendix J.

SouthCoast Wind conducted thorough environmental characterizations (**Figure 7-6**) of the entire Project Area for the COP and other relevant federal and state permit applications. Baseline site characterizations were conducted using data from SouthCoast Wind and publicly available surveys and studies. All desktop studies and surveys for the Project continue to be guided by the best available science and informed by current agency guidelines (e.g., before-after-control-impact, before-after-gradient studies). Data from SouthCoast Wind field surveys and assessments include, but are not limited to:

- Ambient acoustic surveys (2020 - 2021)
- Avian and marine mammal vessel-based surveys (2019)
- Benthic infaunal and seafloor habitat surveys (2020 - 2022)
- Eelgrass surveys (2020)
- Geophysical surveys (2019 - 2023)
- Geotechnical and geoarchaeological surveys (2019 - 2023)
- High-resolution digital aerial surveys (2019 - 2020)
- Historic properties surveys (2020-2023)
- Navigation Safety Risk Assessment (desktop) (2020-2021)
- Terrestrial vegetation and wildlife assessment (desktop) (2020-2021)
- Visual impact surveys (2020-2022)
- Wetlands delineation surveys (2020 - 2021)
- Sediment sampling and analysis (2023)



Figure 7-6. The SouthCoast Wind Team & Survey Vessel (Fugro Explorer)

The COP presents a review of potential impacts on environmental resources from all phases of the Project. Activities and infrastructure elements that could impact existing environmental conditions were identified as impact-producing factors (IPFs). The COP identified the duration of impact and spatial extent for each IPF to serve as a basis to evaluate the potential effects of the Project construction, operations and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning on physical, biological, cultural, and socioeconomic resources.

7.5.1 Air Quality

The Project is expected to have temporary, minor negative air quality impacts during construction associated with equipment and installation vessels and a significant net positive benefit over the life of the Project. The Lease Area is located on the OCS, more than 20 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard; therefore, most activities will occur far from land.

The air quality benefits of the Project (in the form of greenhouse gas emission reductions) far outweigh the minor emissions anticipated from construction. During operation, the Project will not produce air pollution. It will avoid, minimize, and mitigate carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide emissions associated with conventional, fossil-fuel power generation across New England. **Table 7-3** summarizes the expected emissions reductions of various key air pollutants annually and over the lifespan of the Project.

[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Table 7-4 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on air quality during the construction and operations of the Project.

Table 7-4. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Air Quality

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Air Quality	Construction	Planned Discharges: Air Emissions Vehicles, onshore and offshore construction equipment, drones, helicopters, and generators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will ensure that vessels used for construction will use the jurisdictionally required compliant fuel, e.g., ultra-low sulfur diesel or a fuel with less emissions. • SouthCoast Wind will ensure fuels used for construction equipment comply with EPA or equivalent emissions standards. • SouthCoast Wind will use low-NO_x engines when possible. • SouthCoast Wind will engage with the EPA to satisfy the Best Available Control Technology. • SouthCoast Wind will use ship-to-shore power as a criterion in evaluating contracts that SouthCoast Wind will execute with vessel operators. • When marshaling turbines from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal, SouthCoast Wind will use available emissions mitigation technology to the extent it is readily integrable and cost-efficient for the vessels utilized for staging activities. • SouthCoast Wind will consult with MassCEC about potential upgrades to the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal to accommodate ship-to-shore connections for larger vessels and work in good faith with its vessel providers to enable its use for the Project.
	O&M	Planned Discharges: Air Emissions Vehicles, onshore and offshore construction equipment, drones, helicopters, and generators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Construction Project Phase: Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (above)

7.5.2 Cultural Resources

Offshore wind energy projects and associated facilities, such as export cables, have the potential to impact archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, and properties of religious and cultural significance to Native American Tribes. On the OCS, historic properties listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) include historic shipwrecks, navigational obstructions, and pre-historic archaeological sites.

The COP includes a MARA and a TARA, both conducted according to the BOEM Guidelines for Providing Archaeological and Historic Property Information Pursuant to 30 CFR 585. The MARA presents the marine archaeological data collected from SouthCoast Wind geophysical, geotechnical, and geoarchaeological surveys in the Project Area. The TARA presents terrestrial archaeological and cultural resource information from field and desktop surveys across the onshore Project Areas on Aquidneck Island and at Brayton Point. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to underwater cultural heritage within the Lease Area and along the offshore ECC in state waters will be determined in consultation with the Tribes, BOEM, BUAR, MHC, and RI HPHC through the Section 106 process.

SouthCoast Wind continues to hold pre-survey, post-survey, and Project update meetings with the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe. In 2021, SouthCoast Wind expanded its tribal outreach to regularly engage with the Shinnecock Indian Nation, Delaware Indian Tribe, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut (collectively referred to as 'the Tribes'). SouthCoast Wind will continue to coordinate directly with the Tribes, BOEM, MHC, and RI HPHC regarding discoveries of terrestrial archaeological significance and the development of impact avoidance and mitigation plans through the Section 106 process.

Table 7-5 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on cultural resources during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-5. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Cultural Resources

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Marine Archeological Resources	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	Seabed or Ground Disturbance/Sediment Suspension and Deposition Unanticipated discovery of underwater cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will maintain avoidance buffers around identified wrecks and obstructions as appropriate. • SouthCoast Wind will mark identified paleolandscapes for avoidance as appropriate. • SouthCoast Wind will continue to develop, in consultation with the Tribes and applicable federal and state agencies, an Unanticipated Discovery Plan in the unlikely event an unidentified and unanticipated underwater cultural heritage site is encountered. • Under the Unanticipated Discovery Plan (Appendix Q.1), if a potential cultural resource is discovered during construction activities, all bottom disturbing activities in the area of discovery will cease, and every effort will be made to avoid or minimize damage to the potential submerged cultural resource(s) • SouthCoast Wind will continue consultation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to determine if additional mitigation measures are required. • Training to identify archaeological resources will be provided by the Qualified Marine Archaeologist (QMA) for resident engineers and contractor field supervisors before implementation by Project and contractor personnel.
Terrestrial Archeological Resources	Construction	Ground Disturbance Unanticipated discovery of terrestrial archaeological resources from ground disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will site the onshore Project components in locations that minimize impacts to or avoid potential terrestrial archaeological resources to the extent practicable. • SouthCoast Wind will work with the affected Tribes, BOEM, MHC, RIHPHC, and BUAR to identify potential effects on terrestrial archaeological resources and appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. • SouthCoast Wind will monitor archaeological subsurface testing during construction in areas with a moderate to high potential for undiscovered archaeological resources. • SouthCoast Wind will implement an Unanticipated Discovery Plan that will include stop-work and notification procedures to be followed if a cultural resource is encountered during installation. • SouthCoast Wind will conduct additional site-specific site evaluation and site

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
			<p>mitigation if determined to be warranted due to the identification of archaeological sites that exhibit a potential for listing in the NRHP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will perform fieldwork following current standards and in consultation with the MHC and RIHPHC. • SouthCoast Wind will work with a cultural resource consultant (CRC) to determine the need for a site visit by the CRC within 24 hours upon discovering a potential cultural resource. • SouthCoast Wind will determine the duration of any work stoppages to be contingent upon the significance of the identified cultural resource(s) and consultation among SouthCoast Wind, BOEM, the applicable SHPO, THPOs, and other parties, as appropriate and necessary. • SouthCoast Wind will conduct necessary investigations under archaeological permits issued by the MHC and/or RIHPHC. • SouthCoast Wind will handle any discoveries of human remains following the appropriate state requirements, and if they appear to be Native American, will be guided by the policy statement adopted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. • SouthCoast will ensure due care in excavating, transporting, and storing any discovered remains to ensure their security and respectful treatment.
	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	<p>Accidental Events Damage to unanticipated archaeological resources from accidental events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will implement BMPs throughout the proposed Project phases to minimize potential effects, including accidental releases. • SouthCoast Wind will develop and implement a Safety Management System (SMS) and Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) to avoid, control, and address any accidental releases during all proposed Project activities. • A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan will be developed for the Project as appropriate

7.5.3 Fisheries

SouthCoast Wind recognizes that the Project must be built to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fisheries, including commercial, for-hire charter, and recreational. SouthCoast Wind will continue to bring fishermen collectively into Project development and work collaboratively to develop monitoring protocols and initiate research and data collection to help inform the Project and fishermen on potential impacts. SouthCoast Wind's fisheries mitigation measures will be grounded in collaboration with fishermen and fisheries managers to generate, sustain, and innovate data and monitoring efforts to maintain sustainable and healthy fisheries alongside responsible offshore wind development. See **Section 7.4** and **Attachment 7-4**, Fisheries Communication Plan, for more details on SouthCoast Wind's fisheries mitigation measures proposed and implemented to date. Additional details on key fisheries, fish species, and SouthCoast Wind mitigation measures are available in **Section 7.4** and **Appendix J**.

7.5.4 Avian and Bat Species

Potential impacts to avian species of concern include collision risk during operations, disturbance (temporary habitat loss) during construction, displacement during operations, alteration of food resource distribution (e.g., fish, aquatic invertebrates), and habitat loss, including coastal breeding habitats. The primary risk of impacts to bats from offshore wind energy facilities is collision during migration; however, the number of individuals passing through the Lease Area and regional vicinity is likely minimal. SouthCoast Wind does not anticipate any tree removal or other disturbance to onshore bat habitats for constructing the onshore converter station or installing the onshore export cables. SouthCoast Wind conducted an Avian Exposure Risk Assessment (COP Appendix I1) and a Bat Risk Assessment (COP Appendix I2) that evaluated the best available literature, government databases, and local and regional information evaluating the habitat use, abundance, and distribution of coastal and marine birds and bats known to occur the Project Area.

Bird and bat species that are federally or state-listed or are species of conservation concern (i.e., federal Birds of Conservation Concern or state Species of Greatest Conservation Need) with the potential to occur in the Project Area are listed in **Appendix J**. SouthCoast Wind's environmental characterization of species presence is based on a literature review and review of public databases, and results of surveys conducted in and around the Project Area, including long-term local or regional survey efforts in the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Wind Energy Area (MA/RI WEA); e.g., Winship et al., 2018; Curtice et al., 2016; Veit et al., 2016.

Project-specific surveys included monthly high-definition aerial surveys from November 2019 through October 2020. Sampling efforts were increased during the migratory period (e.g., April, May, and August 2020) for terns and other species of concern in coordination with the MassWildlife NHESP. Survey methods consisted of flying an aircraft over the Lease Area and capturing digital still imagery using a grid-based survey design with a high-resolution camera. Each of the 15 surveys attained no less than 40 percent coverage of the Lease Area. Third-party

experts analyzed the images to enumerate birds, and another third-party reviewer, for data quality assurance, identified any missed species. Additionally, a series of geophysical and geotechnical vessel surveys completed in the Lease Area between September and November 2019 included an onboard professional avian observer who recorded all birds observed during the surveys.

Six species of marine and coastal birds listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, MESA, and/or RI DEM (including Special Concern species) may be present within the SouthCoast Wind Project Area: piping plover, red knot, roseate tern, Leach's storm-petrel, common tern, and least tern. Piping plovers and red knots are migratory shorebirds unlikely to enter the Project Area. Roseate terns may occur in and near the Lease Area when foraging offshore. The Marine-life Data and Analysis Team (MDAT) models and MassCEC surveys indicate that the likelihood of occurrence of Leach's storm-petrel in the Lease Area is rare in spring, summer, and fall, as the species is predicted to primarily occur further offshore than the Lease Area. The MDAT abundance models and MassCEC surveys indicate that common tern likelihood of occurrence in the Lease Area is uncommon in spring and rare in summer and fall. For least tern, the MDAT abundance models and MassCEC surveys indicate that least tern likelihood of occurrence in the Lease Area is very rare in spring and fall.

On September 1, 2023, USFWS released their Biological Opinion of the SouthCoast Wind Project's impacts on federally threatened and endangered species, concluding their Endangered Species Act consultation with BOEM with the following determination: "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect."

SouthCoast Wind has prepared a *Draft Construction Avian and Bat Monitoring Framework*, which has been reviewed by federal and state agencies during the permitting process (BOEM, USFWS, NHESP, etc.). This framework identifies mitigation and monitoring measures, including an adaptive management plan, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to avian and bat species potentially impacted by the Project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A summary of measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects on birds and bats during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project is presented in **Appendix J**.

7.5.5 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

SouthCoast Wind has evaluated the best available literature, government databases, and local and regional information evaluating the habitat use, abundance, and distribution of marine mammal and sea turtle species known to occur in Massachusetts and Rhode Island waters, supplemented by marine mammal and sea turtle-specific surveys conducted for the Project. SouthCoast Wind has conducted offshore geophysical and geotechnical (G&G) surveys in the

Lease Area and along the ECC over the last five years. During all G&G surveys, marine mammal observations are recorded by either PSOs or Environmental Monitors, and these observations have been incorporated into SouthCoast Wind permitting documents and models, including those used in the COP, IHA, and ITR Applications. Additionally, SouthCoast Wind, in collaboration with other MA/RI WEA developers, funded the continuation of aerial North Atlantic right whale surveys by the New England Aquarium and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center during monthly surveys in 2021 to obtain continued density and relative abundance estimates of large whales and other species.

Twenty-five species of marine mammals have the potential to exist in the MA/RI WEA and the Project Area, including several that are federally and/or state-listed in Massachusetts or have been petitioned for listing. The marine mammal and sea turtle species listed in **Appendix J** have been previously observed and/or recorded during surveys for BOEM-specific assessments, surveys conducted in and around the MA/RI WEA and Lease Area and along the offshore ECC as part of long-term population assessments, and in NMFS Marine Mammal Stock Assessment reports of the MA/RI WEA. Five species of sea turtles have the potential to occur in the Lease Area and along the offshore ECC, all of which are federally and state-listed in Massachusetts.

Aerial and acoustic surveys have been conducted near the Project Area as part of long-term population studies (e.g., Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species [AMAPPS] for BOEM OCS assessments and MassCEC North Atlantic right whale [NARW] surveys). Data from these surveys provide information regarding the presence and distribution of marine mammals in the Project Area, along with PSO data collected over the last five years during SouthCoast Wind site characterization surveys.

Noise associated with construction activities can potentially impact marine mammals and sea turtles. Reactions of marine mammals and sea turtles to noise may include apparent indifference, cessation of vocalizations or feeding activity, and evasive behavior (e.g., turns, diving) to avoid approaching vessels or pile driving activities. Additionally, continuous elevated anthropogenic sound levels may result in masking effects—for example, they may affect the ability of marine mammals to use sound to communicate, detect prey, or navigate. Short-term noise impacts associated with pre-construction activities (i.e., geophysical surveys) and construction activities (vessel traffic, pile driving, etc.) are expected to be localized and temporary.

SouthCoast Wind is particularly focused on protecting the NARW, a species at risk because of their diminished population and relatively high mortality rates due to ship strikes and entanglement with fishing gear. The highly endangered NARW experiences the most per-capita vessel strikes. It is especially vulnerable because it primarily utilizes busy coastal areas, swims slowly, and congregates at or just below the water's surface. NARWs are found in the MA/RI WEA in the spring while traveling northward for feeding during their breeding period.

New England waters are important feeding habitats for NARW. Federally designated NARW critical habitat is located along the Atlantic coast in the northeast and southeast U.S.

To minimize the risk of damage to NARWs from collisions with vessels, all Project vessels greater than 65 feet (ft) (19.8 meters [m]) in length will travel at a maximum speed of 10 knots between November 1 and July 31. SouthCoast Wind will ensure that all vessel operators reduce vessel speed to 10 knots or less when mother/calf pairs, pods, or large assemblages of marine mammals are observed near an underway vessel.

A full review of the stated potential impacts on marine mammals and sea turtles, especially on the NARW, has been assessed in the SouthCoast Wind COP, SouthCoast Wind's Incidental Take Regulations (ITR) Application, and in the NARW Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Pile Driving (**Attachment 7-6**).

A summary of measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on marine mammals and sea turtles throughout the Project's life is included in **Appendix J**.

7.5.6 Fish

There are two federally and/or state-listed finfish species known to occur in the Lease Area and along the offshore ECC: Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). Atlantic sturgeon may be present in the ECC and near the landfall locations throughout the year due to its preference for inshore coastal waters and gravelly and sand substrates (Stein et al., 2004). Based on its habitat preferences, shortnose sturgeon may occur in the nearshore export cable corridor and landfall locations; however, the species is unlikely to occur offshore because it prefers estuarine waters and river and bay habitats (GARFO, 2019b).

Fish may be impacted by offshore wind projects due to potential injury from noise during surveys and pile driving activities, temporary or long-term displacement, habitat alteration, or changes in prey availability or distribution. Concerns about potential impacts on fish and other marine organisms from EMFs associated with electric transmission cables have also been expressed. An Offshore EMF Assessment was conducted for the SouthCoast Wind COP, which analyzed the effects of EMFs from subsea export cables. Regarding fish species, the study stated that high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) magnetic fields from undersea export cables may be detected by fish and lobster species with magnetosensitive sense organs, but field studies do not provide evidence that behavior is appreciably affected (CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. and Exponent, 2019). Additionally, a study (BOEM, 2018) on elasmobranch (sharks, rays, and skates) and American lobster movement and migration found that EMF from operating direct current cables did not create a barrier to the movement of the species studied. See EMF Impacts on Elasmobranch (shark, rays, and skates) and American Lobster Movement and Migration from Direct Current Cables (BOEM, 2018).

Magnetic field levels associated with the export cables are not expected to impact marine organisms. Because EMFs from the offshore export cables are anticipated to be at low levels and decrease rapidly with lateral distance, the fields would be weak, small, and likely only detectable, if at all, to demersal species.

Table 7-2 in **Section 7.4** presents mitigation measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to minimize adverse effects on fish species and fishing activities during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

7.5.7 Invertebrates and Benthic Habitats

Invertebrates are the most diverse marine species group but can generally be classified into benthic epifauna and infauna. Potential impacts on invertebrates include displacement of benthic organisms and habitat disturbance during construction, including changes in turbidity and disturbance to benthic substrates. An assessment of the physical and biological characteristics of the seafloor to determine the benthic and shellfish composition of the Lease Area and export cable corridors was completed based on a review of published scientific literature, publicly available reports, and field surveys within the offshore Project Area.

Benthic organisms observed during surveys in the Lease Area and most of the southern export cable corridor were predominantly infaunal tube-building and surface-burrowing species typical of soft, sandy sediment with some mobile, epifaunal species (e.g., sand dollars, crabs, gastropods) also observed. These infaunal species are also expected to occur in unconsolidated soft sediments near the Lease Area and within portions of the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay. Benthic surveys of the Brayton Point export cable corridor have also been completed; similar species distributions occur in the gravelly and hard-bottom habitats of the Brayton Point export cable corridor, especially in the moraine areas in and near Rhode Island Sound.

SouthCoast Wind has conducted five seasonal benthic sampling campaigns within the offshore Project Area. Benthic habitat surveys conducted for the Project included Sediment Profile and Plan View Imaging data and benthic grab samples throughout the Lease Area. The surveys aligned with BOEM (2019), Guidelines for Providing Benthic Habitat Survey Information for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic OCS Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585 and NMFS (2020), Recommendations for Mapping Fish Habitat. SouthCoast Wind collaborated with BOEM and NMFS to develop the sampling plan before each seasonal benthic campaign. The Coastal/Marine Ecological Classification Standard substrate classification was used for the benthic habitat characterization conducted for the COP and EFH Assessment. The culmination of the benthic habitat data is hosted on a web-based geographic information system (GIS) pop-up mapper. This system aggregates the publicly available data sources and high-resolution Sediment Profile Imaging and Plan View (SPI/PV), ground truthing grab samples, and sonar data in one location. Access to this system can be shared with stakeholders and regulators to

examine our Project Area, as well as independent researchers who may review our scoping assessments for permit approvals.

A summary of measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on invertebrates and benthic habitats during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project is included in **Appendix J**.

7.5.8 Landscape and Visual

7.5.8.1 Offshore

A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) was completed for the COP to evaluate the Project's potential to affect visual resources. The VIA includes a viewshed analysis to identify the Area of Potential Visual Impact (APVI). The Project infrastructure may not be visible from all areas within the Offshore and Onshore Project Areas because of topography, among other things. The VIA considered a full buildout of the Lease Area. Based on the baseline inventory and characterization of the offshore APVI, 57 key observation points (KOPs), which represent common and sensitive views, were evaluated in the field, and georeferenced and/or measured photos were taken at 38 locations where potential visibility to the Project was confirmed. Photographed KOPs included 15 KOPs on Martha's Vineyard and 23 KOPs on Nantucket. Six KOPs on Martha's Vineyard and 14 KOPs on Nantucket were chosen to prepare 21 visual simulations. The visual simulations are publicly available on BOEM's website⁴.

Two of the 21 offshore simulations showed that Project infrastructure was not visible. The visibility ranking was level 1 (weak) for one KOP, level 2 to 3 (weak-moderate) for eight KOPs, level 3 to 4 (moderate) for eight KOPs, and level 4 to 5 (moderate-strong) for two KOPs. **Figure 7-7** depicts how the earth's curvature obscures the view of WTGs and offshore converter stations further from shore.

⁴ (https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/SouthCoast_Wind_Project_Visual_Simulations.pdf)

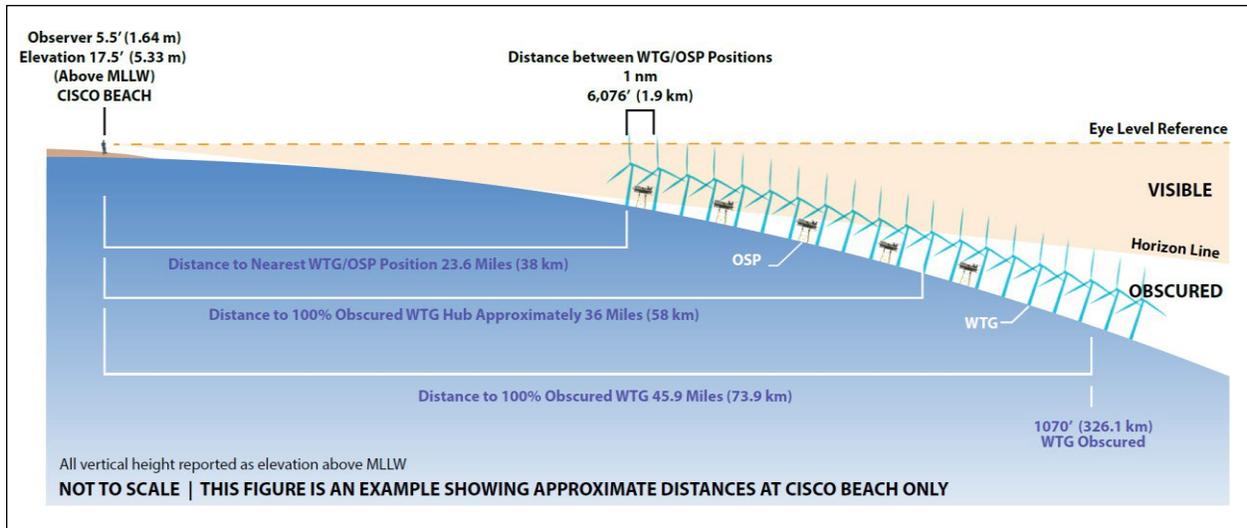


Figure 7-7. Indicative Example Showing Approximate Distances at Cisco Beach in Nantucket, Massachusetts

WTGs will be of uniform design, height, and rotor diameter. Their paint color will be selected based on BOEM and other relevant regulatory guidance to minimize WTG visibility. The lighting of the Project infrastructure (WTGs, offshore substation platforms [OSPs], and onshore converter station) may affect visual resources during the night and daytime. The WTGs will be equipped with USCG navigation warning lights on the platform near the tower base, as well as aviation lighting, which will operate in accordance with FAA and BOEM requirements.

Visual effects from nighttime activation of FAA aviation lighting will be mitigated by implementing SouthCoast Wind’s commitment to using an ADLS. An ADLS uses radar on the perimeter of a project to detect aircraft flying within a pre-defined detection zone and activates aviation lights accordingly.

A flight path survey was conducted as part of an ADLS Efficacy Analysis for the Project. Historical flight path data near the proposed Project were analyzed between February 1, 2019, and January 31, 2020. This dataset, in conjunction with analysis of standard ADLS activation parameters and local sunrise and sunset times, indicated that ADLS-controlled obstruction lights would have been activated in the Lease Area for a total of only 4 minutes and 46 seconds over one year.

7.5.8.2 *Nearshore and Onshore*

The nearshore and onshore export cables at Brayton Point and Portsmouth, Rhode Island, will not result in permanent visual impacts. The onshore HVDC converter station will have a maximum height of 85 ft (26 m) and be located near the former site of the Brayton Point Power Station cooling towers. **Table 7-6** presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to minimize adverse effects on landscape and visual resources during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-6. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Landscape and Visual Resources

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Visual Resources	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	Altered Visual Conditions / Changes to Ambient Lighting Change in seascape/landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind proposes to design the substation and converter stations to mitigate visual effects to the extent feasible, including height, location, and color. • SouthCoast Wind proposes to design the onshore substation and converter stations to mitigate visual effects to the extent feasible, including improving site aesthetics by adhering to landscape codes and edge treatments and improving building architecture to fit the local context. • SouthCoast Wind will work with the Towns of Somerset and Portsmouth to ensure the lighting scheme complies with town requirements. • SouthCoast Wind will design outdoor light fixtures at the onshore substation and converter stations to comply with night sky lighting standards to the extent practicable. • SouthCoast Wind will keep lighting at the onshore substation and converter stations to a minimum. Only a few lights will be illuminated on dusk-to-dawn sensors for security reasons, and other lights will utilize motion-sensing switches. The majority of lights will be switched on for emergencies only. • SouthCoast Wind will implement an ADLS.

7.5.9 Sound, Noise, and Vibration

7.5.9.1 Offshore

The primary source of Project-generated sound affecting the underwater acoustic environment is pile driving during construction. SouthCoast Wind developed a North Atlantic Right Whale Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Pile Driving containing additional measures specific to minimizing the impacts of underwater noise on NARW (**Attachment 7-6**). Secondary sound sources expected to occur over the life of the Project include activities associated with cable-laying and construction, O&M, and decommissioning vessels that contribute non-impulsive sound (dredging, dynamic positioning [DP] thrusters, vessel propulsion). Sounds from vessels associated with the Project are anticipated to be of similar frequency to existing levels of commercial traffic in the region.

Short-term noise impacts associated with pre-construction activities (geophysical and geotechnical surveys) and construction activities (vessel traffic, barge noise, pile driving, etc.) will be localized and temporary. An Underwater Acoustic Assessment was conducted by JASCO Applied Sciences and included in the SouthCoast Wind COP and ITR Application to NMFS. This report modeled various scenarios of anticipated construction sound and incorporated an animal exposure estimation tool to identify the impacts the construction noise from activities, such as pile driving, would have on marine mammals and sea turtles near the offshore Project Area.

SouthCoast Wind also developed a Protected Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan submitted to BOEM (COP Appendix O). This document contains an extensive monitoring and mitigation plan to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided and/or minimized during geophysical and geotechnical surveys and Project construction.

7.5.9.2 Onshore and Nearshore

An In-Air Acoustic Assessment was conducted and submitted to BOEM (COP Appendix U1). Noise modeling of onshore HDD equipment and other onshore facilities was conducted to analyze the project's potential effects. Potential effects were also considered for WTGs and offshore converter station platforms during operations, and it was determined that the in-air noise levels generated by offshore components will not cause impacts to onshore receptors.

SouthCoast Wind's noise mitigation measures will include minimizing construction work outside typical construction hours to the extent possible, installing a temporary noise barrier (if necessary) at edges of the site where practicable and safe, installing/maintaining mufflers on construction equipment where appropriate, maintaining and lubricating construction equipment for quietest performance, using muffling enclosures on continuously-operating equipment (e.g., air compressors, welding generators), turning off equipment not in use, and minimizing vehicle idling times. Before construction, a neighborhood notification plan will be developed and implemented to ensure local communities are informed of upcoming

development activities. The Project will also sponsor a 24-hour phone service for information to be made available.

SouthCoast Wind will also comply with applicable sections of the MassDEP Air Quality Regulations (e.g., 310 Code of Massachusetts Regulations [CMR] § 7.10 subsections (1) and (2)), which address reducing unnecessary noise from sound-emitting equipment.

Table 7-7 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse noise effects during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-7. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures Caused by Sound, Noise, and Vibration

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
In-Air Acoustics	Construction	Activities that Introduce Sound into the Environment: In-Air Noise HDD activities; Presence of onshore substation and converter stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will minimize the amount of work conducted outside of typical construction hours. • SouthCoast Wind will maintain construction equipment and use newer models to the extent practicable to provide the quietest performance. • SouthCoast Wind will, when possible, use enclosures on continuously operating equipment such as compressors and generators. • SouthCoast Wind will turn off construction equipment when not in use and minimize idling times. • SouthCoast Wind will mitigate the impact of noisy equipment on sensitive locations by using temporary barriers or buffering distances as practicable. • SouthCoast Wind will install a temporary noise barrier, if necessary, at the site's edges, where practicable and safe. • SouthCoast will use equipment silencers, where required, for drilling rig exhaust, mud cleaner generator exhaust, and mud pump exhaust.
	O&M	Activities that Introduce Sound into the Environment: In-Air Noise Onshore substation and converter stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will install noise barriers at the site's edges, where necessary, to meet regulatory requirements.
Underwater Acoustics	Construction and Decommissioning	Introduced Sound into the Environment Displacement; Harassment; Potential injury; Avoidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will utilize noise abatement systems to decrease the sound levels produced by Project activities in the water. • SouthCoast Wind will employ soft-start measures to gradually increase sound levels before the full pile driving hammer energy is reached.

7.5.10 Socioeconomic and Land Use

SouthCoast Wind is intently focused on maximizing the net benefit to our local communities along the South Coast of Massachusetts and the Rhode Island communities on Aquidneck Island, the Sakonnet River, and Mount Hope Bay.

Long-term socioeconomic impacts associated with the Project, are further detailed in **Section 13 Demonstrated, Verifiable Commitment to Create and Foster Employment and Economic Development and Other Direct Benefits**, including significant job-creation over the development, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project. The Project will produce significant investment in port infrastructure to support construction and O&M over the 30-year life of the Project. The greatest impacts will occur in local communities, specifically the Town of Somerset, in Bristol County, Massachusetts, and the Town of Portsmouth in Newport County, Rhode Island. These impacts will be seen in job creation, procurement (materials, equipment, and services), port use and vessel charters, and indirect and induced spending in surrounding communities.

[REDACTED]

Construction impacts from cable laying and grid interconnection will be temporary and avoided or mitigated to the extent practicable. Any socioeconomic impacts associated with landside and nearshore construction will be temporary and will be minimized through the use of HDD, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will alert residents and officials of pending construction activities. The plan anticipates conflicts with usual activity in the area, provides specific mitigation measures, and includes real-time mechanisms to address problems that may arise. See **Sections 7.4, Section 7.7, and Section 7.8** for more information on Project outreach and stakeholder engagement.

SouthCoast Wind expects impacts from the onshore converter station construction and onshore export cable installation to be minimal as all construction activities will occur within previously disturbed land on Aquidneck Island and Brayton Point.

Table 7-8 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on socioeconomic resources and land use during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-8. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures to Socio-economic and Land Use

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Demographics and Employment, and Economics	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	Workforce Hiring/Procurement of Materials, Equipment and Services Including Port Use and Vessel Charters/Presence of Infrastructure/Influx of Non-Local Employees that Could Affect Housing Increase in employment and economic opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will maintain a stakeholder engagement plan with outreach and communications mechanisms to share information and gather input from external stakeholders, including potential supply chain partners, educational institutions, and workforce training providers. SouthCoast Wind will encourage the hiring of skilled and unskilled labor from the Project region.
Environmental Justice (EJ), Minority, and Lower Income Groups and Subsistence Resources	Construction and Decommissioning	Workforce Hiring/Procurement of Materials, Equipment and Services Including Port Use and Vessel Charters/Presence of Infrastructure/ Influx of Non-Local Employees that Could Affect Housing/Vehicle Traffic/Planned Discharges: Air Emissions Increase in employment opportunities; Contribution to the economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will maintain a stakeholder engagement plan with outreach and communications mechanisms to share information and gather input from external stakeholders, including EJ communities. SouthCoast Wind will encourage the hiring of the skilled and unskilled labor from the Project region.
		Presence of Infrastructure/Influx of Non-Local Employees that Could Affect Housing/Vehicle Traffic/Planned Discharges: Air Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan to minimize disruptions to the community in the vicinity of construction and installation activities, especially along the underground transmission route. The Traffic Management Plan will be developed in consultation with the municipalities and will be submitted for review and approval by municipal authorities. SouthCoast Wind will develop and implement an onshore construction schedule to minimize effects on recreational uses and tourism-related activities to the extent

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
		Installation, construction, and decommissioning activities	practicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will mandate one or more independent construction and environmental monitors to ensure compliance with the Traffic Management Plan and other environmental plans. SouthCoast Wind will coordinate with the municipalities to determine the need for such monitoring.
	O&M	Workforce Hiring/Procurement of Materials, Equipment, and Services Including Port Use and Vessel Charters Increase in employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind is offering a local O&M Base to ensure the jobs created by the project benefit the communities impacted.
Recreation and Tourism	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	Construction Areas and Traffic/Saturation of Tourism-related Services/ Influx of Non-Local Employees that Could Affect Housing/Vehicle Traffic/Planned Discharges: Air Emissions Accessibility disruption and reduced enjoyment of land-based resources due to vehicle traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan to minimize disruptions to residences and commercial establishments near onshore construction activities; pedestrian and bicycle safety and movement will also be addressed to minimize the effects of construction. SouthCoast Wind will develop an onshore construction schedule to minimize effects on recreational uses and tourism-related activities to the extent feasible, such as scheduling nearshore construction activities to avoid the height of the summer tourist season and coordinating with stakeholders/visitors' bureaus to schedule outside of major events taking place onshore.
		Accessibility disruption due to saturation of tourism-related services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will provide a 1 nm (1.9 km) space between offshore structures (WTGs and OSPs), providing room for anticipated vessels to transit through and safely maneuver within the proposed Offshore Project Area. SouthCoast Wind will implement a comprehensive communication plan and a Fisheries Communication Plan to keep relevant marine stakeholders informed of the Project activities, especially during the construction and decommissioning phases. This will include distributing notices to inform mariners of Project-related activities within the offshore export cable corridors and Lease Area.

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will utilize PATONs following the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Guidance for the marking of man-made offshore structures (IALA, 2013) and USCG approval.
		Reduced enjoyment of land-based resources due to noise and air emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will implement BMPs throughout the Project phases to minimize potential effects. SouthCoast Wind will develop an onshore construction schedule to minimize effects on recreational uses and tourism-related activities to the extent feasible.

7.5.11 Traffic and Transportation (Including Navigation)

7.5.11.1 Offshore

SouthCoast Wind completed an NSRA submitted to USCG and BOEM with the COP in February 2021. The NSRA was conducted per the guidance in USCG Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular No. 01-19 (NVIC 01-19). The report is intended to be used by the USCG and BOEM to assist with evaluating the project's potential impacts on the marine transportation system, including navigation safety, traditional uses of the waterways, and USCG missions.

As shown in **Figure 7-8**, the Lease Area is bordered to the south by a major shipping safety fairway, the Off New York Traffic Separation Scheme, which is located between the approaches to New York and waters south of Nantucket. Vessel traffic is relatively low compared to the offshore shipping lanes and inshore along the coast at the entrances to ports and harbors. Marine risk modeling using Marine Accident Risk Calculation System software was performed in the NSRA to estimate the increase in marine accidents that may result from the Project. Most of the risk increase due to the Project lies within the Lease Area and is due to the potential for a vessel to strike a Project structure (allision risk). Generally, most maritime allision accidents are minor. Similarly, most of the allision accidents predicted by the modeling are expected to be minor.

The traffic survey of the NSRA found that the inshore portion of the Brayton Point export cable corridor (through Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay) typically has traffic that primarily consists of shallow draft vessels such as passenger and pleasure crafts. Comparatively low levels of fishing for all species were recorded along the inshore portion of the export cable corridor. Based on the modeling conducted for the NSRA, the modeled risk increase from the Project is less than 0.5 accidents per year.

Onshore

SouthCoast Wind is committed to working closely with emergency responders, host communities, local businesses, residents, and sensitive receptors to minimize traffic impacts from the Project to the maximum extent possible. Since all onshore construction will occur within the boundaries of Brayton Point and existing roadways on Aquidneck Island, adverse impacts from Project construction and operation on local traffic and transportation are not anticipated.

Table 7-9 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse navigation and traffic effects during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

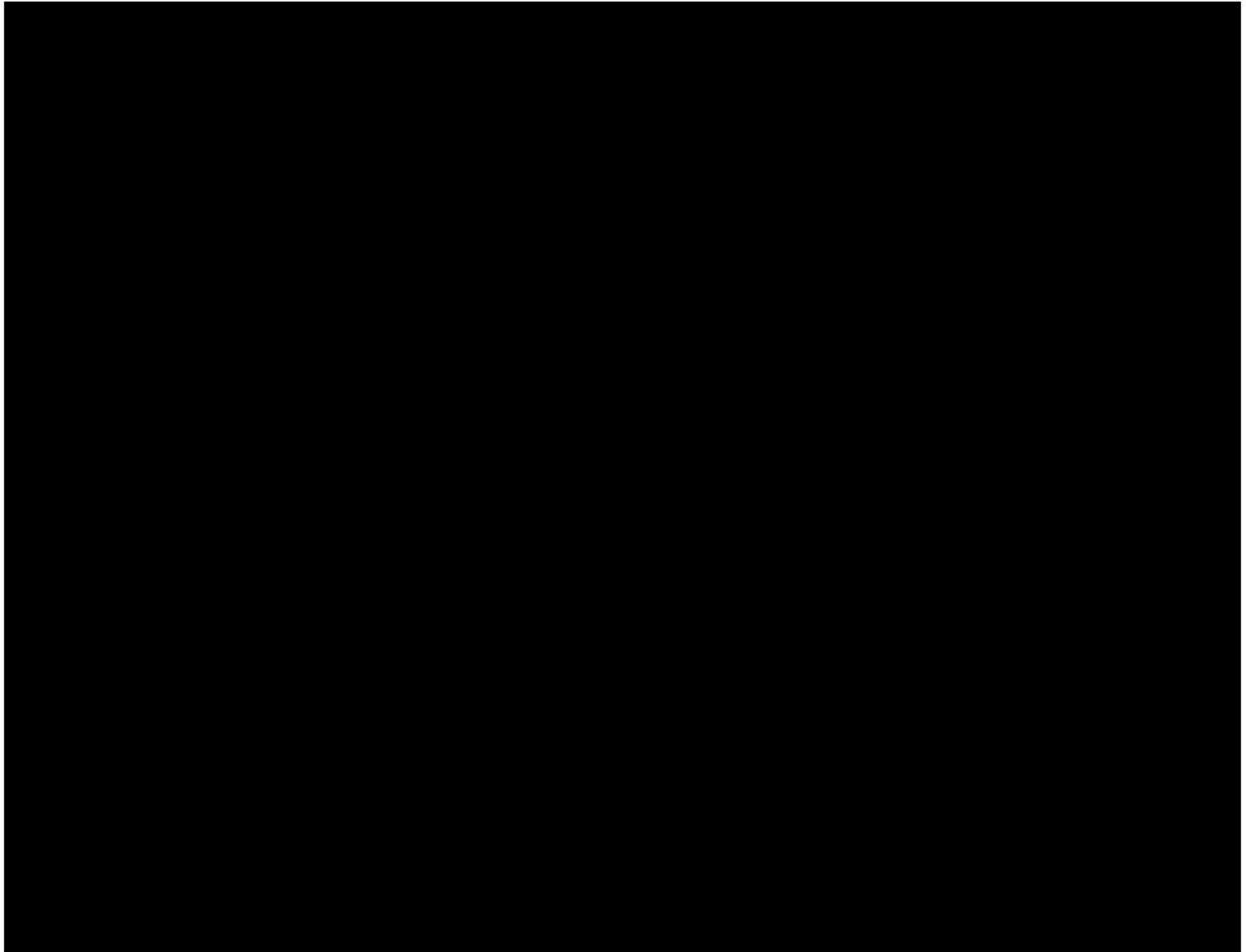


Table 7-9. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Traffic and Transportation

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Navigation and Vessel Traffic	Construction	<p>Actions that may Displace Human Uses/ Activities that may Displace or Impact Fishing and Recreation and Tourism/Accidental Events/Altered Visual Conditions</p> <p>Vessel operations and the presence of offshore equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will coordinate directly with the USCG in response to distress/Search and Rescue events. • SouthCoast Wind will post a Local Notice to Mariners on the SouthCoast Wind website. • SouthCoast Wind will submit a Local Notice to Mariners to the USCG and Fleet Command before the commencement of offshore construction activities. • SouthCoast Wind will implement construction safety zones in consultation with USCG and communicate to local mariners regarding upcoming and ongoing construction activities. • SouthCoast Wind will utilize on-scene safety vessel(s) and/or personnel to advise mariners of construction activity, as necessary. • SouthCoast Wind will investigate means to update navigation charts with NOAA to improve communications for on-water activities. • SouthCoast Wind will comply with regulatory requirements.
		<p>Change in Ambient Lighting</p> <p>Construction lighting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will utilize on-scene safety vessel(s) and/or personnel to advise mariners of construction activity, as necessary.
	O&M	<p>Actions that may Displace Human Uses/ Activities that may Displace or Impact Fishing and Recreation and Tourism/Accidental Events/Altered Visual Conditions</p> <p>Vessel operations and the presence of structures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will coordinate directly with the USCG in response to distress/Search and Rescue events. • Mariner diligence and offshore standard work safety practices will be established for all Project-related vessels. • SouthCoast Wind will adopt the best practice of an east-west orientation in the Lease Area with 1 nm (1.9 km) spacing between WTG/OSP rows. Layout orientation aligns with neighboring leaseholders to provide fishermen with consistent navigable routes to fishing grounds. • SouthCoast Wind will include lighting and marking proposed Project structures offshore according to permit requirements.

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marking of structures will be aligned with letter and number marking of all offshore structures within the MA/RI WEA, improving Search and Rescue and general navigation. SouthCoast Wind will maintain the Project’s distance from the established Traffic Separation Scheme.
		Changes in Ambient Lighting Lighting of offshore structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will submit requests for PATON permits from the USCG that consider a range of issues related to navigational safety.
	Decommissioning	Accidental Events Vessel operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will utilize on-scene safety vessel(s) and/or personnel to advise mariners of decommissioning activity, as necessary.
		Actions that may Displace Human Uses/ Activities that may Displace or Impact Fishing and Recreation and Tourism/Accidental Events/Altered Visual Conditions Presence of offshore equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will coordinate directly with the USCG in response to distress/Search and Rescue events. SouthCoast Wind will utilize on-scene safety vessel(s) and/or personnel to advise mariners of decommissioning activity, as necessary.
Other Marine Uses	Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning	Changes in Ambient Lighting Introduced lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will comply with USCG, BOEM, and FAA marking and lighting guidelines. SouthCoast Wind will utilize PATONs approved by USCG and installed in accordance with IALA Guidance (IALA, 2013) for the marking of man-made offshore structures. SouthCoast Wind will ensure that the marking of structures will be aligned with the letter and number marking of all offshore structures within the MA/RI WEA, improving SAR and general navigation. SouthCoast Wind will coordinate with the USCG, Air Force, Navy, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and other military and national security stakeholders to implement operational

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
			curtailment of WTGs during search and rescue operations or other national security emergencies near the Lease Area, as necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on navigation by equipping all Project-related vessels and relevant infrastructure with the required navigation marking, lighting, and day shapes.
	O&M	Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure Increased marine/vessel traffic and damage to existing cables/pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will use well-established standard techniques to protect existing and newly installed cables. SouthCoast Wind will develop cable crossing specifics in consultation with the cable owners as the proposed Project planning continues. SouthCoast Wind will utilize on-scene safety vessel(s) and/or personnel to advise mariners of construction/decommissioning activity, as necessary. SouthCoast Wind will investigate means to update navigation charts with NMFS to improve communications for on-water activities. SouthCoast Wind will establish mariner diligence and offshore standard work safety practices for all Project-related vessels.
		Presence of Infrastructure Obstruction to air navigation and interference with radar systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will work with the FAA and the owner/operator of any affected systems to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures. SouthCoast Wind will use ADLS to reduce visual effects. SouthCoast Wind will coordinate with the DoD Siting Clearinghouse, FAA, and NORAD to determine potential effects on radars and NAVAIDS and identify appropriate mitigation measures. SouthCoast Wind will coordinate with NMFS and the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems to determine the potential effects of high-frequency radars and identify appropriate mitigation measures, as necessary.
O&M [Military]	Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure/Presence of Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will provide a 1 nm (1.9 km) space between offshore structures (WTGs and OSPs), providing room for anticipated vessels to transit through and safely maneuver within the proposed Offshore Project Area. 	

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
		Use conflicts–military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthCoast Wind will align the marking of structures with letter and number marking of all offshore structures within the MA/RI WEA, improving SAR and general navigation. • SouthCoast Wind will liaise with the military and national security stakeholders to reduce potential conflicts. • SouthCoast Wind will ensure mariner diligence and offshore standard work safety practices are established for all Project-related vessels.

7.5.12 Water Quality

7.5.12.1 Offshore

The Project will impact Land Under the Ocean, including Land Containing Shellfish associated with installing submarine cable, dredging of sand waves, sediment dispersion, anchoring, and cable protection.

The SouthCoast Wind Project will comply with management standards in the Massachusetts OMP (301 CMR 28.00), as applicable, to minimize impacts to marine resources. The Project will also comply with all regulatory standards in the Rhode Island Ocean SAMP for the portion of the export cables in Rhode Island waters, Shoreline Change and Aquidneck Island SAMPs, RIGL § 46-23 and Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program regulations, as applicable, for areas crossed by the export cables on Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island.

Potential impacts to water resources include accidental spills or releases of oils or other contaminants and temporary increases in sedimentation or turbidity due to sea bottom-disturbing activities. Other potential impacts include erosion, sedimentation, and stormwater discharges to potential wetlands and waterways due to clearing vegetation for the export cable area. The Project will develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will include a specific Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan to prevent inadvertent releases, to the extent practicable, to the environment of oil and/or hazardous materials incidental to the use of heavy construction equipment and vehicles. The SWPPP will also include provisions for stabilizing disturbed soils, equipment refueling, proper handling, storage, and off-site disposal of all solid and/or hazardous wastes generated during construction.

Additionally, an OSRP and Emergency Response Plan were developed for the COP and will be followed during all Project phases to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to water quality.

7.5.12.2 Nearshore and Onshore

The use of HDD at the landfall locations during the intermediate landfall in Portsmouth, Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island), and Brayton Point will avoid or minimize coastal area impacts to dunes, land subject to coastal storm flowage, and other coastal resources. SouthCoast Wind will develop a suite of measures to avoid and minimize erosion and sedimentation, including minimizing soil exposure, protecting areas of concern, installing control measures, establishing vegetation after work, and inspecting and maintaining control measures.

Project-related construction activities will be designed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential effects on local groundwater and surface water resources that may occur due to soil erosion or stormwater discharge into waterbodies or contact with groundwater resources. The Project does not anticipate encountering significant areas with contaminated soil and groundwater. SouthCoast Wind has largely avoided impacts to inland wetland resource areas by routing within a previously disturbed area at Brayton Point. Any impacts will be construction-related

and, therefore, temporary. SouthCoast Wind will implement all appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls.

Table 7-10 presents measures that SouthCoast Wind will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on water resources during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Table 7-10. Proposed Project’s Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures on Water Resources

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
Wetlands and Waterbodies	Construction	Ground Disturbance Temporary habitat disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will implement erosion and sediment control measures in accordance with Massachusetts and Rhode Island regulations and industry BMPs throughout the Onshore Project Area to abate technical and biological erosion.
		Planned Discharges Dewatering and stormwater runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If groundwater is encountered, SouthCoast Wind will perform dewatering measures using standard construction BMPs for dewatering, including, but not limited to, the use of temporary settling basins, dewatering filter bags, or temporary holding or frac tanks. SouthCoast Wind will direct dewatering wastewater to well-vegetated uplands away from wetlands or other water resources to allow for infiltration to the soil of the discharged water. SouthCoast Wind will place construction mats to minimize soil disturbance in wetland areas that cannot be avoided or must be temporarily crossed.
		Accidental Events Release of hazardous materials into the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will always require the construction contractor to have spill control and containment kits on site to allow for immediate response and cleanup if fuel, oils, or other hazardous materials are accidentally released. SouthCoast Wind will implement BMPs, the SMS, a SWPPP for construction, and an emergency response procedure to avoid, control, and address any accidental releases during construction activities. SouthCoast Wind and its construction contractor will store petroleum products in upland areas more than 100 ft (30.5 m) from wetlands and waterbodies. Equipment will not be parked overnight within 100 ft (30.5 m) of a wetland or waterbody, except equipment that cannot be practically moved. Temporary containment will be required for equipment that cannot be practically moved and must be parked overnight within 100 ft (30.5 m) of a wetland or other water resources. SouthCoast Wind will use a secondary containment system for refueling that needs to occur within 100 ft (30.5 m) of wetlands to contain any minor amounts of fuel inadvertently dripped or released during refueling. SouthCoast Wind will set up cement cleanout tubs in areas at least 100 ft (30.5 m) from wetlands or other water resources to contain and hold any residual

Resource	Project Phase	Impact Producing Factors Potential Effect	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
			cement and washout from cement trucks before they depart from the site.
	O&M	Planned Discharges Dewatering and stormwater runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharges due to dewatering will be managed per the requirements for applicable EPA, MassDEP, RI DEM, and/or local regulations pertaining to dewatering.
		Accidental Events Release of hazardous materials into the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind and their construction contractor will store petroleum products in upland areas more than 100 ft (30.5 m) from wetlands and waterbodies.
	Decommissioning	Ground Disturbance Temporary habitat disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Construction Project Phase: Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (above).
		Planned Discharges Dewatering and stormwater runoff from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Construction Project Phase: Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (above).
		Accidental Events Release of hazardous materials into environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SouthCoast Wind will always require the decommissioning contractor to have spill control and containment kits on site to allow for immediate response and cleanup if fuel, oils, or other hazardous materials are accidentally released. SouthCoast will implement BMPs, an SMS, an SWPPP, and an emergency response procedure to avoid, control, and address any accidental releases during decommissioning activities as applicable. Equipment will not be parked overnight within 100 ft (30.5 m) of a wetland or waterbody, except equipment that cannot be practically moved. Temporary containment will be required for equipment that cannot be practically moved and must be parked overnight within 100 ft (30.5 m) of a wetland or other water resources. A secondary containment system for refueling that needs to occur within 100 ft (30.5 m) of wetlands is used to contain any minor amounts of fuel inadvertently dripped or released during refueling.

7.6 Potential Impacts on Environmental Justice

7.6 Please provide information on potential impacts on Environmental Justice Populations and host communities, including but not limited to addressing all criteria specified under Environmental Justice Impacts in Appendix J.

SouthCoast Wind will comply with all applicable EJ requirements, including the new EJ requirements under Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021: “An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy” signed by Governor Baker on March 26, 2021 (“2021 Climate Act”).

7.6.1 Potential Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations and Host Communities

Effective January 1, 2022, all new projects in a Designated Geographic Area (DGA) (as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, as amended) around EJ populations are subject to new requirements imposed by the 2021 Climate Act and amended Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations at 301 CMR 11.00. Two related MEPA protocols—the MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations (the “MEPA EJ Public Involvement Protocol”) and MEPA Interim Protocol for Analysis of project Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations (the “MEPA Interim Protocol for Analysis of EJ Impacts”)—are also in effect for new projects filed on or after January 1, 2022. The Project filed its ENF with the MEPA Office on August 12, 2022. Under the new regulations and protocols, all projects located in a DGA around one or more EJ populations must enhance public involvement opportunities for EJ populations and submit an analysis of impacts to such EJ populations in the form of an EIR.

Updated mapping of EJ populations in November 2022 shows that all onshore and nearshore Project components and associated construction activity are outside the 1-mile DGA for mapped EJ populations. As shown in **Figure 7-9**, the export cable corridor in the Lee River, the western landfall, the HVDC converter station, the onshore underground cable route, and approximately 65% of the export cable corridor in Massachusetts state waters are located over a mile from any mapped EJ populations. There are, however, three EJ block groups within one mile of the southernmost portion of the offshore ECC in Mount Hope Bay; specifically, Block Group 3, Census Tract 6403 - Minority and Income; Block Group 2, Census Tract 6403 - Income; and Block Group 1, Census Tract 6403 - Minority and Income.

While most of the Project is located outside the 1-mile DGA and does not exceed the MEPA review thresholds for Enhanced Public Participation and Enhanced Analysis of Impacts and Mitigation, SouthCoast Wind has conservatively conducted an analysis consistent with the MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations and the MEPA Interim Protocol for Analysis of Project Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations. This analysis is presented in SouthCoast Wind’s MEPA filings -- DEIR, FEIR, and SFEIR which are available on SouthCoast Wind’s website at <https://southcoastwind.com/documents/>.

SouthCoast Wind notified the EJ populations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and Tribal organizations before filing the ENF. The EJ screening tools, public health assessment, public outreach and engagement efforts, and enhanced EJ analyses are described in Section 3 of the DEIR and Section 2 of the FEIR; updates are provided in Section 3.3 of the Supplemental FEIR.

Each port facility under consideration to support the Project’s offshore construction activities is already located within an industrial waterfront area and/or Designated Port Area with adequate existing infrastructure or identified as an area where other entities are planning to develop infrastructure with the capacity to host marine construction or operation activities. The emissions anticipated, including vessel emissions, number of vessels, and duration of docking activity anticipated, as well as the expected number and duration of vessel routes that will extend near shore in and around New Bedford, are the responsibility of the owner/operator of the existing port facilities and would reasonably be expected to be included in the planning and permitting of existing or future facilities by the owner and operator of the port facility.

Using port facilities generates significant direct job creation and positive economic impacts in their host community and their local region from procurement by the project and its employees from local businesses.

[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind will use ship-to-shore power as a criterion in evaluating contracts that SouthCoast Wind will execute with vessel operators. SouthCoast Wind will consider using the available ship-to-shore technology to the extent the technology is readily integrable and cost-efficient for the vessels utilized for staging activities.

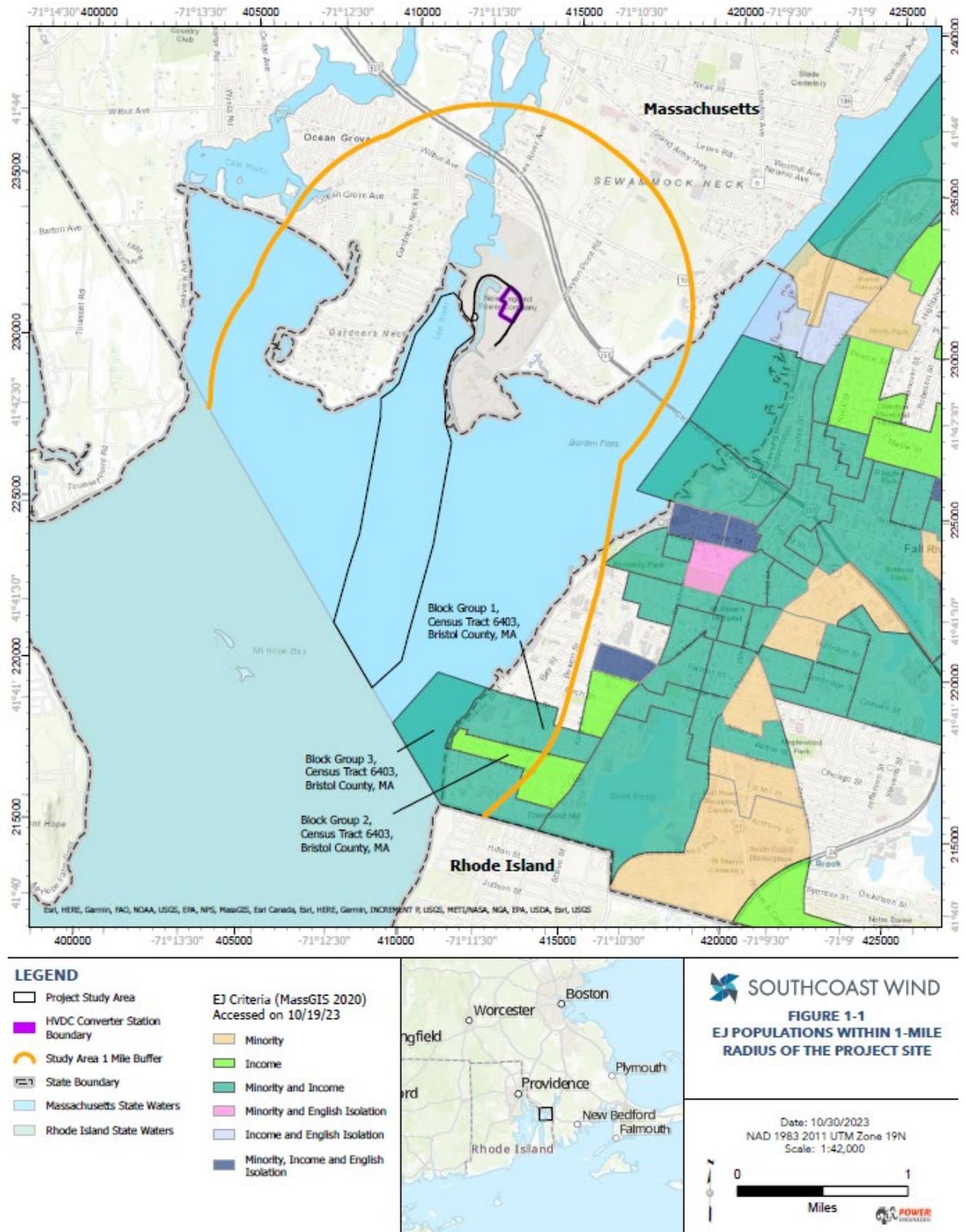


Figure 7-9. EJ Populations Within 1-Mile Radius of Project Site

The Project is proposed and designed to minimize potential impacts to all populations, including EJ and host communities. The Project will bring [REDACTED] of renewable, clean energy into the New England regional electrical grid, advance the EJ Policy's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and improve air quality. Specifically, the Project will substantially reduce GHG emissions across the region by more than two million metric tons annually.

The Project will result in avoided emissions of 2.35 million tons per year (tpy) of carbon dioxide (CO₂e), 945 tpy of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and 1,235 tpy of sulfur dioxide (SO₂). By decreasing the demand for fossil fuels, thereby reducing the associated pollutants that harm public health, degrade environmental quality, and contribute to climate change impacts - the Project's clean energy will improve the overall quality of life for residents in the Somerset community and EJ populations in the Fall River community.

In addition, the Project's revitalization and redevelopment of a portion of an industrial-zoned site and Designated Port Area, once occupied by the largest coal-fired power plant in Massachusetts (through 2017) and then occupied by a scrap metal shipping business (through 2022), will lead to positive socioeconomic impacts to the surrounding communities, including the creation of jobs, and converting an existing industrial site to new uses such as a renewable clean energy hub.

The Project's only impacts on nearby communities will be temporary construction-related impacts that will be avoided and minimized through the construction-period BMPs. None of these temporary construction-related impacts will materially exacerbate any existing burden on EJ Populations. The proposed Project mostly avoids EJ Populations except for three EJ block groups in the southernmost portion of the offshore ECC in Mount Hope Bay (see **Figure 7-9**).

Vehicle traffic associated with construction activity will contribute most of the onshore emissions expected to be generated within Fall River. Still, the impact of those emissions will not result in a disproportionately adverse effect or increased climate change effects on the Fall River EJ community.

Further, SouthCoast Wind's community outreach to and engagement with the neighborhoods has and will continue to meet or exceed the intent of EJ policies to involve the public in decision-making about development. Consistent with the Commonwealth's EJ Policy, and regardless of any legal obligation, SouthCoast Wind undertook diligent efforts to identify EJ communities near the Project and will continue to undertake extensive community outreach to facilitate meaningful opportunities for all potentially affected parties to participate.

The Project is expected to generate numerous economic and community benefits in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and across New England, including significant funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion, workforce, and supply chain initiatives that will support local content, increase diversity in the industry, and provide EJ Population residents and other

underrepresented populations opportunities to train and join the offshore workforce and supply chain. For more details on these benefits, please refer to **Section 13**.

In summary, the SouthCoast Wind Project is consistent with the Commonwealth's EJ Policy (2021) and applicable MEPA Protocols in that its impacts on all populations, including EJ populations, will be avoided and minimized, and public participation will meet or exceed the requirements of the EJ Policy. Although the Project does not exceed any ENF or EIR review thresholds for air, solid, and hazardous waste, or wastewater and sewage sludge treatment and disposal, the Project has made diligent efforts to enhance public participation opportunities for all members of the public, including those within the Fall River EJ populations.

7.7 Environmental Justice Strategy Plan

7.65⁵ Please propose a strategy plan to track and report on the status of environmental justice impacts, and engagement and employment (training, recruitment and hiring goals) opportunities, based on the template provided in the Form MOU with DOER and MassCEC and any other supplemental plans for tracking and reporting.

Please provide a marked version of the Form MOU with DOER and MassCEC for this solicitation (see Appendix L) showing any specific proposed changes to the Form MOU. Bidders are discouraged from proposing any material changes or conditions to the Form MOU and any such changes will be considered in the Stage Two Qualitative Evaluation.

Please see to our EJ Strategy within our DEI Plan in **Section 13**.

7.8 Public Support for SouthCoast Wind

7.7 Provide documentation identifying the level of public support for the project including letters from public officials, newspaper articles, etc. Include information on specific localized support and/or opposition to the project of which the bidder is aware. Provide copies of any agreements with communities and other constituencies impacted by the project. Provide a stakeholder map and a plan for community engagement activities and targeted stakeholder outreach.

SouthCoast Wind's commitment to working closely with all stakeholders has resulted in broad public support for the Project, reflected in numerous letters of support, included in **Attachment 7-7**. These stakeholders include (but are not limited to) environmental NGOs, trade associations, research institutions, universities, industry suppliers, labor groups, and local organizations. SouthCoast Wind has also engaged in broad media coverage over the past several years, reflected in **Attachment 7-8**.

⁵ There was an error in the RFP numbering that has been corrected here.

7.9 Renewable Standard Eligibility

7.8 Provide documentation demonstrating that the project will be qualified as New Class I Renewable Portfolio Standard Eligible Resource under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F, and 225 CMR 14.00.

In Rhode Island, the SouthCoast Wind Project will qualify as an eligible renewable energy resource under R.I.G.L. § 39-26-5. The project will generate energy from the wind, consistent with the requirement of R.I.G.L. § 39-26-5(a)(2). The project will be registered with the NEPOOL GIS system and located in the NEPOOL GIS Control Area, consistent with the requirements of R.I.G.L. § 39-26-5(b). For these reasons, the SouthCoast Wind Project qualifies as an eligible renewable energy resource conforming to R.I.G.L. § 39-26-5.

In Massachusetts, the SouthCoast Wind Project will qualify as a Class I Renewable Portfolio Standard Eligible Resource under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F, and 225 CMR 14.00. Consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F(c) and 225 CMR 14.00, the Project will generate energy from the wind, begin commercial operation after December 31, 1997, and be registered with the NEPOOL GIS system and located in the NEPOOL GIS Control Area. For these reasons, the SouthCoast Wind Project qualifies as an eligible renewable energy resource conforming to M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F(c) and 225 CMR 14.00.

In Connecticut, the SouthCoast Wind Project will qualify as a Class I Renewable Energy Source under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-1(a)(20). The project will generate energy from the wind, consistent with the requirement of Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-1(a)(20). The project will apply for certification with the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority once it is operational and registered with the NEPOOL GIS system.

SouthCoast Wind's Sponsor, Ocean Winds, is a NEPOOL member. The Project will apply for NEPOOL membership before entering the forward capacity market.

7.10 Tracking System Information

7.9 All bidders must include sufficient information and documentation that demonstrates that the bidder will utilize an appropriate tracking system to ensure a unit-specific accounting of the delivery of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, to enable the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with DOER, to accurately measure progress in achieving the commonwealth's goals under chapter 298 of the acts of 2008 or Chapter 21N of the General Laws. The RECs associated with Offshore Wind Energy Generation must be delivered into the Distribution Companies' NEPOOL GIS accounts.

SouthCoast Wind will register the Project with the New England Power Pool Generation Information System (NEPOOL GIS) and use the NEPOOL Market Settlement Service to verify its Offshore Wind Energy Generation. SouthCoast Wind will deliver the associated Renewable

Energy Certificates (REC), which will be sent via Forward Transfer to the Distribution Companies per the terms of the PPA. This will enable MassDEP, in consultation with the DOER, to accurately measure progress in achieving the Commonwealth's goals under Chapter 298 of the Acts of 2008 or Chapter 21N of the General Law. NEPOOL GIS rules for registration of new projects are summarized in **Figure 7-10** below.

SouthCoast Wind's Sponsor, Ocean Winds, is a NEPOOL member. The Project will apply for NEPOOL membership before entering the forward capacity market.

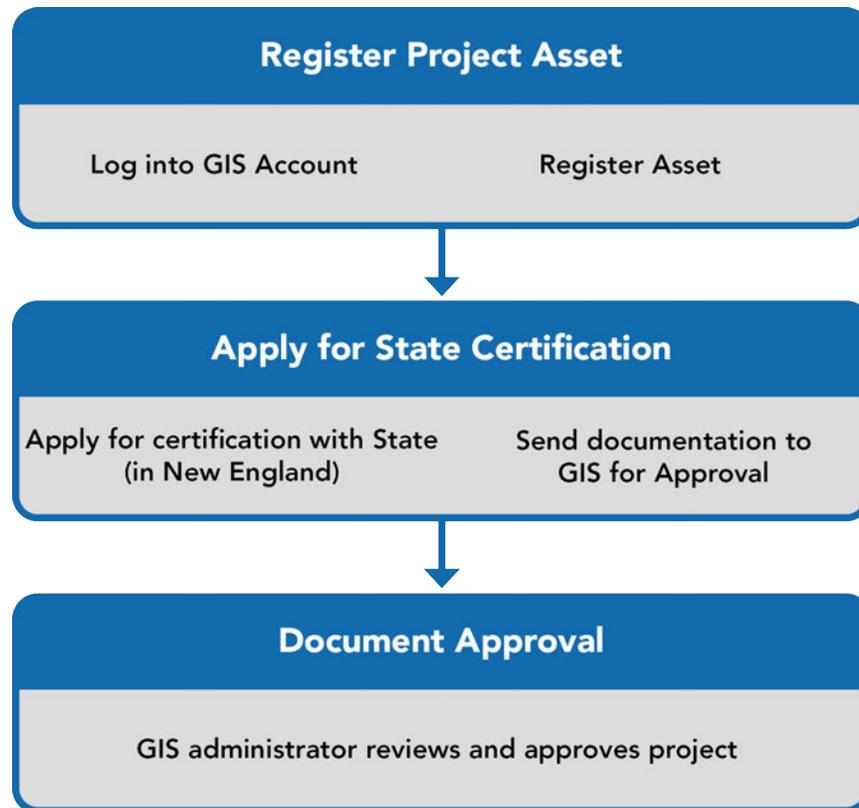


Figure 7-10. NEPOOL GIS Registration Process Overview

7.11 Pending Claims or Litigation

7.10 Identify any existing, preliminary or pending claims or litigation, or matters before any federal agency or any state legislature or regulatory agency that might affect the feasibility or timing of the project or the ability or timing to obtain or retain the required permits for the project.

To the best of SouthCoast Wind's knowledge, there are no existing, preliminary, or pending claims or litigation, or matters before any federal agency or any state legislature or regulatory agency that might affect the feasibility or timing of the Project or the ability or timing to obtain or retain the required permits for the Project.

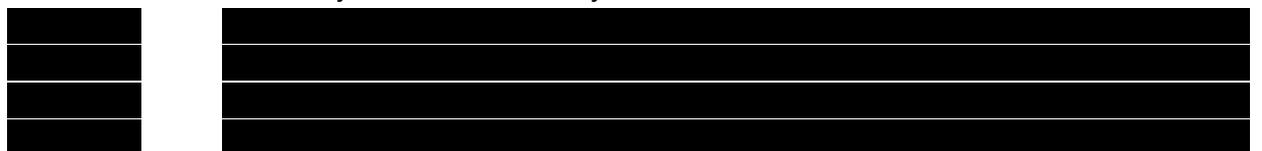
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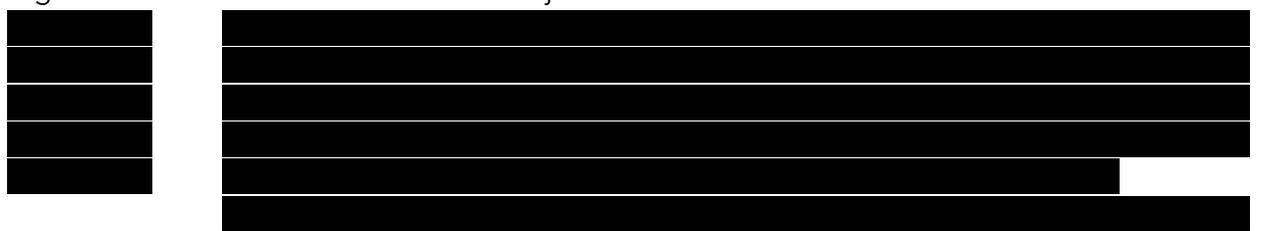


Figure 8-7. Export Cable Route Overview 8-10

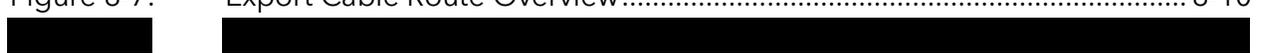
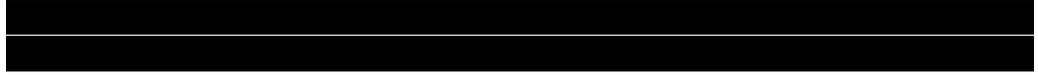
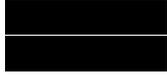


Figure 8-9. Illustration of a Typical Duct Bank Cross-Section 8-12



SECTION 8 ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY; COMMERCIAL ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT

Section Overview

This section includes questions pertinent to the engineering design and project technology. This section must be completed for all aspects of a project including generation, storage (as applicable) delivery, and interconnection facilities. Bidders should provide information about the specific technology or equipment including the track record of the technology and equipment and other information as necessary to demonstrate that the technology is viable.

[REDACTED]

The key components of the Project engineering and technology are:

[REDACTED]

- **Mature Project Design with Completed Site Investigations** - The Project has continued development at pace for several years with a fully staffed team. This team had been preparing to construct under the previous PPAs, and therefore, all site investigations are complete, designs are mature, and supplier relationships are established. SouthCoast maintained this team in full even through the termination. For the last year, the team focused exclusively on developing the Project for the multi-state solicitation, enabling a quick transition to construction following an award.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Portfolio Relationships with Key Suppliers** - SouthCoast Wind leverages Ocean Winds', EDPR's, and Engie's (Sponsors) deep engineering expertise in onshore wind, offshore wind, and transmission development. This broad experience provides access to an extensive U.S. and global supply chain network with a proven viability and deliverability track record. [REDACTED] Still, with the backing of our sponsors, we approach the market with the procurement power of over 50,000 MW of renewable projects operating worldwide, including 1,500 MW of offshore wind.

[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind comprehensively provides the key scopes of a credible and deliverable Project through extensive engineering, competitive procurement, and robust and mature contract negotiations:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8.1 Preliminary Engineering Plan

8.1 Provide a reasonable but preliminary engineering plan which includes the following information:

- i. Type of generation and delivery technology
- ii. Major equipment to be used (including nacelle, hub, blade, tower, foundation, delivery facilities structures and platforms, electrical equipment and cable), including the primary and alternative turbine equipment and their expected capacity rating.
- iii. Manufacturer of each of the equipment components listed above as well as the location of where each component will be manufactured.
- iv. Status of acquisition of the equipment components, including whether orders are in place and/ or production slots secured
- v. Whether the bidder has a contract for the equipment. If not, describe the bidder’s plan for securing equipment and the status of any pertinent commercial arrangements
- vi. Equipment vendors selected/considered
- vii. Track record of equipment operations
- viii. If the equipment manufacturer has not yet been selected, identify in the equipment procurement strategy the factors under consideration for selecting the preferred equipment

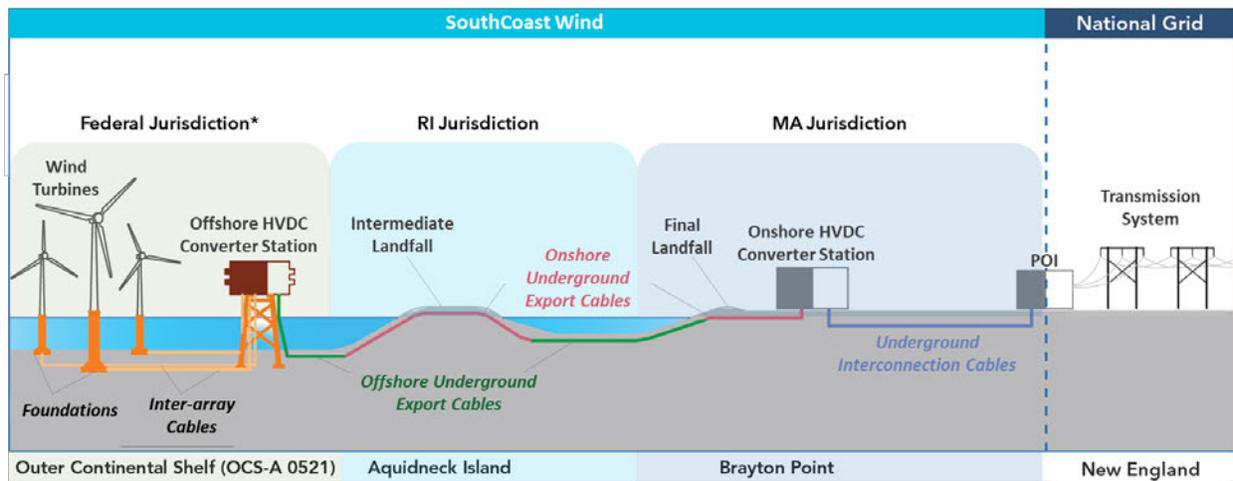
The Project consists of the following components, described in **Section 8.1.1** and depicted in **Figure 8-1**.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- An offshore converter platform that serves as the offshore collection and transmission hub for the Project. Energy generated by the WTGs is collected through a high-voltage alternating-current (HVAC) inter-array cable system and delivered to the offshore

converter platform, where it is converted from [REDACTED]

- A 320-kV HVDC offshore export cable system consisting of two conductors and associated communications cabling in a single cable bundle to deliver power and communications from the offshore converter platform to shore. HVDC systems are designed to minimize disturbance to the seabed and, in New York, are required for high-traffic areas. An HVDC system requires a single trench for one cable compared to an HVAC system that requires three cables, each with its own trench.
- Intermediate landfall at Portsmouth, Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island) with an underground onshore HVDC cable route of 1.8 miles (mi) (3 km) before returning to an offshore route in Mount Hope Bay;
- Final landfall at Brayton Point with a 0.6-mi (1-km) onshore underground cable route to the onshore converter station. The onshore converter station will convert the 320-kV HVDC to 345-kV HVAC required at the Point of Interconnection (POI); and
- A 0.2-mi (0.3-km) interconnection route for onshore underground HVAC cabling connects the onshore converter station to the existing National Grid 345-kV Brayton Point Substation, the Project’s POI to the ISO-NE system.



* BOEM review covers entire project

Figure 8-1. Cross-Section of the Project

8.1.1 Major Project Equipment

The major equipment for the Project is described in detail below. For a discussion on installing these components, please see **Section 10**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

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8.1.1.5 Offshore Converter Platform

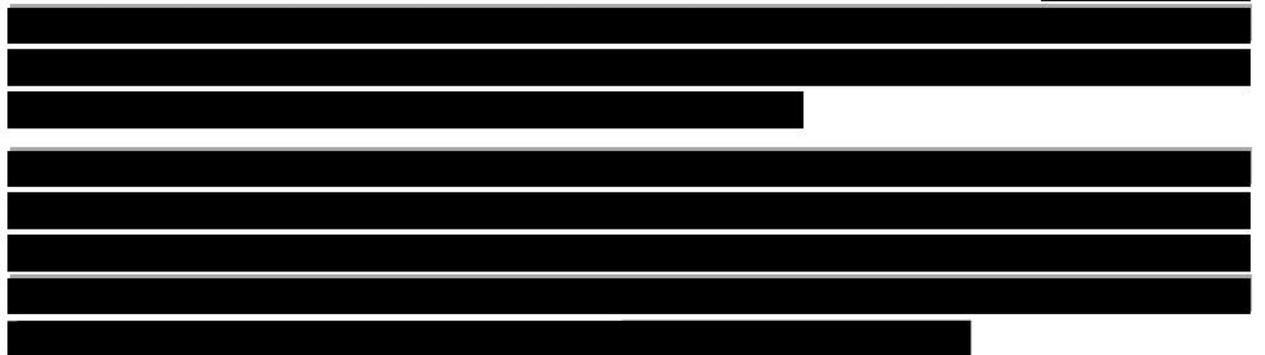
The offshore converter platform will serve as a collection point for the inter-array output cables from the WTGs and contain the HVDC conversion and transmission equipment. It will be sited

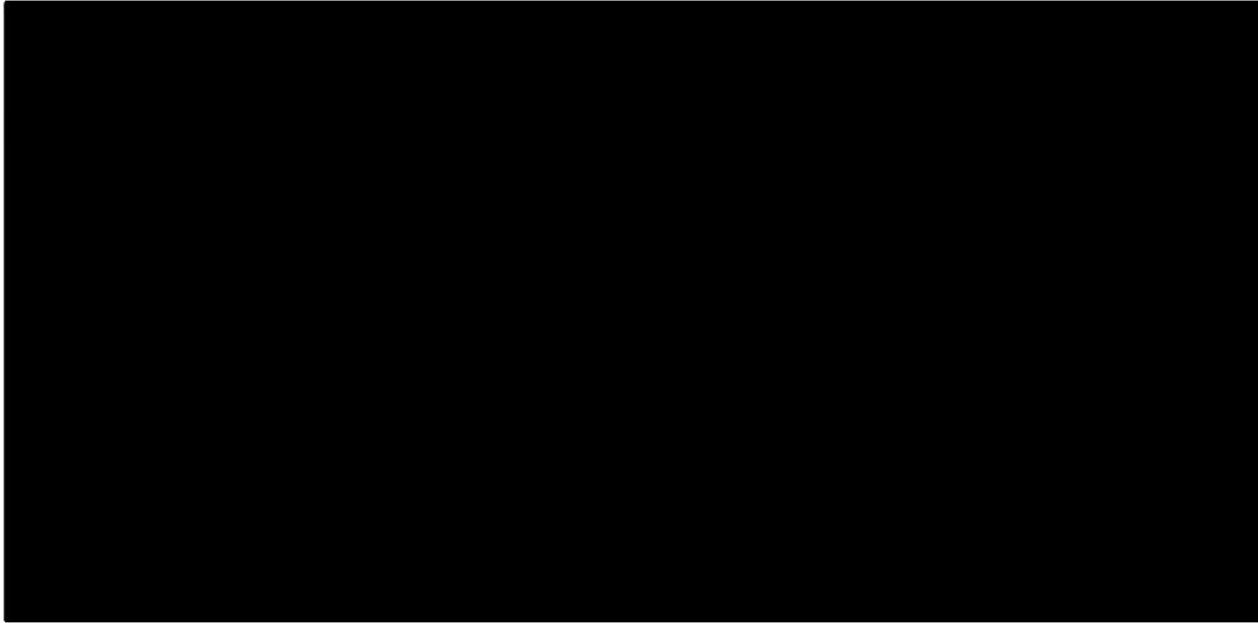
within the Lease Area in a location selected to minimize inter-array cable lengths and export cable electrical losses.



8.1.1.6 Offshore Export Cables

The export cable will be installed in a bundled configuration containing two power cables and a fiber optic cable as depicted in **Figure 8-6**. The 320-kV HVDC power cables





[REDACTED]

The offshore export cable route is shown in **Figure 8-7**. The width of the surveyed export cable corridor is designed to allow for micro-routing to avoid sensitive resources and obstacles, and to provide for maneuverability during construction and maintenance, especially at landfall locations, pipeline/cable crossings, and anchorage. Any required crossings of other third-party pipelines and cables by the offshore export cables will utilize mutually agreed crossing designs consistent with typical industry practices. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

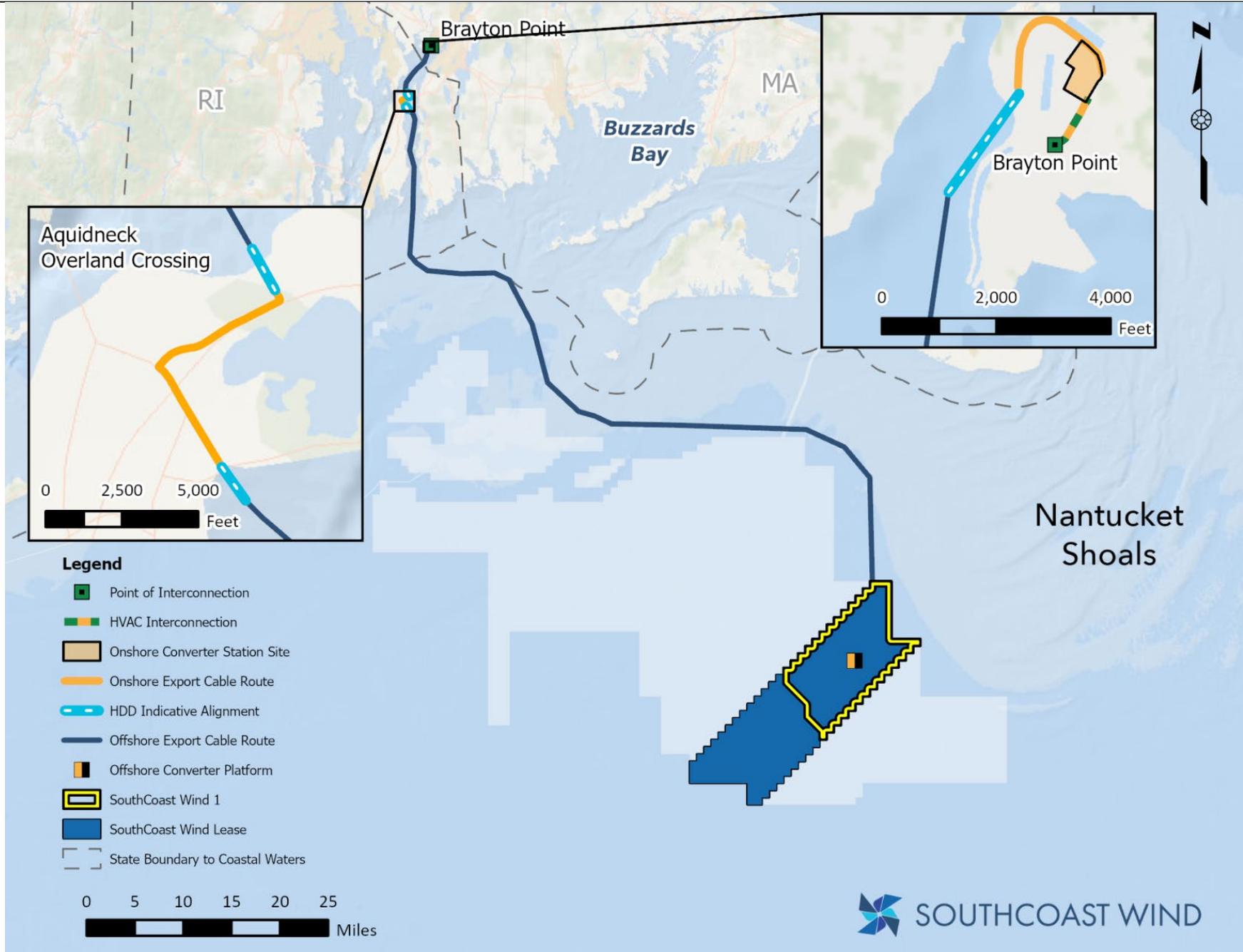


Figure 8-7. Export Cable Route Overview

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Onshore export cables will be installed underground along the 1.8-mi (3-km) route across Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and the 0.6-mi (1-km) route from the Brayton Point landfall site to the onshore converter station. The onshore export cables will consist of two single-core unarmored power cables, plus associated communications cabling, installed in a concrete-encased duct bank. The onshore export cables will contain an aluminum-stranded wire conductor, cross-linked polyethylene insulation, a copper wire screen, an aluminum or copper laminate tape layer, and a polyethylene outer jacket. The onshore fiber optic cable will have a design similar to the offshore fiber optic cable.

Figure 8-9 shows a typical cross-section of the onshore export cable duct bank. The duct bank includes conduits for [REDACTED] onshore cabling. This approach minimizes construction impacts on the community through a single civil works campaign. There is no above-grade physical or visual impact once installed.

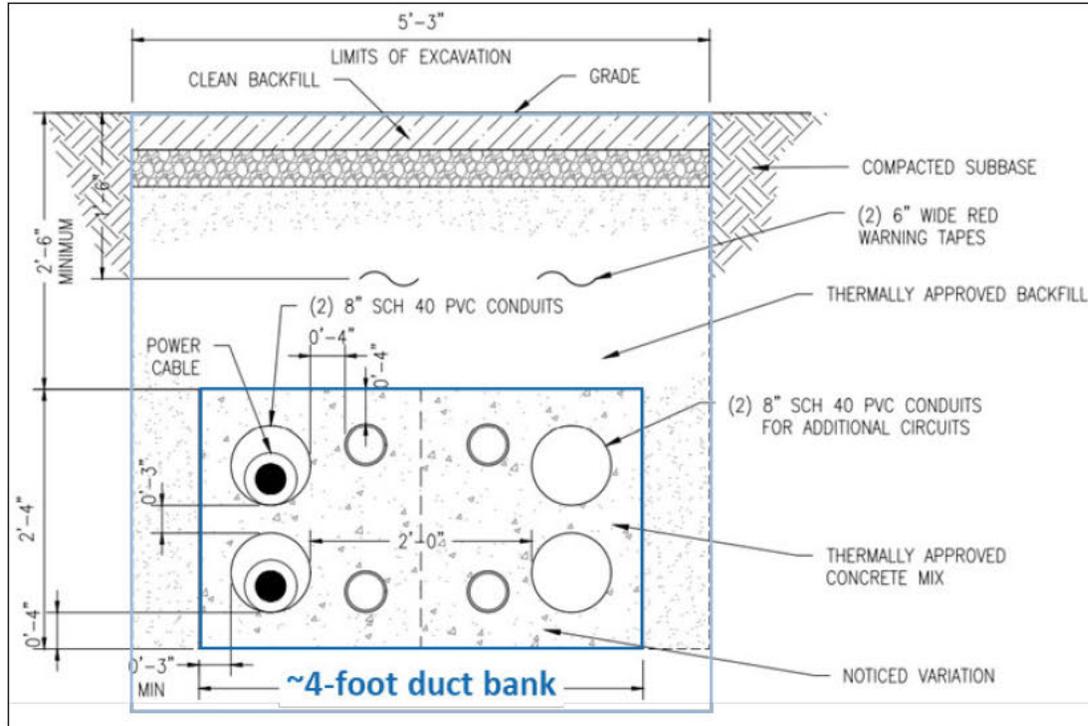


Figure 8-9. Illustration of a Typical Duct Bank Cross-Section

SouthCoast Wind has conducted extensive survey activities to inform the onshore engineering, as summarized in **Table 8-1**. Preliminary engineering drawings for the HDD works and the onshore export cable system can be found in **Attachment 8-4**. [REDACTED]

Table 8-1. Summary of Onshore Survey Activities

Survey Description	Status
Brayton Point Utility and Topographic Survey	Completed in the fall of 2022 using ground penetrating radar to achieve better accuracy given the site’s industrial history. Together with the extensive library of site records, there is a high degree of confidence in routing and preliminary engineering.
Aquidneck Utility and Topographic Survey	Completed in the fall of 2022, finding light utility presence and no complex crossings anticipated along the route.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Brayton Point Geotechnical and Thermal Resistivity Study	Report finalized April 2023.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

8.1.1.8 Onshore Converter Station and Point of Interconnection

The Project’s onshore converter station will be at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts. The onshore converter station serves as the endpoint for the HVDC export cable system and will convert the 320-kV HVDC input from the offshore converter platform to the 345-kV HVAC required at the POI.

The onshore converter station will use the same voltage-source converter equipment as the offshore converter platform. Once converted, transformers will step up the power to the 345-kV voltage required at the POI. The onshore converter station will be unmanned. Equipment on-site includes communications, control and protection equipment, a valve hall, a dynamic braking system, power electronics, an HVDC equipment cooling plant, four single-phase transformers, and associated HVAC switchyard components. All components will comply with ISO-NE Interconnection Planning Procedure for Generation and Elective Transmission Upgrades (PP5-6) requirements.

The onshore converter station will include a dedicated Substation Control System. The primary function of the Substation Control System is to monitor and control the high-voltage plant, including the interface to the ISO-NE control system, in accordance with the interconnection agreement and relevant grid compliance code.

Preliminary onshore converter station designs can be found in **Attachment 8-5**, which include equipment location plans, electrical arrangement, and conceptual grading drawings.

The interconnection route between the converter station and the POI at the existing National Grid Substation at Brayton Point is approximately 0.2 miles (0.3 km) long and sited entirely within private industrial property. The HVAC interconnection cable system, consisting of two cables per phase (requiring six power cables), will be installed underground in a concrete-encased duct bank. A preliminary design of the interconnection cable system can also be found in **Attachment 8-5**.

For further details of the Project’s onshore system siting and POI, please refer to **Section 6**.

8.1.1.9 Equipment Manufacturers

Table 8-2 summarizes the locations where each Project component will be manufactured.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind is committed to local sourcing to the greatest extent possible. The U.S. offshore wind market and associated supply chain are growing rapidly as evidenced by the continued expansion of offshore wind providers into the U.S. market. SouthCoast Wind is committed to finding opportunities to maximize use of the local and domestic U.S. supply chain as a core value of the Project.

8.1.2 Supply Chain Procurement

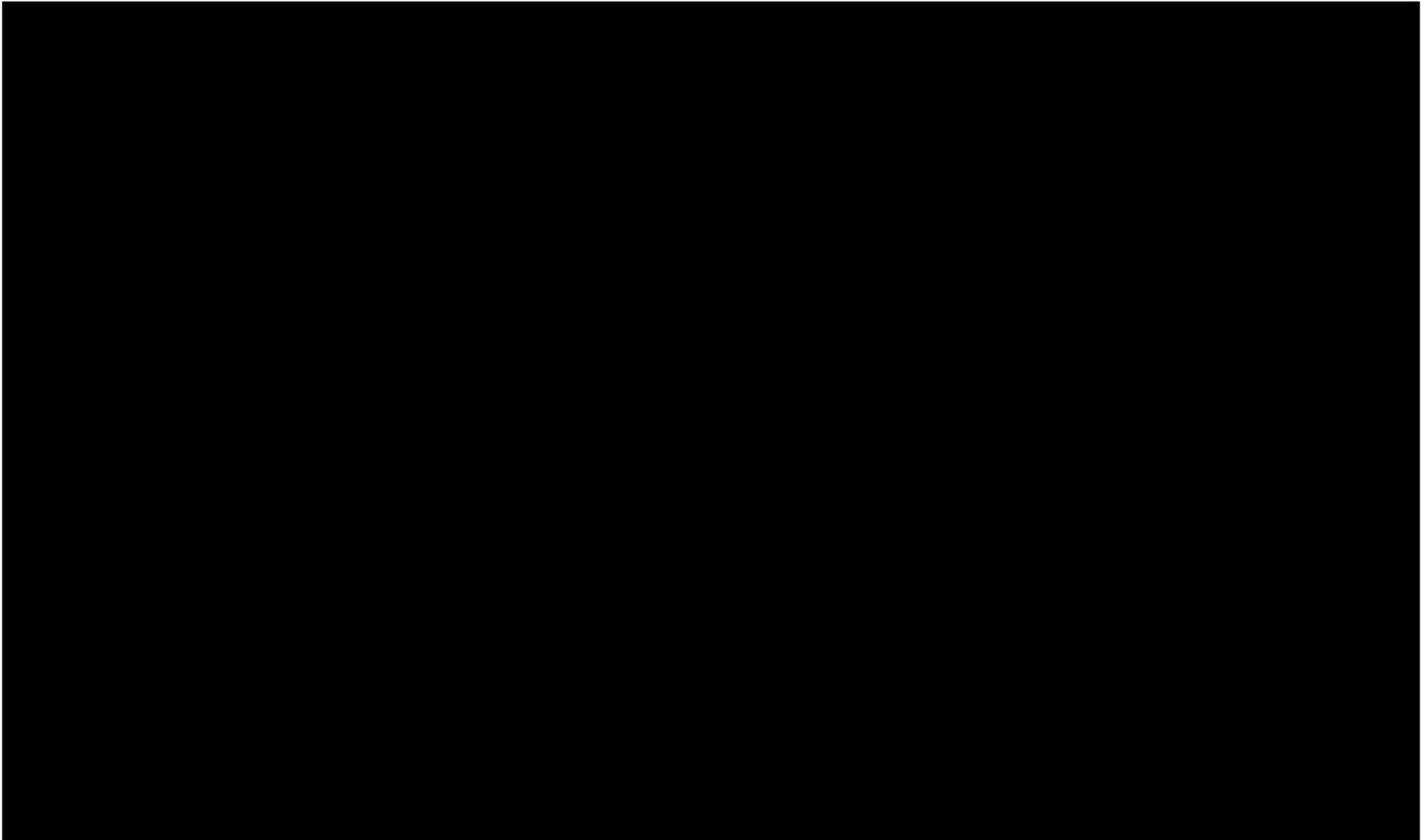
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]



This comprehensive supply chain engagement process resulted in the information required for SouthCoast Wind to develop the technical scope and execution details described in this bid. [REDACTED]

8.1.3 Planning for Procurement of Equipment and Status of Arrangements

Table 8-3 above and Figure 8-11 below summarize the contracting status for each equipment scope.

[REDACTED]

- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

8.1.3.1 *Status of HVDC Converter Stations, Offshore Platform, and Onshore Equipment Procurement*

[Redacted text block]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

8.1.3.8 Adherence to Domestic Supply Rules

As discussed in **Section 5.14**, the domestic supply rules set forth in the Build America, Buy America Act do not apply to the Project.

8.2 Key Equipment Suppliers

8.2 If the bidder has not yet selected the major equipment for a project, please provide a list of the key equipment suppliers under consideration.

SouthCoast Wind has been engaged in extensive, ongoing discussions with top-tier suppliers for the Project to maximize Project value. Through these discussions, SouthCoast Wind has developed a robust procurement strategy to mitigate risks associated with long-lead equipment packages, including schedule and cost volatility. More details on the project's procurement strategy and selected vendors are available in **Section 8.1**.

A list of key equipment suppliers under consideration is in **Table 8-3**. Summary descriptions of the experience and capabilities of the major equipment suppliers can be found in **Attachment 8-6**.

8.3 Equipment in Commercial Operation

8.3 Please identify the same or similar equipment by the same manufacturer that are presently in commercial operation including the number installed, installed capacity and estimated generation for the past three years.

Details regarding the track record of the designs (**Section 8.1.1**) and suppliers (**Table 8-3**) that form the Project are provided in this section.

8.3.1 Wind Turbine Generators

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind, through its Sponsor, has extensive experience and long-standing relationships with all the major WTG suppliers under consideration. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8.3.2 Foundations

The foundation manufacturers under consideration for the Project (as listed in **Table 8-3**) have supplied more than 6,300 monopiles and 909 piled jacket foundations worldwide.

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors have direct experience successfully installing:

- Monopiles for offshore wind projects like SeaMade (58 monopiles from SIF), Moray West (60 monopiles from Navantia, Dajin, and Windar), as well as numerous onshore projects located in the U.S.; and
- Piled jackets for Moray East (103 jackets from Smulders and Lamprell).

8.3.3 Offshore Converter Platform

The first offshore HVDC converter station was installed in 2010, and the technology and power-conversion concepts used in modern offshore converter platform design are now used globally. SouthCoast Wind engaged with multiple offshore converter platform OEMs [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The offshore converter platform fabricators under consideration for the Project (**Table 8-3**) have extensive experience in manufacturing platforms to house critical electrical equipment in challenging marine environments.

8.3.4 Inter-Array and Export Cables

The use of HVAC and HVDC offshore and onshore cables is a mature and proven concept currently in use in projects around the world.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

8.3.5 Onshore Facilities

The vendors under consideration for the SouthCoast Wind onshore works have extensive experience in large, complex substation and transmission projects in the U.S. and New England. This will provide SouthCoast Wind with a trusted engineering and construction solution using the best proven domestic resources and tools.

8.4 Less Mature Technologies

8.4 For less mature technologies or equipment, provide evidence (including identifying specific applications) that the technology or equipment to be employed for energy production is ready for transfer to the design and construction phases. Also, address how the status of the technology or equipment is being considered in the financial and permitting plans for the project. Provide the status of testing/ qualification for any equipment in development.

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

8.4.2 HVDC Transmission Technology

SouthCoast Wind will utilize proven HVDC transmission technology to connect the Project to the ISO-NE transmission system at Brayton Point. Given the distance from the POI and capacity

of the Project, SouthCoast Wind views HVDC as the most technologically robust solution. HVDC technology has several benefits over an HVAC solution, including:

- Ability to support longer offshore export cable routes, providing a lower electrical loss connection for projects located farther offshore and enabling them to connect to more strategic points in the transmission system;
- Ability to control reactive power, helping to support the voltage profile of the onshore HVAC transmission network;
- Ratepayer savings and reduced environmental impacts due to fewer cables used per unit of transmission capacity; and
- Reduced electrical losses over long transmission distances.

Thirteen offshore wind projects in Europe utilize 320 kV HVDC transmission technology, and many more use similar voltages of 250 kV and 300 kV. Europe and the United States have at least eight projects in the planning and construction stages at this 320 kV voltage. These projects represent a total transmission capacity of approximately 10,000 MW. The largest offshore HVDC project currently in operation is 1,200 MW, but the Sofia project in Norway is rated at 1,400 MW and scheduled to be in service in 2026.

HVDC technology is utilized throughout North America, with several HVDC projects in the Northeast U.S. The operational systems in the region include the Neptune connection between New Jersey and Long Island, the Cross Sound Cable connecting Connecticut and Long Island, the HVDC Intertie with Hydro-Quebec connecting New England to Quebec, and the High Gate Connection connecting Vermont with Quebec.

The Neptune project provides up to 660 MW of electric power from the PJM system to the Long Island Power Authority grid on Long Island via a 500-kV HVDC cable between two onshore converter stations. Cross Sound Cable Company is a high-voltage electrical transmission company providing 330 MW of electric power to customers via an HVDC cable that is a 24 mi (39 km) offshore cable buried in the Long Island Sound, connecting the electric transmission grids of New England and New York. The New England Clean Energy Connect project, which is progressing through construction, will use HVDC cable to deliver 1,200 MW of power from Quebec to the ISO-NE grid in Maine.

[REDACTED]

HVDC projects continue to grow in voltage rating and capacity, tracking the trend for larger capacity offshore wind projects. TenneT is planning 14 offshore converter platforms, each with a rating of 2,000 MW at 525-kV, to be in service by 2031. Globally, HVDC technology is increasingly being employed to meet the growing needs of clean power delivery to distant load centers.

[REDACTED]

8.5 List of Equipment Needed

8.5 Please indicate if the bidder has a full and complete list of equipment needed for all physical aspects of the bid, including generation facilities, turbine support structures, electrical platforms, delivery facilities, and mandatory and voluntary transmission system upgrades. If not, identify the areas of uncertainty and when the full and complete list of equipment will be identified.

Attachment 8-7 includes the full and complete list of major equipment required for all physical aspects of the Project. SouthCoast Wind has drawn on the vast experience of its Sponsor in developing and constructing offshore energy and wind power projects (see **Section 12 Project Management/Experience**) to develop this list.

8.6 Status of Required Equipment

8.6 Please indicate if the bidder has secured its equipment for all physical aspects of the bid, including generation facilities, delivery facilities, and mandatory and voluntary transmission system upgrades. If not, identify the long-lead equipment and describe the timing for securing this equipment.

[REDACTED]

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SECTION 9 PROJECT SCHEDULE

Section Overview

A bidder must demonstrate that its proposal can be developed, permitted, financed, and constructed and be technically viable within a commercially reasonable timeframe. The bidder is required to provide sufficient information and documentation that shows that the bidder's resources, process and schedule are adequate for the acquisition of all rights, permits and approvals for all aspects of the project and for the financing of the project consistent with the proposed project milestone dates.

Bidders are required to provide a complete critical path schedule for the project from the notice of selection of the project for contract consideration to the start of commercial operations. For each project element, list the start and end date. The proposal must include a schedule with reasonable detail that demonstrates that the bidder has provided sufficient time for the application for, and receipt of, necessary permits, approvals, other commitments, project financing, completion of design work, and equipment procurement and construction in order to credibly complete the project reasonably consistent with the proposed Commercial Operation Date, meaning that the project is more likely than not to come online by the date that is projected within the proposal. The bidder should include critical milestones in its markup to the Form PPAs that are consistent with its proposal and are reasonably achievable.

[REDACTED] To deliver this schedule, SouthCoast Wind identified and derisked the challenges that have historically thwarted US Offshore Wind projects: grid interconnection, permitting, and supplier availability. Each challenge requires its own strategy, but a constant theme among them is early engagement with stakeholders, a project team of subject matter experts, and a willingness to commit financial resources before a PPA is secured. The items highlighted below result from years of work and significant early investment. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and contributing to the states meeting their climate [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- **Mature Federal and State Permits** - SouthCoast Wind has a Draft Environmental Impact Statement completed as part of its Construction and Operations Plan review by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and a Record of Decision (ROD) is expected well [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



9.1.2 Schedule Management and Tools

SouthCoast Wind uses the industry-standard software in **Table 9-2** to ensure robust Project controls. The Project Controls team tracks progress and adjusts resources and schedules to accommodate new information affecting timelines, resource levels, risks, and costs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9.2 Critical Path Elements

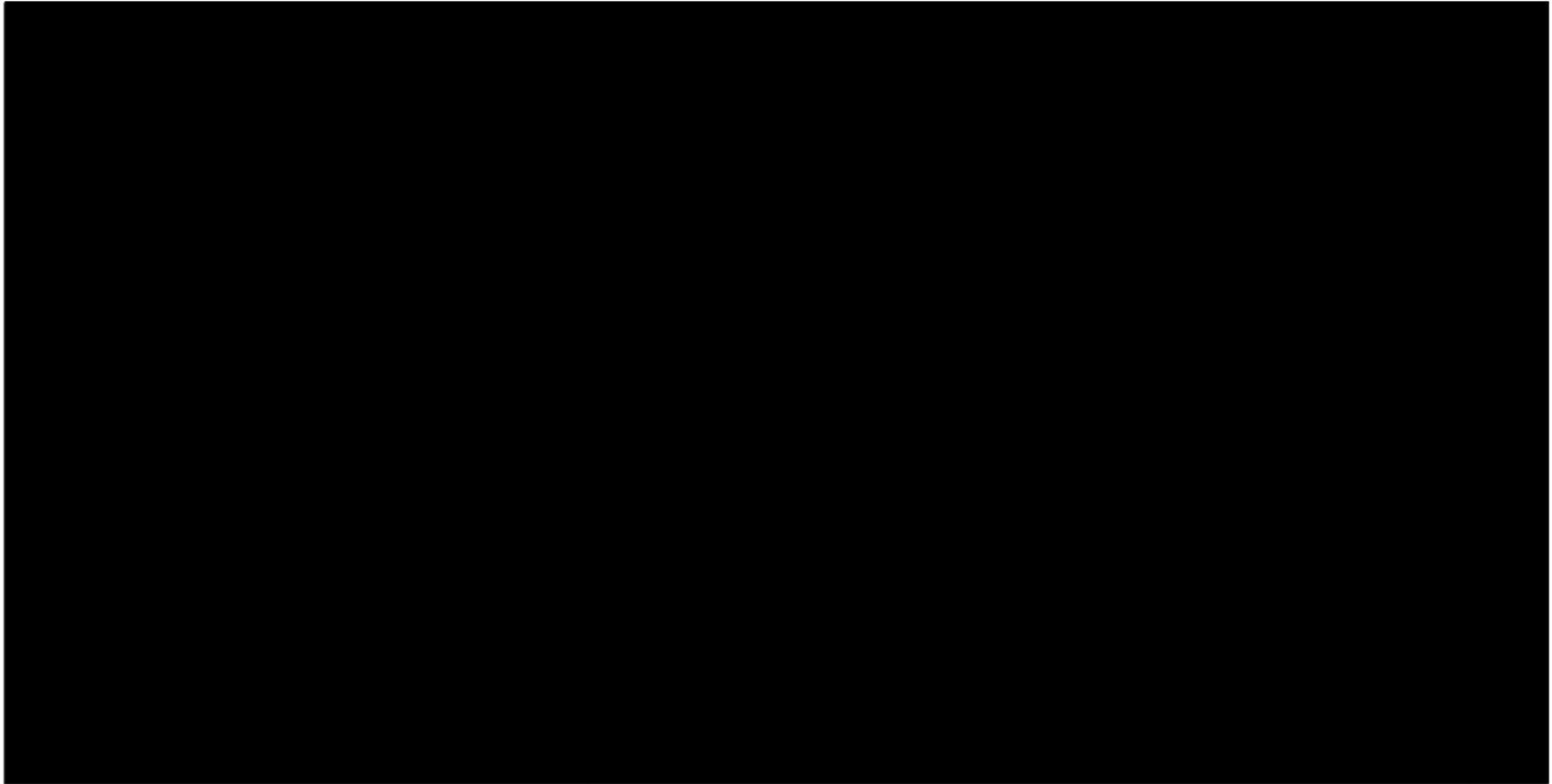
9.1 Identify the elements on the critical path. The schedule should include, at a minimum, preliminary engineering, financing, acquisition of real property rights, Federal, state and/or local permits, licenses, environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements (including anticipated permit submittal and approval dates), completion of interconnection studies and approvals, procurement, facility contracts, start of construction, construction schedule, and any other requirements that could influence the project schedule and the commercial operation date.

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]



9.2.1.1 *Permitting*

The primary permitting activity on the critical path is BOEM approval of the COP, with additional approvals from Cooperating Federal Agencies, including USACE and EPA. The SouthCoast Wind COP was submitted on February 15, 2021, with supplemental information provided throughout the review, including survey data (geotechnical, geophysical, and benthic), environmental analyses, and additional analyses conducted at the request of federal agencies. Permitting milestones are further detailed in **Table 9-3**.

The U.S. Department of Energy approved the SouthCoast Wind Project as a FAST-41 project, giving the public increased transparency on the project’s permitting progress. Following the initial COP review, BOEM issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on November 1, 2021. BOEM published the draft EIS on February 13, 2023, and the Final EIS is currently under development by BOEM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

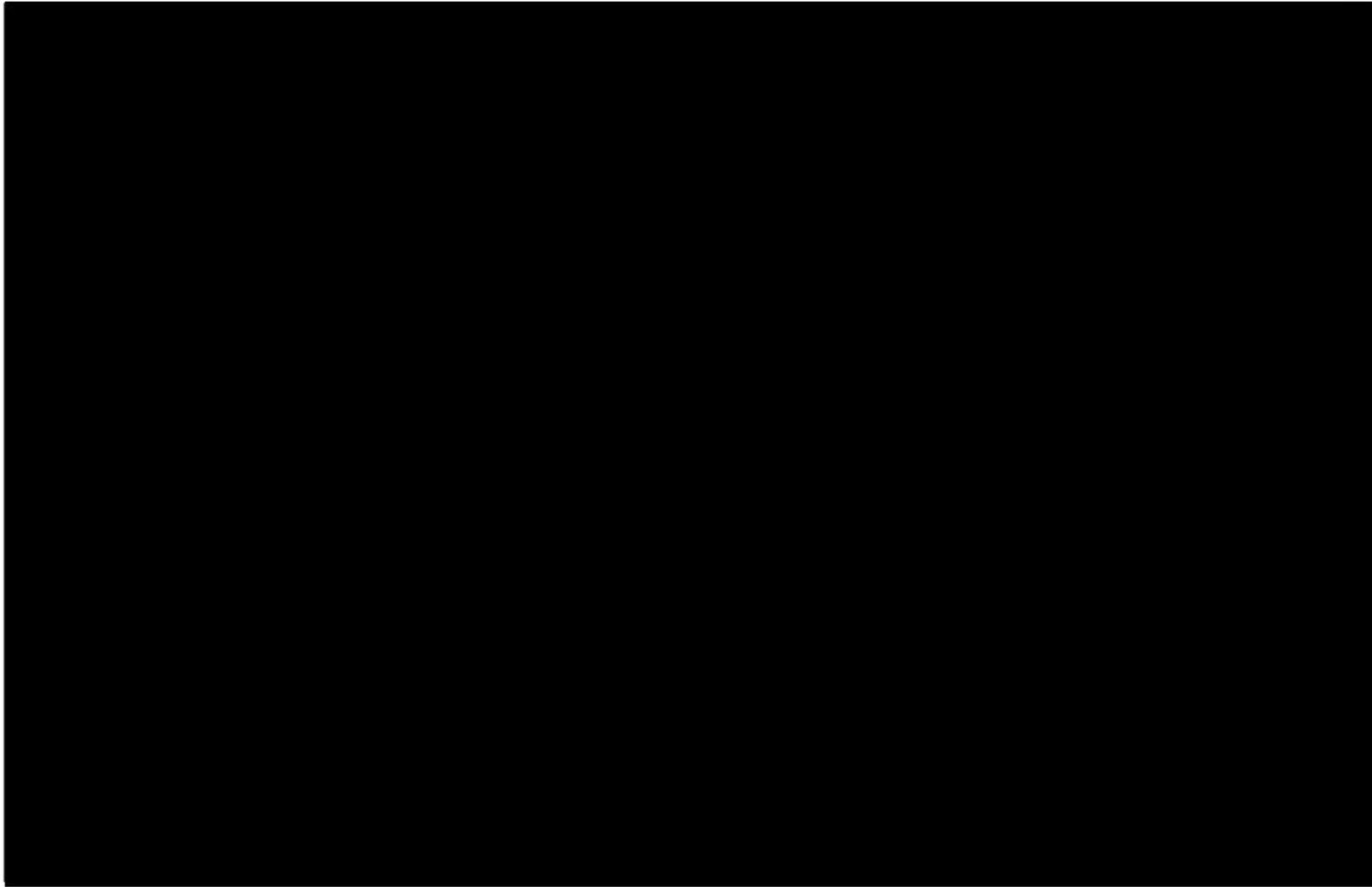
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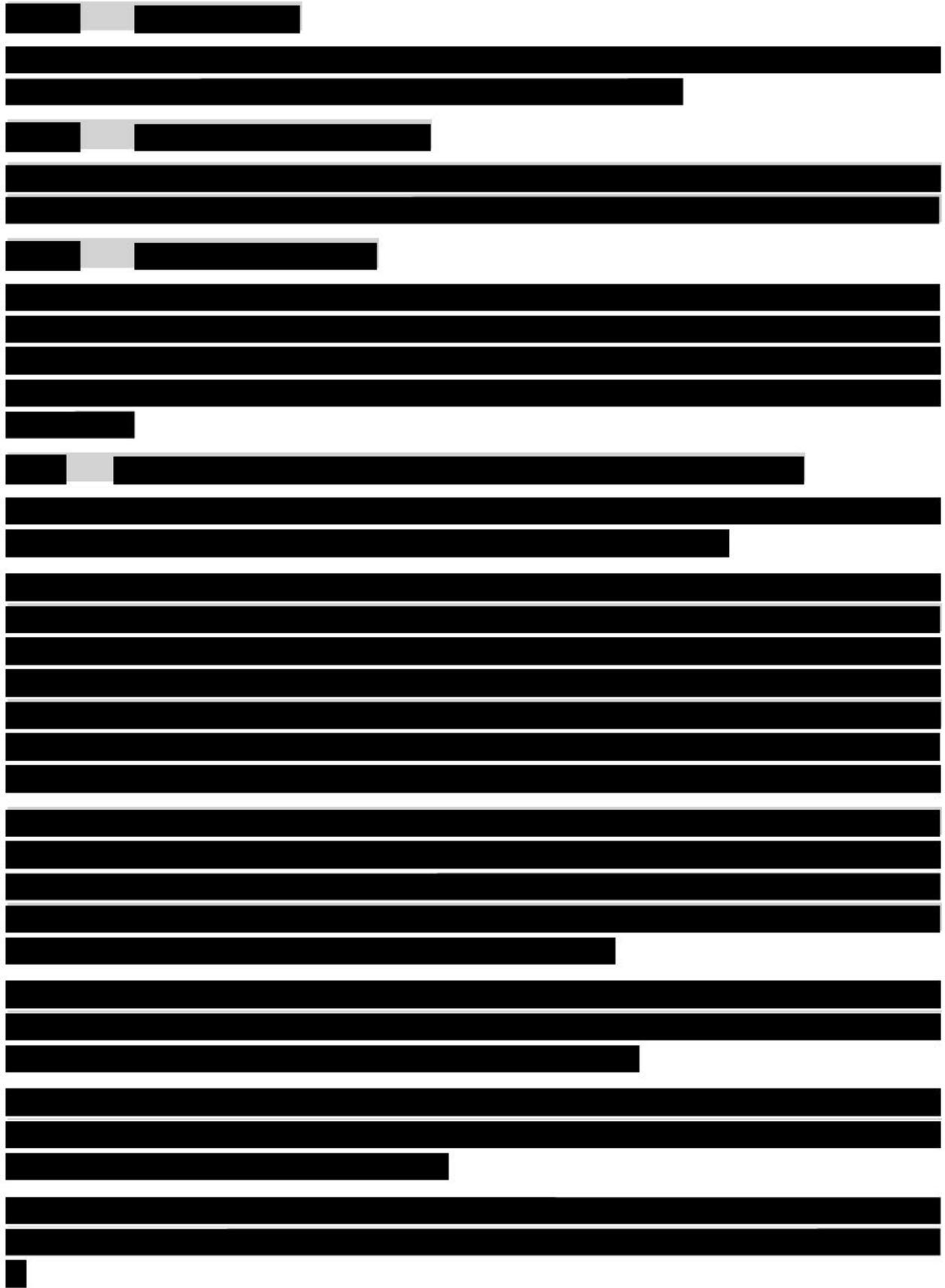
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

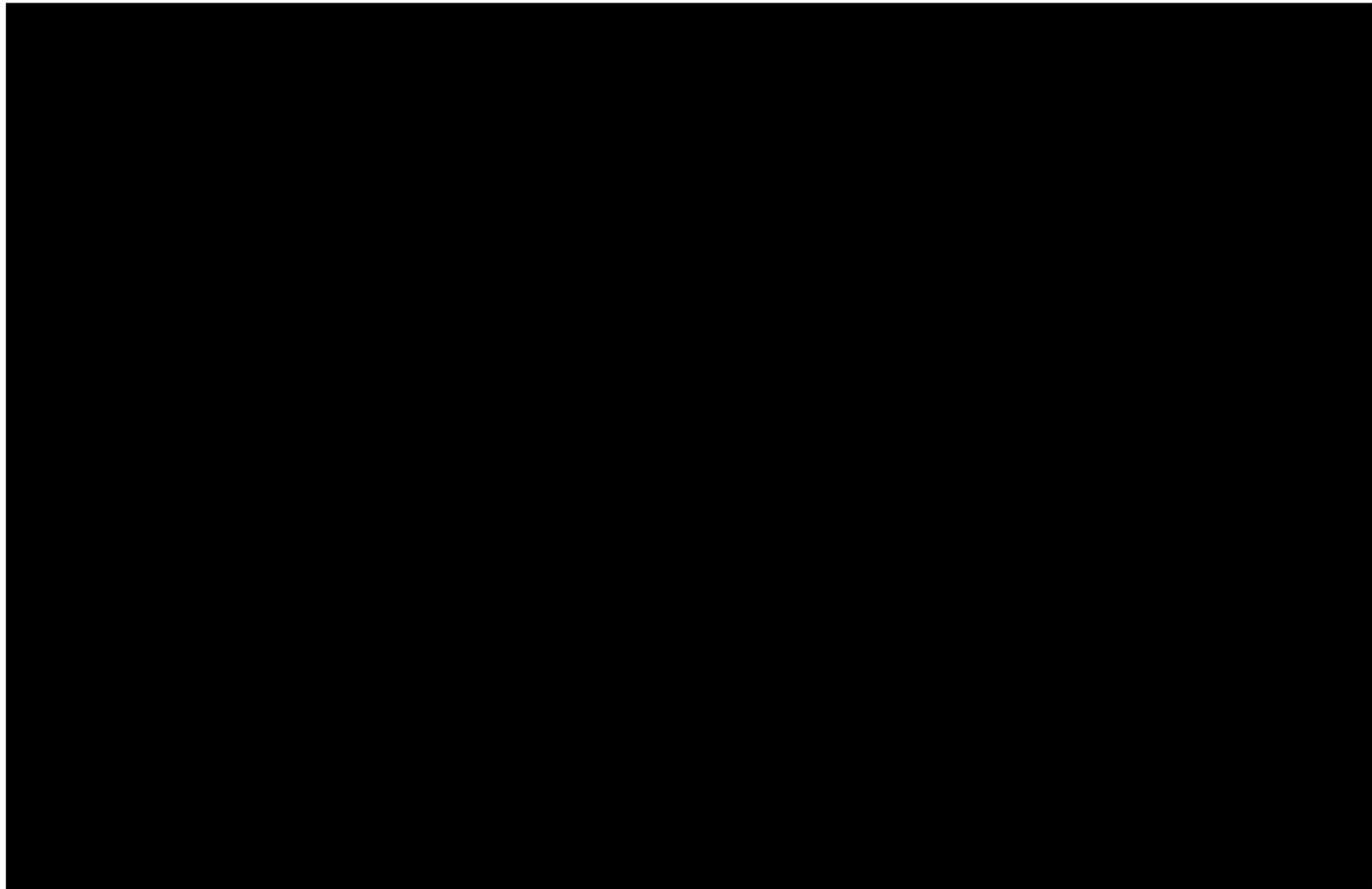
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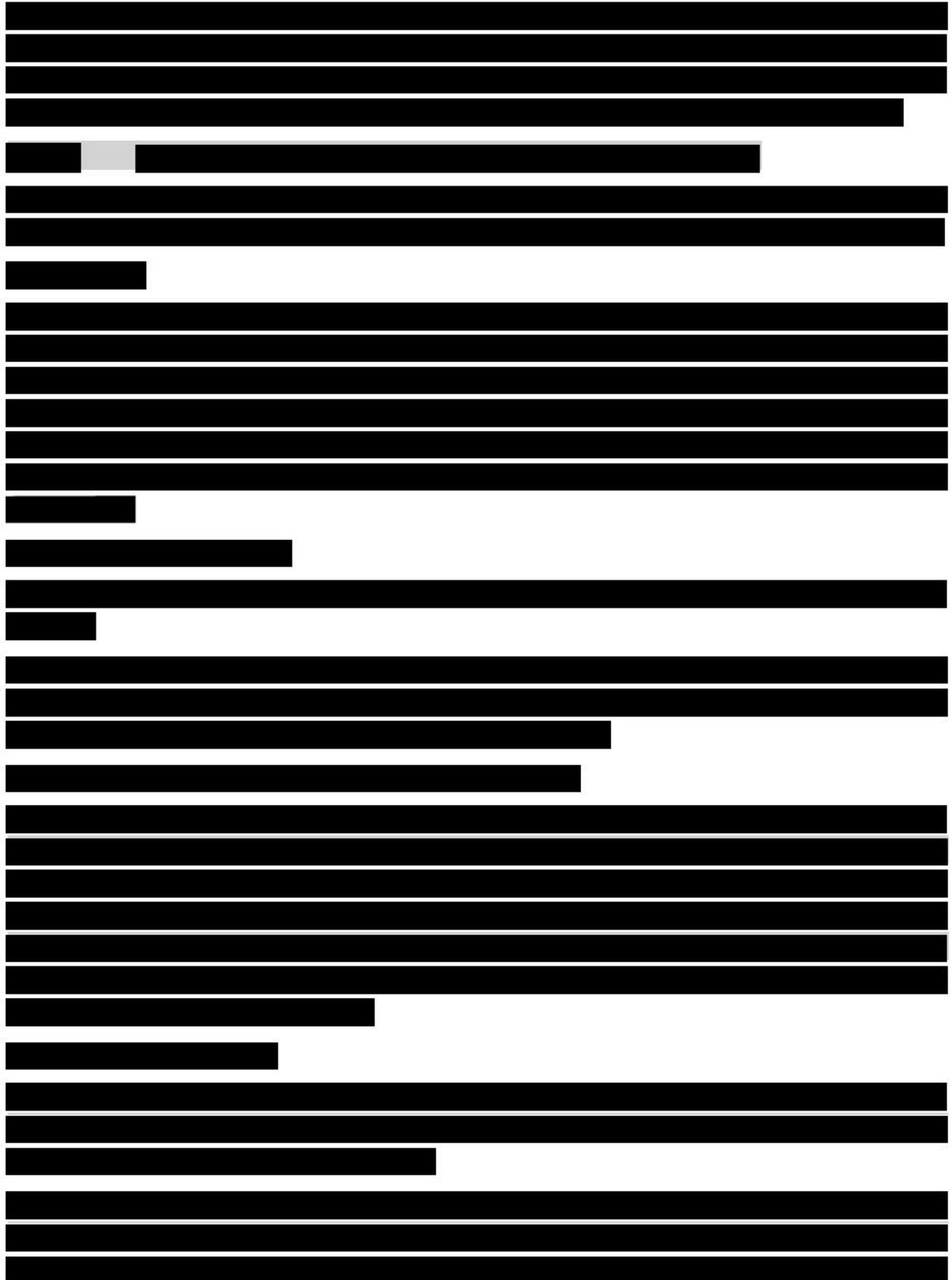
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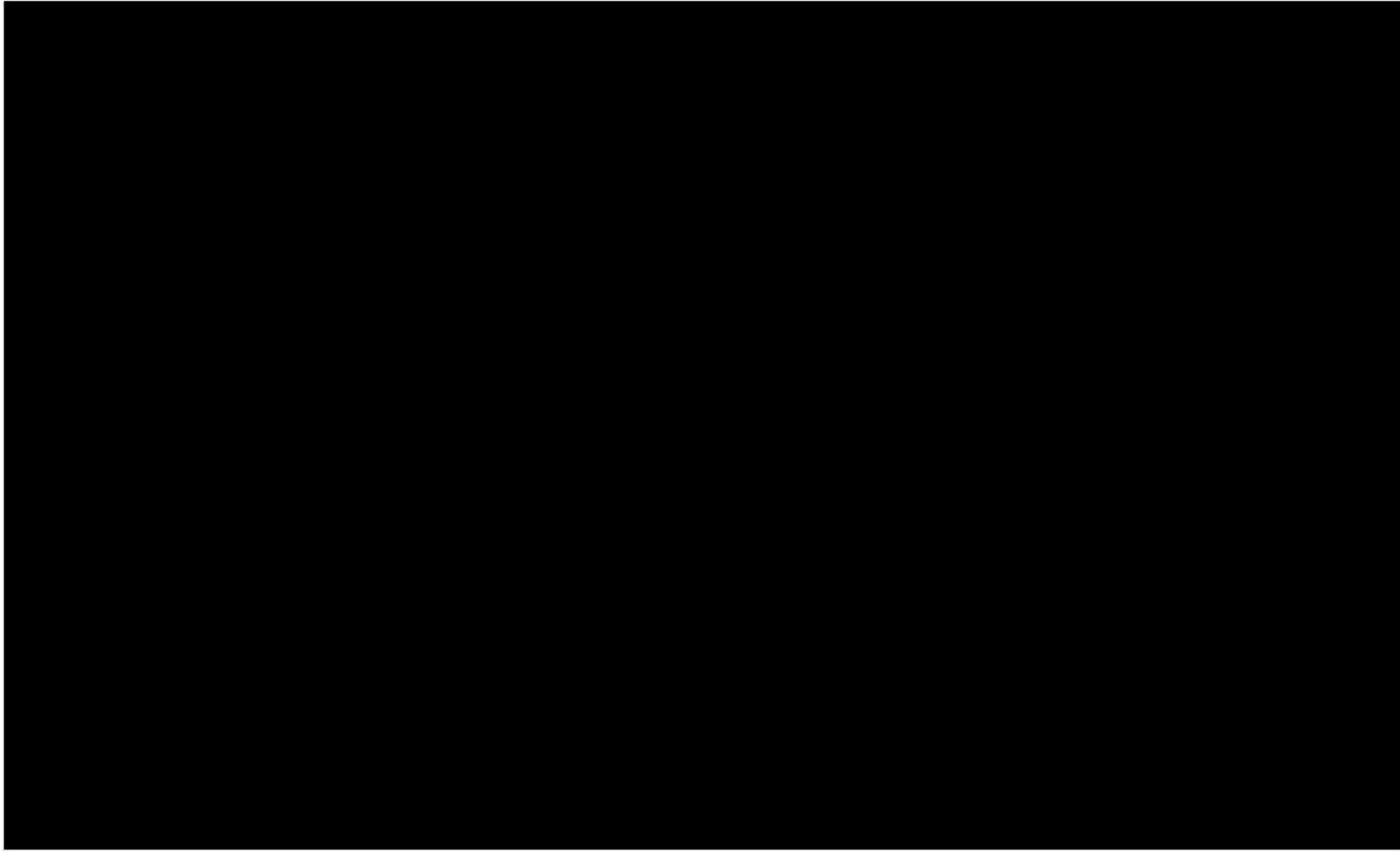




[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

9.3 Feasibility of Commercial Operation Date

9.2 Describe and demonstrate that the project is more likely than not to come online by the commercial operation date that is projected within the proposal, as evidenced by documents filed by the bidder showing the following:

- Commencement of permitting processes;
- A plan for completing all permitting processes;
- Viable resource assessment;
- Environmental assessment;
- Viable financing plans along with detailed information requested in 2.2.2.3;
- Viable installation and electrical interconnection plans;
- Material progress towards the acquisition of all real property rights; and
- Evidence of material vendor activity.

[REDACTED]

- An expert team of more than 100 full-time employees with experience in permitting, developing, and constructing offshore wind farms globally and significant infrastructure projects domestically (see **Section 12** for a description of the Project team);
- OW's subject matter experts with decades of experience working across the portfolios of OW, EDPR, and Engie, delivering cost-effective offshore wind projects on time and budget;
- Lessons learned from OW's 16.6 GW portfolio of offshore wind projects, including 1.5 GW in operation and 1.9 GW under construction in Europe.
- Up-to-date market intelligence on supplier availability and execution timeframes provided by OW's business relationships;
- Lessons learned from Suppliers' experience working on previous projects in the US through direct industry engagement.

As demonstrated in this section, SouthCoast Wind is confident this proposal is technically viable within a commercially reasonable timeframe for development, financing, and construction. SouthCoast Wind is a mature project that has achieved major federal and state permitting milestones. **Section 9.1.1** details the start and status of the state and federal permitting process and how it is managed to keep the Project program on track. **Section 6**, **Section 7**, and **Section 9.1** detail the status and timeline of the state and federal permitting process. **Attachment 9-1** provides a comprehensive overview of the Project schedule, including all environmental assessments and impact statements, and **Section 7** details the Environmental and Fisheries Mitigation Plans.

In parallel, SouthCoast Wind adopted a contracting strategy that addresses concerns in the schedule on a package basis. **Table 8-3** details supplier engagement for the supply of major components. SouthCoast Wind secured critical HVDC equipment manufacturing slots to maintain the overall timeline. Numerous other negotiations to secure slots or critical vessels are well-progressed and will be executed immediately following a PPA award.

The Financing Plan detailed in **Section 5** demonstrates the financial viability of the Project through the progress achieved toward financing milestones and the pathway to Financial Close following a PPA award.

The Construction Program is detailed in **Section 6**, which covers the installation, electrical interconnection plans, and status of real property rights that verify the credibility of the schedule developed for the Project. The procurement status for construction and installation is detailed in **Table 10-8**.

To ensure a credible, viable schedule for the development and construction of the Project, SouthCoast Wind:

- [REDACTED]
- Secured critical equipment manufacturing slots for HVDC equipment installed on the offshore platform and the onshore substation.
- Mitigated the risk of vessel unavailability by progressing negotiations of critical T&I vessels to mutually agreed terms (MOU or Letter of Intent) ready for execution.
- Limited pile-driving to certain times of the year to protect North Atlantic Right Whales in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);
- Factored in nighttime restrictions on pile-driving activities for the surveillance of marine mammals;
- Included funding for pre-Financial Close equity commitments to secure manufacturing slots and commence engineering design of long lead assets.
- Included detailed weather modeling in planning all offshore activities using historical and site-specific data from the Project's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) buoy over 18 months.
- Secured site control for the converter station/substation.
- Maintained internal float/allowance in planning for interfaces among various vendors.
- Implemented an onshore construction schedule that will minimize effects on recreation and tourism-related activities to the extent feasible, such as scheduling nearshore construction activities outside of peak summer tourist season; and

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

9.4 Maritime Vessel Use and Access

9.3 Include a discussion on use of maritime vessels and access to them, as well as the bidder's plans to secure any specialized vessels or other equipment consistent with the bidder's efforts so far to secure such vessels or other equipment (and any letters of intent to the extent signed agreements are not in place). Also include a description and discussion of the laydown facility/facilities to be used for construction, assembly, staging, storage, and deployment.

Maritime vessels such as turbine installation vessels, heavy lift vessels, crew transfer vessels, workboats, and other specialized ships play an essential role in installing and maintaining wind turbines. SouthCoast Wind has selected existing installation vessels that are commercially available to [REDACTED] and plans to be able to execute Preferred Supplier

Agreements shortly after a PPA award. A detailed description of the vessels required is provided in **Section 10**, and the contracting status and supply chain engagement is provided in **Table 10-8**. SouthCoast Wind has significantly mitigated component transportation and installation risk through comprehensive front-end engineering and the selection of seasoned contractors.



9.5 Critical Path Items Status

9.4 Detail the status of all critical path items, such as receipt of all necessary siting, environmental, and ISO-NE approvals.

See **Table 9-2**, **Table 9-3** and **Section 9.1**.

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SECTION 10 OPERATION AND LOGISTICS

Section Overview

This section of the proposal addresses necessary arrangements and processes for outfitting, assembly, storage and deployment of major project components such as turbine nacelles, blades, towers, foundations, and delivery facilities support structures, and other major components associated with delivery facilities and, and the storage facility (as applicable). Please provide a construction plan that captures the following objectives:

SouthCoast Wind is leveraging its advanced federal permitting, regional relationships, and the global experience of its Sponsor to build a credible, deliverable, and low-risk construction program for the Project. The following key points advantage the SouthCoast Wind operations and logistics strategy:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- **Permitting Maturity Ensures Leading-Edge Marine Mammal Protection** - The publication of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Project enables this proposal to be built on precise NMFS guidance for the Lease Area. This includes the latest NMFS guidance on marine mammal and North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) monitoring and impact mitigation. With a DEIS, SouthCoast Wind can minimize the risk of installation and vessel methodology changes driven by the federal permitting process that would exist otherwise.

- **Project Design is Grounded in Robust Site Characterization** - The Project site investigation is complete, following multiple years of geophysical and geotechnical surveys. This enables data-informed, site-specific foundation design and [Redacted]

- **Robust and Deliverable Port Solution with Tailored Options to Deliver Local Jobs across the Multi-State Solicitation** - SouthCoast Wind has built a robust plan around available ports that [REDACTED]

10.1 Work Packages for Project Deployment

10.1 Please list the major tasks or steps associated with deployment of the proposed project and the necessary specialized equipment (e.g. vessels, cranes).

The Project will be completed through six major “work packages” to support the staging, deployment, installation, and commissioning of the Project. The six work packages are presented in **Figure 10-1** in sequence, starting with onshore works, then export cables, offshore converter stations, inter-array cables, wind turbine generators (WTG) foundations, and WTGs. SouthCoast Wind’s approach for staging and deployment of each of the work packages is detailed in **Sections 10.1.1** through **Section 10.1.6**.



Figure 10-1. Work Packages

The work package methodology is built upon experience and lessons learned from other projects developed by our Sponsor companies and top-tier contractors in the supply chain. This methodology prioritizes the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project task durations and timelines are further detailed in **Section 9 Project Schedule**.

10.1.1 Onshore Work

The offshore export cable routing includes an intermediate, underground crossing of Portsmouth, Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island) before the cables make final landfall at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts. From the landfall at Brayton Point, SouthCoast Wind will install onshore export cables underground to the site of the onshore converter station. Underground 345-kV HVAC interconnection cables will be installed between the onshore converter station and the POI at the existing National Grid Brayton Point Substation. Commissioning activities will proceed after installation is complete.

SouthCoast Wind has conducted detailed analyses of the effects of onshore construction activities to quantify impacts on abutters and host communities. Based on this analysis, the Project was designed to minimize impacts and fall within permitted thresholds.

10.1.1.1 Sea-to-Shore Transition

The offshore export cables will make landfall using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to minimize impacts to coastal environments ([REDACTED]). HDD will be implemented at three landfall locations: at both ends of the Aquidneck Island route and the final landfall at Brayton Point. HDD is a well-established methodology that relies on the following specialized equipment offshore: crane barge/drill support vessel, multi-purpose support vessel, towing vessels, and tender tugs.

The underground onshore export cables will continue inland from the HDD construction areas. In Portsmouth, Rhode Island, the onshore cables will be installed within the existing public road right-of-way. At Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts, the onshore cables will be installed under existing access roads.

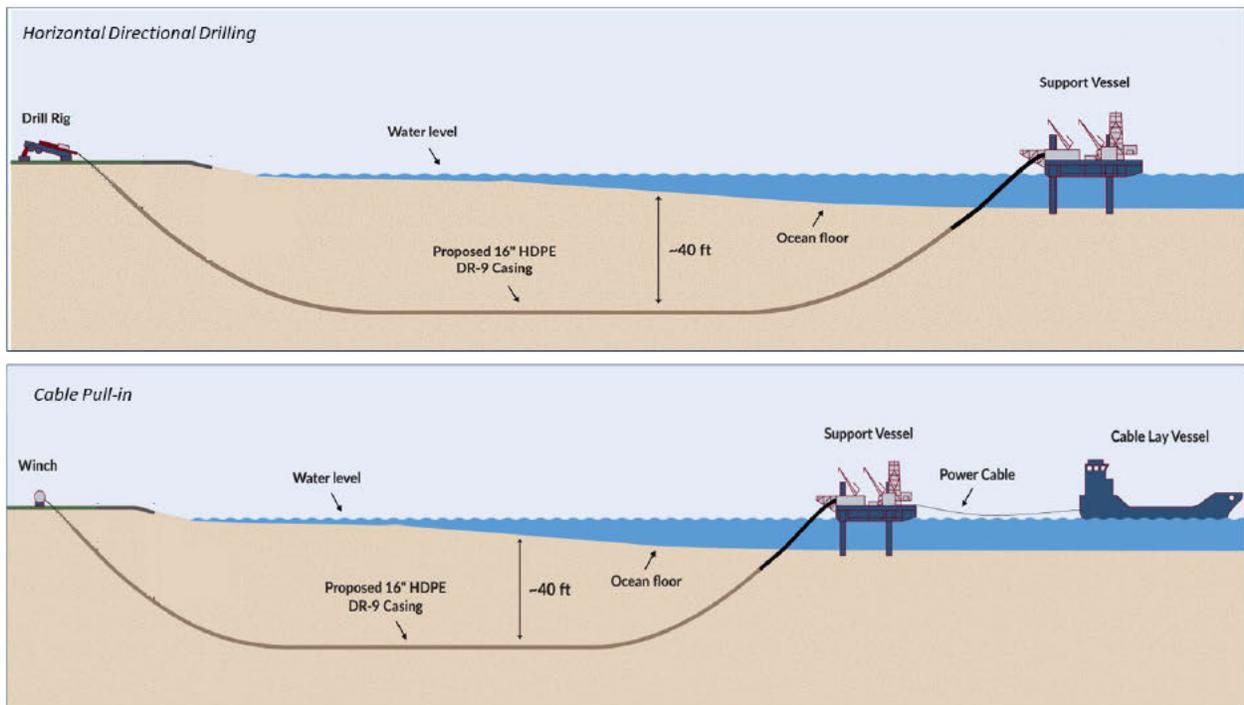


Figure 10-3. Indicative Sea-to-Shore Transition

10.1.1.2 Onshore Cable System

The general sequence of construction activities for the onshore export cable is listed in **Table 10-1**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10.1.1.3 Onshore Converter Station

The onshore export cables will terminate at the site of SouthCoast Wind’s new onshore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station at Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts. Brayton Point is an approximately 300-acre brownfield site on a peninsula surrounded by Mount Hope Bay, the Lee River, and the Taunton River. Brayton Point was selected as the Project’s point of interconnection and HVDC converter station location because it offers significant injection capacity and other positive attributes for interconnection. The property was formerly occupied by the Brayton Point Power Station, a 1,600 MW coal-burning power plant that operated at the site for over 50 years. Subsequently, some of the same property was used for a scrap metal recycling operation that has since shut down.

[REDACTED]



Figure 10-4. Onshore Converter Station Lease Parcel in Foreground

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The civil phase of the onshore converter station construction entails site clearing, soil cutting and filling activities, installation of stormwater management infrastructure, installation of below-grade electrical conduits and grounding grids, foundation installation, as well as the erection of buildings and other superstructures. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control barriers will be installed before the disruption of any soil. Equipment used during the civil portion of onshore converter station construction will include excavators, backhoes, bulldozers, dump trucks, concrete trucks, forklifts, compaction equipment, and other construction equipment.

The electrical phase of onshore construction will start once most civil construction has been completed and will focus on installing major station equipment, cabling, and support systems. Construction equipment will include cranes, forklifts, cable-pulling equipment, man lifts, and jacking equipment. Large equipment, including transformers and circuit breakers, will be installed using cranes or jacked and slid onto foundation pads. Appropriate installation methods will be selected based on the exact size, weight, and site-specific constraints. Manlifts and ladders will be utilized as needed to complete the final assembly of the equipment.

The interconnection from the onshore converter station to the National Grid Substation at Brayton Point (**Figure 10-5**) will use high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) transmission cables installed underground for a distance of approximately 0.2 miles (mi) using the construction methods described in **Table 10-1**.



Figure 10-5. National Grid Brayton Point Substation, the Project's Point of Interconnection

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10.1.2.1 Cable Lay Preparation

Cable Installation Survey

Prior to installation of the offshore export cables, surveys will be conducted utilizing a range of sensors, including sonar, sub-bottom profiler, echosounder, and magnetometer. Most of these surveys were completed in 2019-2023, with the processed data being utilized for engineering design, installation planning, permitting, fisheries, etc. Additional survey data will be collected immediately before installation to identify any anomalies or changes from prior surveys (such as fishing gear, boulders, or mobile sand waves) for the vessels and installation team. These surveys will assist in building a framework for the seafloor and subsurface along the export cable route and highlight areas requiring any minor pre-lay route preparation owing to changes from the original survey works.

Seafloor Preparation

As with inter-array cable seafloor preparation, any boulders discovered in the cable route in pre-installation surveys that cannot be easily avoided by micro-routing could be removed with a grab lift or plow as necessary. A pre-lay grapnel run will be conducted to clear the cable route of buried hazards along the installation route to remove obstacles that could impact cable

installation, such as abandoned mooring lines, wires, or fishing equipment. SouthCoast Wind may utilize equipment, as detailed in **Table 10-2**, to level the seabed locally, use seabed-operated cable burial tools, and ensure consistent burial is achieved.

Table 10-2. Seabed Preparation Equipment

Equipment	Use
Grapple plow	Pre-lay grapple run
Orange peel grabber	Localized boulder removal
Boulder clearance plow	Boulder field clearance
Trailing suction hopper dredger	Removal of sand wave tops
Water injection dredger	Removal of sand wave tops in shallow areas
Constant flow excavator	Seabed leveling and preparation

10.1.2.2 Cable Transportation, Installation, and Burial

[REDACTED]

Depending on the survey findings and seabed conditions encountered, several cable burial and installation methods may be utilized. These methods are listed in **Table 10-3** and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, when and if used, to ensure they are Jones Act / Dredge Act-compliant (as applicable).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Table 10-3. Offshore Export Cable Installation and Burial Equipment

Equipment	Use
Vertical injector	Vessel-mounted burial solution for shallow water use that does not require seabed/sand wave sea leveling
Jetting sled	Used in shallow water for deeper trench depths (surface-fed water supply) in areas of prepared/benign seabed surfaces.
Jetting ROV	Typically used in deeper water and can be used for unconsolidated soft beds.
Pre-cut plow	Any depth and can be used for hard bottoms (plows can be used for a wide range of soils from unconsolidated sands to stiff clays)
Mechanical plowing	Any depth and can be used for hard bottoms (plows can be used for a wide range of soils from unconsolidated sands to stiff clays)
Mechanical cutting ROV system	Any depth, used for hard, consolidated substrate

Cable Protection

Cable protection is typically required at any existing cable crossing locations and for areas where cable burial cannot be achieved. For cable protection, methods will be determined based on the location, length, and the extent of the non-burial, and whether all remedial burial solutions have been ruled non-feasible. Remedial burial techniques may include jet trenching or controlled flow excavation that fluidizes the surrounding sediment, allowing the cable to settle further into the trench. These secondary cable protection methods may include the creation of a rock berm, concrete mattress placement, rock placement, and fronded mattresses. Half shells may also be used, as they are typically used to protect cable ends at pull-in areas and where trenching is not possible.

Any required crossings of other Project cables or existing third-party cables by the offshore export cables will utilize mutually agreeable crossing designs consistent with typical industry practices, which typically employ concrete mattresses (though other crossing methods may be assessed for use). Minimum separation distances will be determined so that both cables can be safely operated with the risk of damage to either cable mitigated to the extent practicable. An example of a concrete cable protection mattress is provided in **Figure 10-8**.



Source: Subsea Protection Systems 2021

Figure 10-8. Example of Concrete Cable Protection Mattresses

10.1.2.3 Jones Act/Foreign Dredge Act Compliance

The export cable installation strategy proposed for the Project complies with current U.S. Customs and Borders Protection (CBP) Jones Act and Foreign Dredge Act rulings. The same CBP rulings discussed in **Section 10.1.4.3** that allow foreign-flagged vessels to install inter-array cables apply to offshore export cables.

10.1.3 Offshore Converter Station

[REDACTED]

10.1.3.1 Offshore Converter Station Platform

[REDACTED]

10.1.3.2 Offshore Converter Station Topside

[REDACTED]

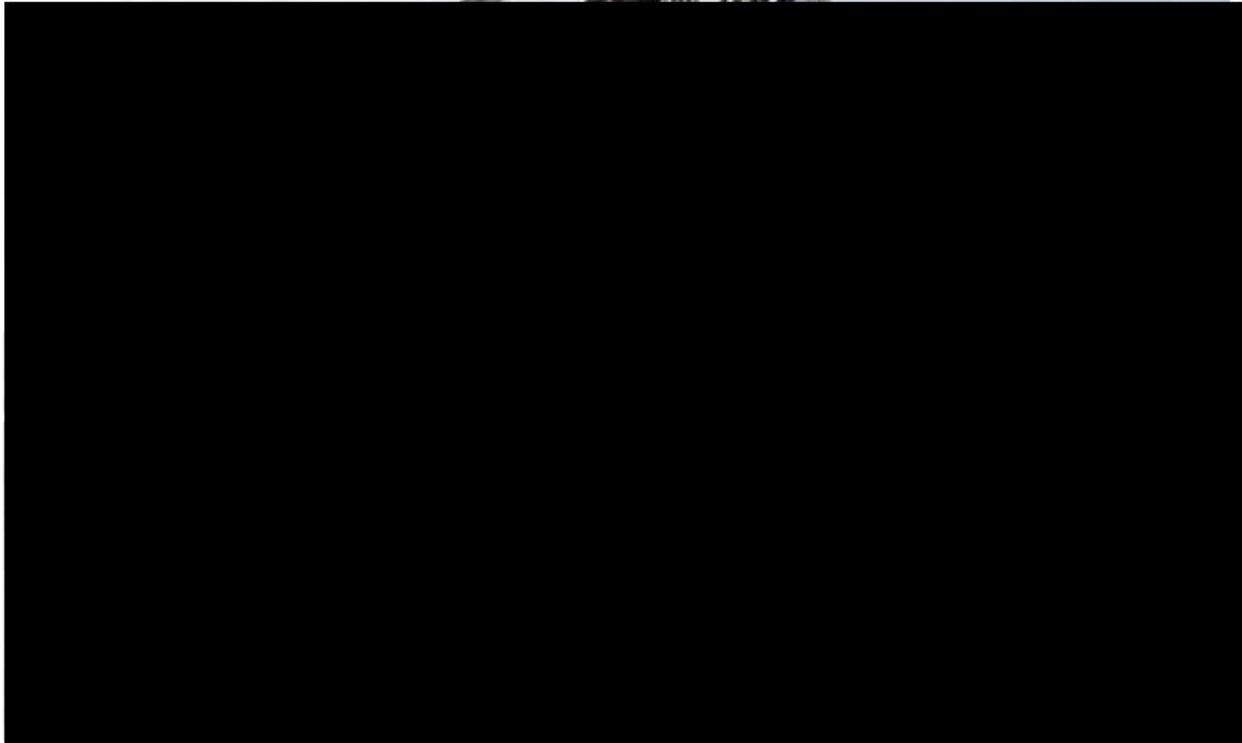
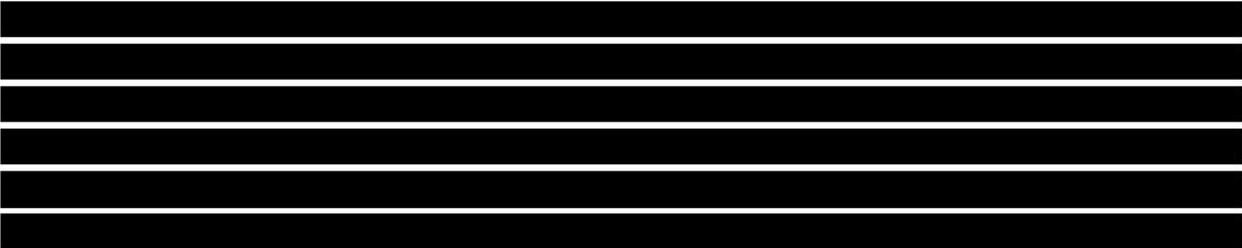


Figure 10-9. Heavy Lift Vessel for Installation of Offshore Converter Station

The offshore converter station platform will accommodate J-tubes through which inter-array cables and export cables will be installed. Both the inter-array and export cables will be pulled through J-tubes located at the base of each foundation before or after the topside has been installed. Electrical installation will commence after the mechanical installation is complete. Inter-array cables and the offshore export cables will be connected to their designated switchgear within the offshore converter station. **Section 10.1.2** and **Section 10.1.4** describe inter-array and offshore export cables.

10.1.3.3 Jones Act Compliance

SouthCoast Wind’s proposed vessel usage alternatives for offshore converter station installation described in this paragraph are Jones Act-compliant installation methods. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

10.1.4.1 Cable Lay Preparation

Cable Installation Survey

SouthCoast Wind completed geophysical and geotechnical surveys of the Project Area to support the permitting and design campaigns. Before construction, pre-installation surveys of the cable routes will be conducted to confirm no changes on and/or below the seafloor. These surveys will also utilize sonar, sub-bottom profiler, echosounder, and/or magnetometer to create images and collect data on features present on the seafloor and within the subsurface. These surveys will further inform installation and protection methods to be applied to the inter-array cables and aid in avoiding potential seafloor and subsurface hazards.

Seafloor Preparation

There is no glacial moraine within the Lease Area and significantly fewer boulders than neighboring lease areas. This is in contrast to areas farther to the west that do overlap with high-complexity sea bottoms, such as Cox’s Ledge, that fishermen and fisheries resources rely heavily on. The presence of glacial moraine is directly correlated with fish and other marine life habitats, which are important to commercial and recreational fishing. Therefore, in SouthCoast Wind’s Lease Area, inter-array cable installation will have significantly less impact on fisheries than in other lease areas. Any boulders discovered in the cable route in pre-installation surveys that cannot be easily avoided by micro-routing may need to be removed with a grab lift or

¹ See 46 U.S.C. § 55102(b) (requiring domestic-flagged vessels only when transporting merchandise between two U.S. points).

² See *id.* Because the foreign-flagged vessel is only operating at the Lease Area and not engaging in transportation between coastwise points, section 55102(b) does not apply. See also *Coastwise Transportation; Towing; Outer Continental Shelf; Wind Turbines (et seq.)*, HQ H326258 (U.S. Customs & Border Protection Sept. 15, 2023) (affirming that if merchandise is laden at a foreign port there is no transportation between coastwise points within the meaning of 46 U.S.C § 55102(b) and 19 CFR § 4.80).

plow as necessary. Based on the survey data available, boulder areas have been identified, and routing has already been updated to reflect avoidance. [REDACTED]

10.1.4.2 Cable Transportation, Installation, and Burial

Transportation of inter-array cables will occur in up to two campaigns via a carousel or static tank-equipped cable transport and lay vessel, dedicated cable transportation vessel, or a combination of these options.

Inter-array cables will be laid and buried in continuous lengths between foundations and between foundations and the offshore converter platform. Installation of any required protection at cable ends will be completed before cable installation from the vessel. The pre-installation surveys and subsequent site characterization will determine the most appropriate cable installation method for the seafloor and subsurface conditions present and confirm the target burial depth. The water depth at installation sites will necessitate using a Dynamic Positioning (DP) class cable installation vessel.

Inter-array installation methods are similar to methods used for offshore export cable installation and burial and may include a combination of those listed in **Table 10-4**. These cable-laying techniques can involve pre-laid or simultaneous cable installation.

Table 10-4. Inter-Array Cable Installation and Burial Equipment

Equipment	Use
Jetting ROV	Can be used for unconsolidated soft beds
Pre-cut plow	Any depth and can be used for hard bottoms.
Mechanical plow	Any depth and can be used for hard bottoms.
Mechanical cutting ROV system	Any depth, used for hard, consolidated substrate

10.1.4.3 Jones Act/Foreign Dredge Act Compliance

The Project's proposed inter-array cable installation strategy is not subject to the Jones Act or the Foreign Dredge Act, which restricts foreign-built ships from U.S. dredging.

The CBP has long held that vessels whose sole purpose is laying cable—even between coastwise points—would not be considered "use in U.S. coastwise trade".³ Therefore, U.S.-

³ See, e.g., Glob. Marine Sys. Ltd, HQ H311603 (U.S. Customs & Border Protection Aug. 31, 2020) (citing HQ 115431; HQ 115333); Coastwise Transportation; Dredging; Undersea Cable Laying, HQ H318628 (U.S. Customs & Border Protection June 30, 2022).



Source: UHL, 2021

Figure 10-10. Monopiles Loaded on to a Heavy Transport Vessel

10.1.5.2 Installation of Monopile Foundations

To avoid complex offshore transfer of MPs, the installation vessel will load batches of foundations at the transfer point and stow them on deck until installation. The installation vessel will position itself at the target turbine location during installation. A horizontally stowed MP will then be lifted vertically, placed into a guide frame, and lowered to the seabed. When the MP is in position and all required noise mitigation equipment is in place, the MP will be driven to depth using the appropriate pile hammer.



SouthCoast Wind's Commitment to Protecting Biological Resources During Foundation Installation

SouthCoast Wind is committed to protecting marine mammals during MP installation, specifically the NARW. **Figure 10-11** shows the arrangement of the installation vessels and monitoring vessels that maintain the shutdown zone. For more details on marine mammal mitigation efforts, please see **Section 7**.



10.1.5.3 *Installation of Transition Pieces*

Once the MP is set in place, a TP will be installed by the same installation vessel onto the top flange of the MP (**Figure 10-12**) prior to connecting the inter-array cable and WTG.

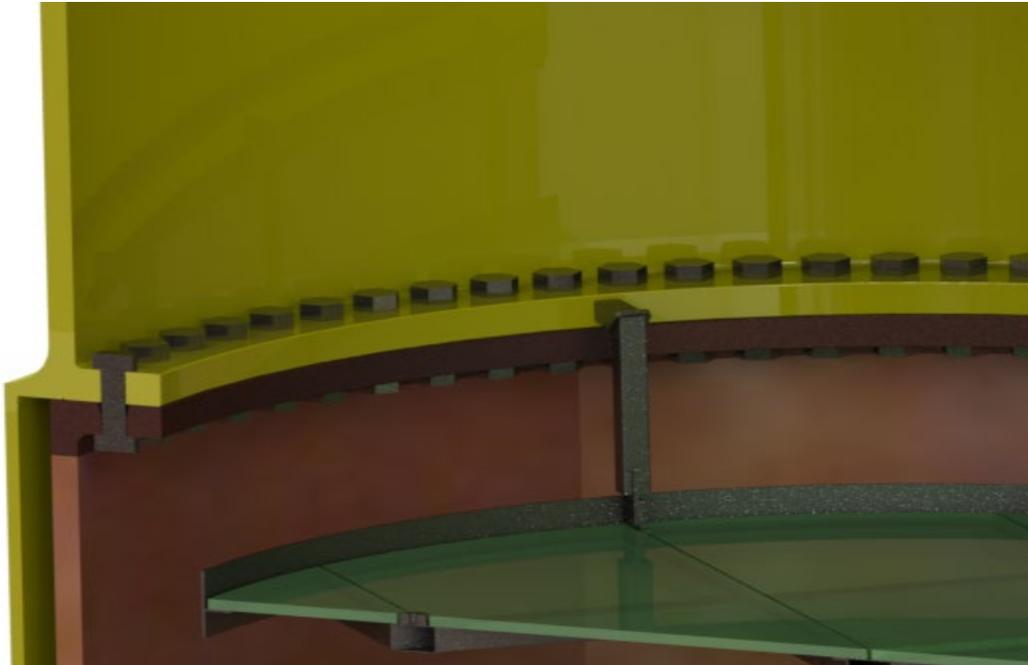


Figure 10-12. Bolted Connection Between the Transition Piece and Monopile Flange

10.1.5.4 Scour Protection

Scour is sediment erosion away from the base of offshore structures due to hydrodynamic forces, including seabed drag, resulting in a hole around the piles or support structure base.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10.1.5.5 Jones Act Compliance

The methodology for installing the WTG foundations does not raise the issue of compliance under the Jones Act because there is no transportation of merchandise between two U.S. points⁵.

[REDACTED]

⁵ 46 U.S.C. §55102 (requiring compliance only when transporting merchandise between two U.S. points).

[REDACTED]



10.1.6.2 Staging Port

The primary activities occurring at the staging port include:

- Unloading the WTG components from the HTVs,
- Arranging the components for short-term storage at the port,
- Preservation and maintenance of the components, including repair of any minor transport damages,
- Preassembly and onshore testing of the WTG components,
- The WTG components are loaded onto the vessels used for transport to the installation site.

SouthCoast Wind will ensure adequate infrastructure is in place at the port to support the activities detailed above and plans to manage them for the project's execution.

Specialized equipment such as mobile cranes, self-propelled modular transporter vehicles, reach stackers, and trailer trucks will handle and move WTG components and auxiliary items around the staging port site. This equipment is readily available in the market and is regularly used in the wind energy industry.

Support infrastructure includes office facilities, warehousing, power, water, information and communication technology, site security, fencing, lighting, and waste management.

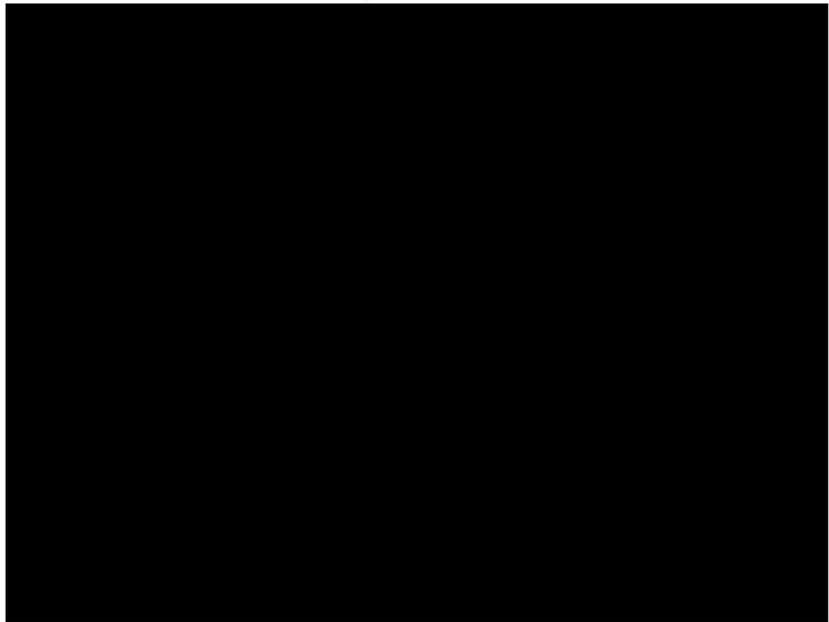
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10.1.6.4 Installation

The WTGs are the final components to be installed for the Project, consistent with the indicative Project installation timeline shown in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10.1.6.5 Jones Act Compliance

The WTG installation strategy proposed for the Project is consistent with Jones Act CBP rulings.

[REDACTED] For additional information on ports, reference **Section 10.2**.

[REDACTED]

10.1.7 Project Commissioning

10.1.7.1 Overview

[REDACTED]

SouthCoast Wind is developing an overall commissioning strategy incorporating the requirements of the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), requirements of National Grid (the interconnecting transmission owner) for back-feed power availability, and requirements of ISO New England, Inc. (ISO-NE), the exact commissioning sequence of which will be based on the final design of the Project.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

10.2 Marine Terminal Site Control for Work Packages

10.2 Please provide documentation to demonstrate site control for all marine terminals and other waterfront facilities that will be used to stage, assemble, and deploy the project for each stage of construction.

- i. Evidence that the bidder or the equipment/service provider have a valid lease, or option to lease, a marine terminal and/or waterfront facility for construction of the offshore wind energy project (e.g., by virtue of ownership or land development rights obtained from the owner).
- ii. If not available, describe the status of acquisition of real property rights for necessary marine terminal and/or waterfront facilities, any options in place for the exercise of these rights and describe the plan for securing the necessary real property rights, including the proposed timeline. Include these plans and the timeline in the overall project schedule. Provide any agreements, options, or other materials reflecting the bidder’s efforts so far to secure real property rights (and any letters of intent to the extent signed agreements are not in place).
- iii. Identify any joint use of existing or proposed real property rights for marine terminal or waterfront facilities.

[Redacted text block]

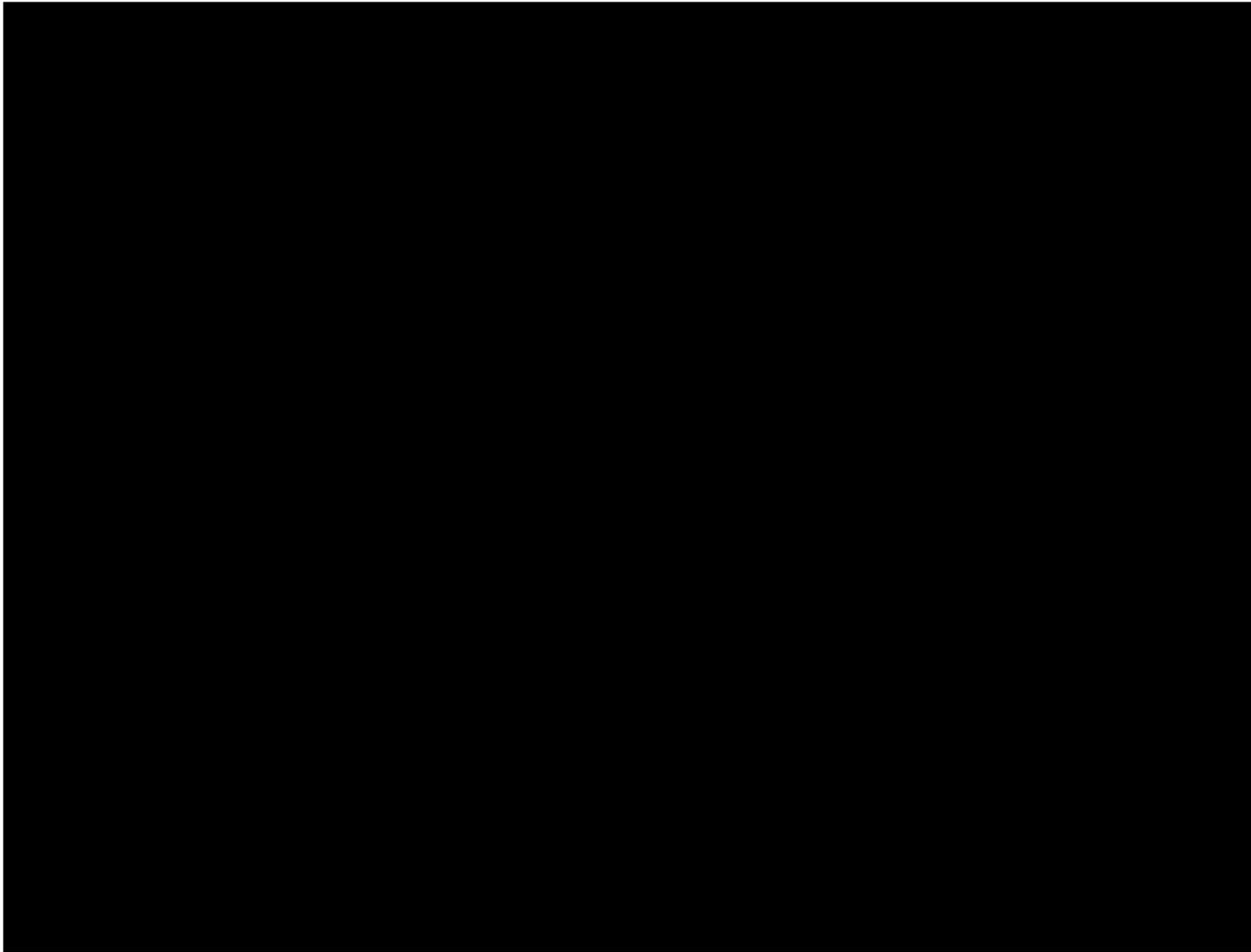
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For port control mapping, see **Table 10-5**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

⁹ Foundation Marshalling with ship to ship transfer does not required a port facility and therefore no site control is required.



SouthCoast Wind is pleased to present various port options to generate local jobs from Project expenditures in different states. **Table 10-5** and **Figure 10-16** show all potential options for each scope of work. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

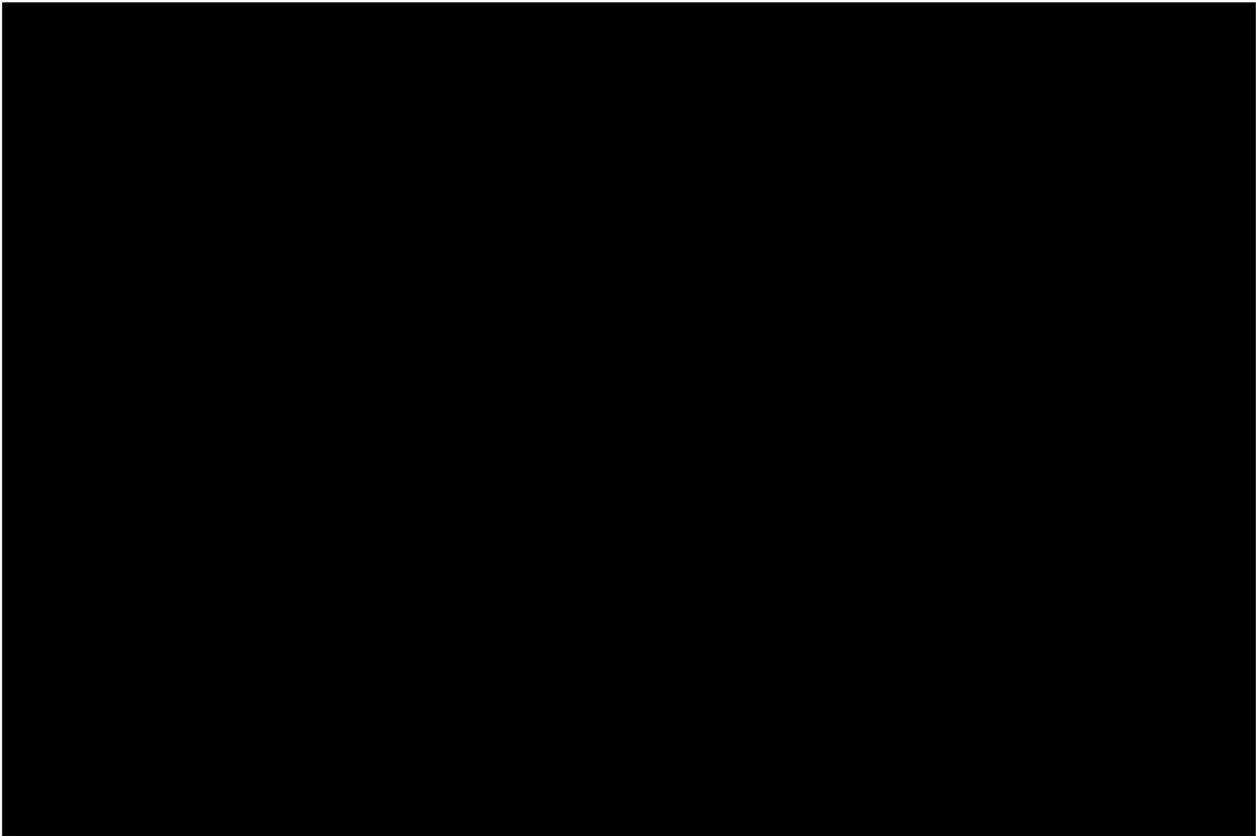
[REDACTED]

10.2.1 New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal (NBMCT)

SouthCoast Wind will marshal WTG components from the NBMCT (**Figure 10-17**). SouthCoast Wind executed a lease with MassCEC to use the NBMCT from January 1, 2029, to June 30, 2031 (**Attachment 10-1**). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



10.2.2 Salem Offshore Wind Terminal

The Salem Offshore Wind Terminal (SOWT) is owned by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the City of Salem and operated by Crowley. The site is being redeveloped to serve the offshore wind industry for marshaling WTG or foundation components (**Figure 10-18**).



[REDACTED]

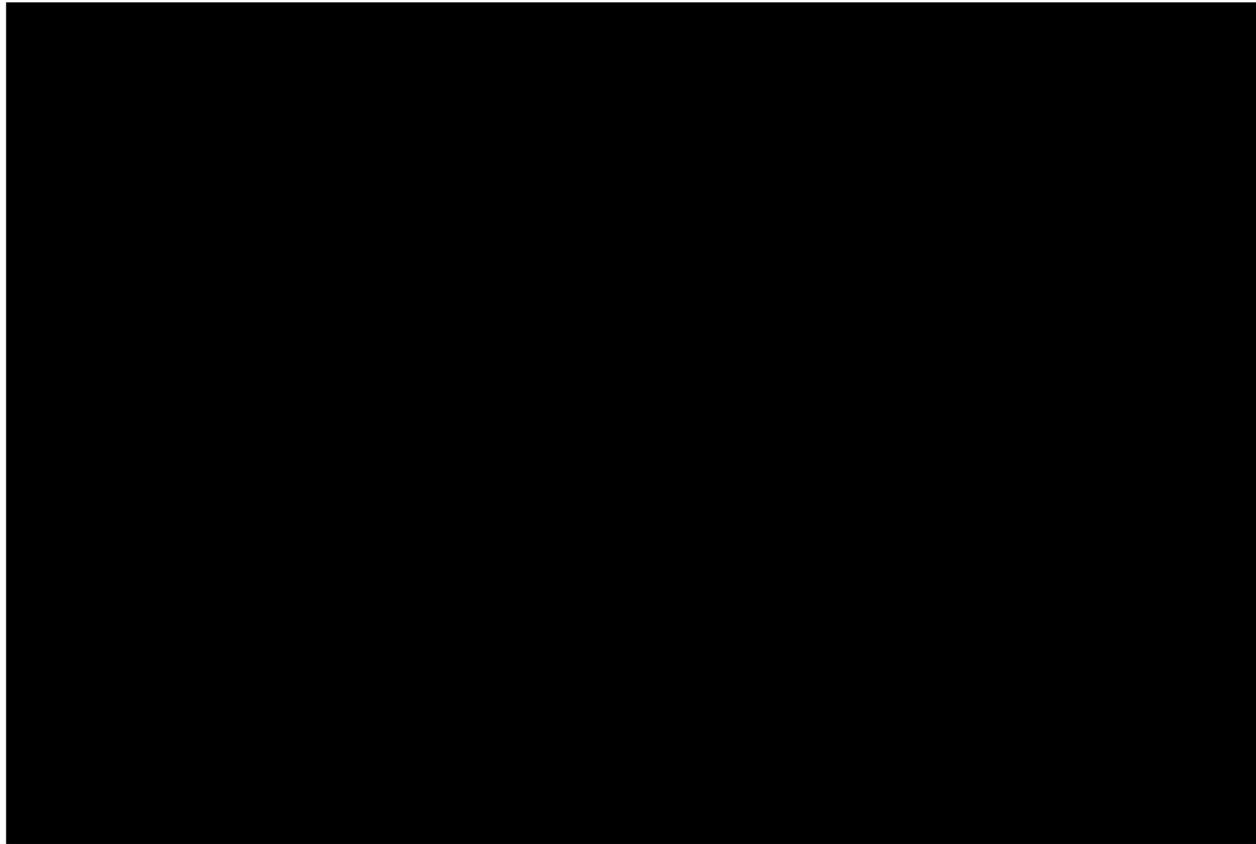
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

10.2.5 Marine Construction Port

There is a requirement for a construction marine base to support offshore energy projects throughout the construction phase. This base will be a port location local to the Lease Area that will host site coordination teams and will be the location for crew transfer and logistics of minor equipment and materials. As shown in **Table 10-5**, this site will be located within Massachusetts or Rhode Island as close as possible to the Lease Area and will be selected later in the pre-construction stage.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Table 10-7. Onshore Facilities Project Vehicles

Vehicle	Activity
Backhoe	Foundation and duct bank installation
Box truck	Delivery of equipment and cable pulling.
Bulldozer	Level site
Concrete truck	Installation of concrete
Crane	Installation of concrete structures and large equipment
Drill rig	Foundation installation
Dump truck	Soil and rock movement
Excavator	Excavate Project sites
Forklift	Lift and transfer parts, tools, and/or equipment to the staging area and/or Project site.
Front-end loader	Soil and rock movement
Horizontal directional drilling rig	Bore underneath shore to transition vault
Heavy duty truck	Equipment and component deliveries, miscellaneous
Manlift	Elevate workers
Tractor-trailer/flatbed	Miscellaneous
Paver	Paving of disturbed roads and new roads at the onshore converter station site
Pickup truck	Crew transport, small supplies delivery, miscellaneous
Piling driving rig	Foundation installation

Vehicle	Activity
Skid steer	Soil and rock movement
Wheeled compactor	Foundation installation and installation of duct bank

10.4 Deployment Contractors

10.4 List the party (e.g. the bidder, or equipment/service providers under contract to the bidder) responsible for each deployment activity and describe the role of each party. Describe the status of bidder’s contractual agreements with third-party equipment/service providers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The procurement strategy for all scopes of the Project is described in **Section 8**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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SECTION 11 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Section Overview

Projects that can demonstrate that the operation and maintenance (“O&M”) plan, level of funding, and mechanism for funding will ensure reliable operations of all aspects of the project during the term of the contract are preferred.

The SouthCoast Wind proposal is built around a credible, reliable, and flexible Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan. SouthCoast Wind’s proposal is advantaged by the following key points:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- **Mature Federal and State Permitting to Ensure that SouthCoast Wind can Incorporate Feedback from the Federal Permit Review Process into its OPEX and Availability Models** - SouthCoast Wind’s O&M Strategy is built around the feedback from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) completed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

11.1 Operations and Maintenance Plan

11.1 Provide an O&M plan for the project that demonstrates the long term operational viability of the proposed project. The plan should include the location of the O&M base, a discussion of the staffing levels proposed for the project, the expected role of the project sponsor or turbine manufacturer/outside contractor, scheduling of major maintenance activity, and the plan for testing equipment.

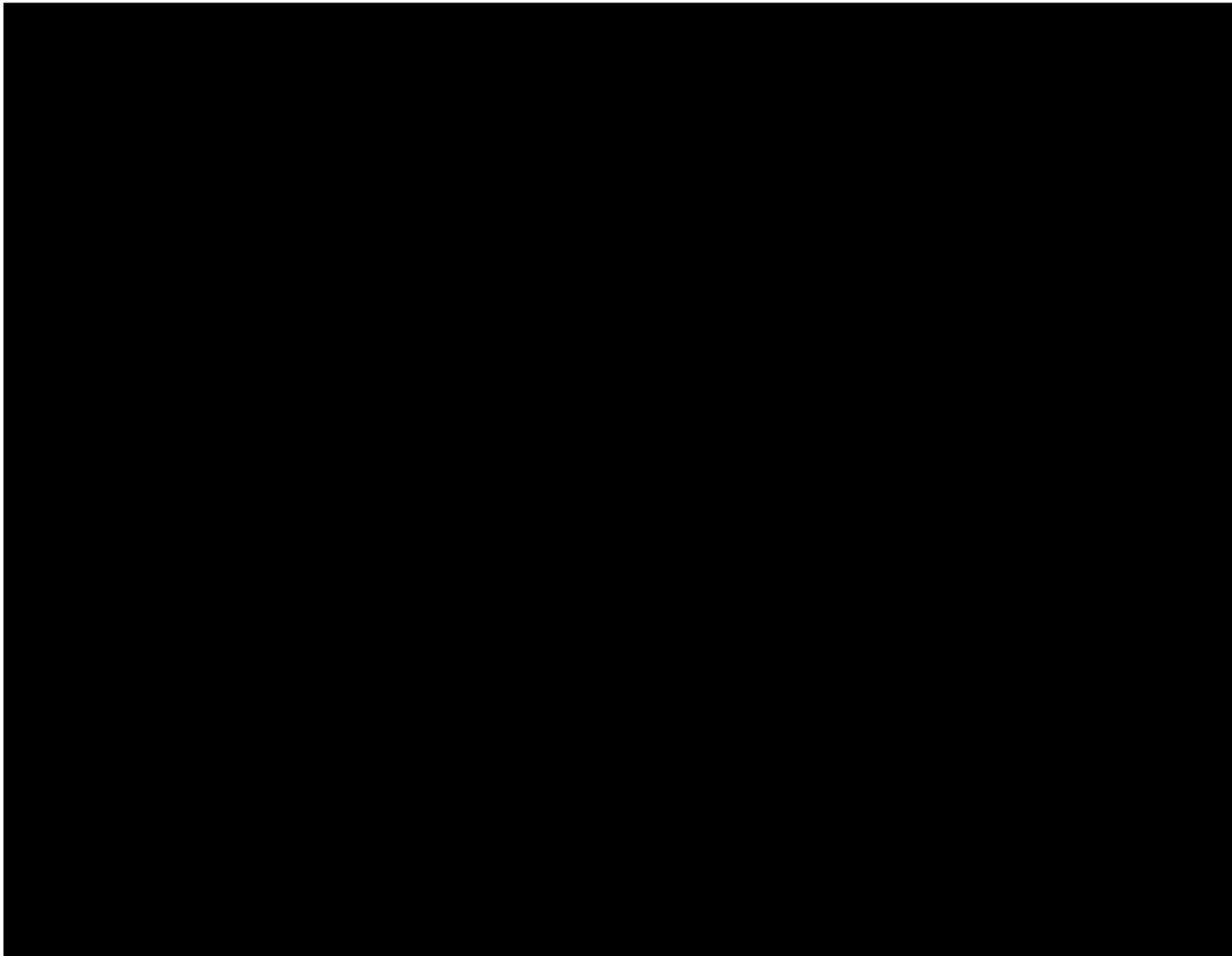
11.1.1 SouthCoast Wind Operational Philosophy

SouthCoast Wind’s operational philosophy to provide reliable operations and long-term operational viability includes the following key elements:

- Personnel health, safety, and security;
- Safe navigation in coordination with fisheries;
- Protection of the environment in compliance with permits;
- Compliance with manufacturer and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) recommendations for maintenance and repair;
- Maximized availability of all Project assets to alleviate winter price spikes; and
- Optimized power generation in compliance with the PPA and Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE) requirements.

[Redacted]





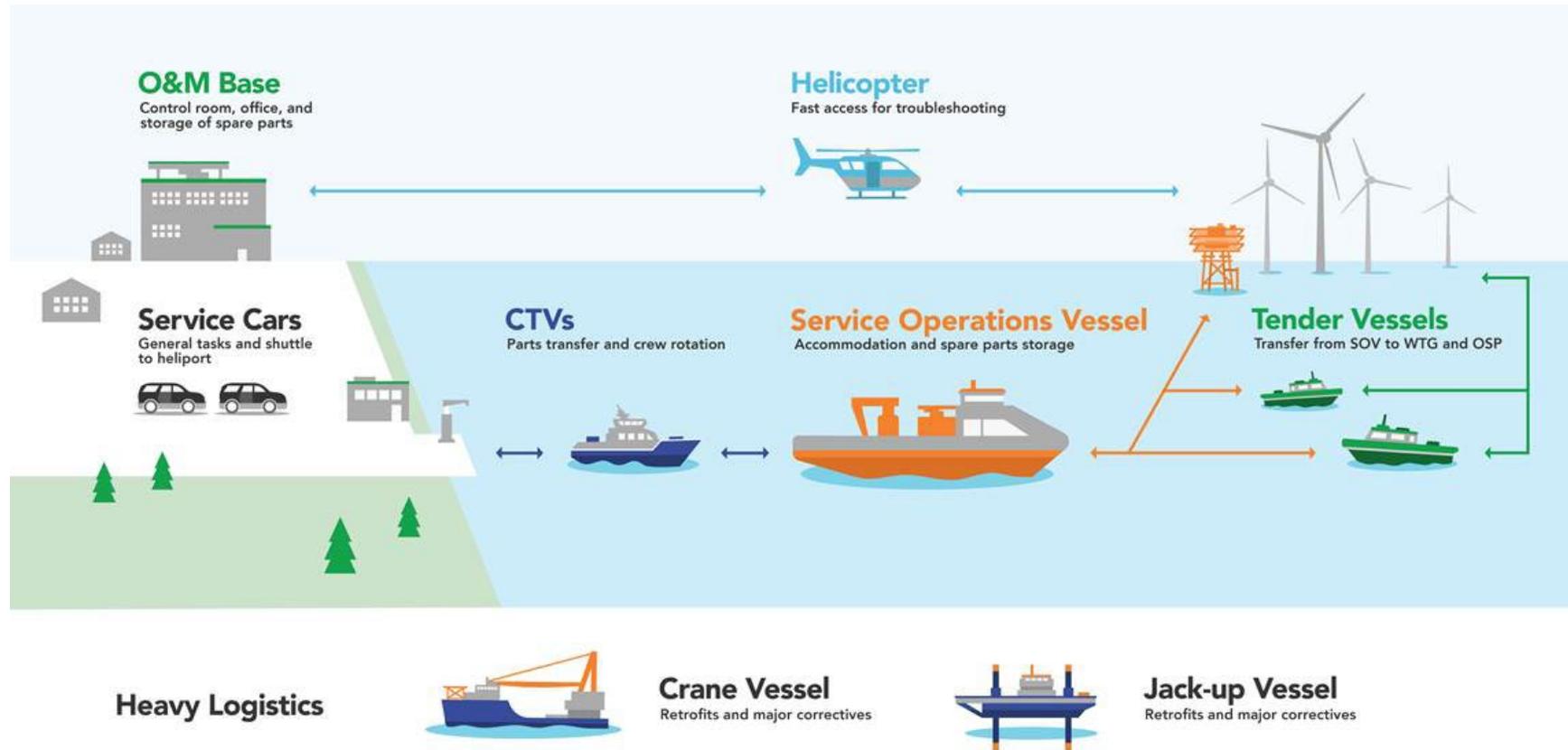


Figure 11-2. Layout of O&M Logistics



11.1.3 Staffing Levels

SouthCoast Wind will hire, train, and develop a local workforce capable of operating and maintaining the Project. Future roles to ensure safe and reliable operation include technicians, engineers, managers, HSSE specialists, marine coordinators, procurement managers, and supply chain managers. In addition, the operating company will keep specialists and managers in human resources, finance, legal, and other support functions.

Table 11-2 below highlights the expected number of local jobs, including new direct roles associated with O&M that will be created. The number of jobs is expressed as full-time equivalents (FTE) annually. Total job creation for the project's life is described in **Section 13**. The location of job creation depends on the award scenario; potential locations are shown in **Table 11-5**. The staffing levels are expressed as a range, and the exact number will be based on the final contracts with suppliers. The staffing levels include SouthCoast Wind employees, main contractors (e.g. WTG supplier), and subcontractors.

Table 11-2. O&M Phase Staffing Levels

Department	Staffing Levels (per yr)	Job Location	Job Titles
O&M - onshore staff	[REDACTED]	SOV O&M Base	Control Room, Warehousing, Support Services, Engineering, Management
O&M - offshore staff	[REDACTED]	SOV O&M Base or, if the CTV option is taken, CTV O&M Base	Supervisors, Technicians, HSSE, Stock keeping

Department	Staffing Levels (per yr)	Job Location	Job Titles
O&M Administration	[REDACTED]	O&M Admin Office	Management, Human Resources (HR), Finance, Procurement, HSSE, Logistics
SOV	[REDACTED]	Port	Captain, Crew, Logistics, Support
CTV	[REDACTED]	Port	Captain, Crew, Logistics, Support
Total	[REDACTED]	-	-

11.1.4 Scheduling of Major Maintenance Activity

The SouthCoast Wind O&M activities address the maintenance of the following assets:

- **WTGs,**
- **HVDC Converter Stations** (offshore and onshore),
- **Balance of Plant (BoP),** which includes foundations, cables (inter-array, export, onshore cable route), communication, supervision software (i.e., Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition [SCADA]), and other monitoring systems (environmental, weather, navigation aids, etc.), and
- **O&M Port facilities and control systems.**

SouthCoast Wind will use all commercially reasonable efforts to minimize scheduled maintenance during peak electric demand and high wind energy production. The Project will coordinate an optimal schedule for maintenance work with ISO-NE and grid operators in full compliance with the regulations and obligations assumed in the PPA.

Table 11-3 and **Figure 11-4** below show a high-level representative schedule describing estimated work activities. To minimize the production impact, scheduled major maintenance activities will be performed during low demand and/or low wind farm production periods, including the converter station and platform maintenance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] re taken offline simultaneously.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11.1.5 Expected Role of Sponsors and Turbine Manufacturers

Sponsors and turbine manufacturers play key roles in the success of the Project's operational phase. [REDACTED]

In addition to the operational experience of SouthCoast Wind's staff, the company will draw on the extensive O&M experience of its Sponsor. Ocean Winds' expertise covers engineering, asset management, asset integrity, marine operations, procurement, and contract management.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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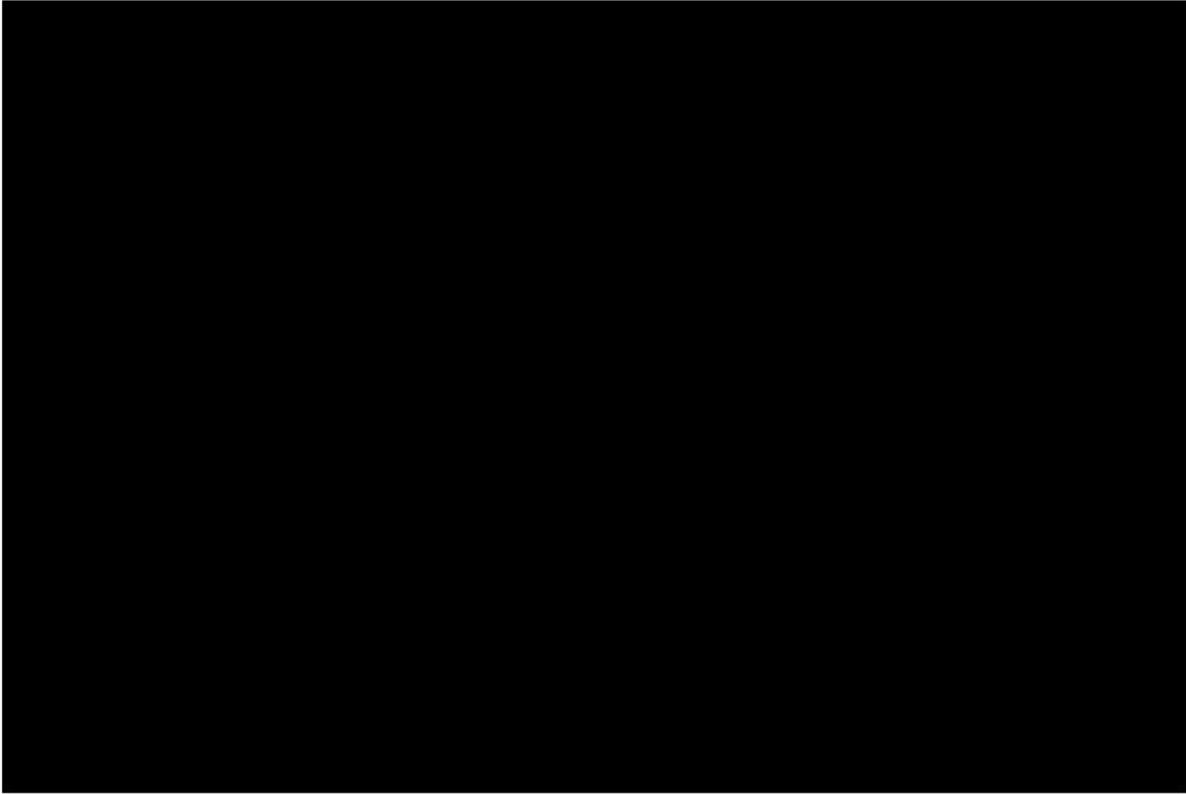
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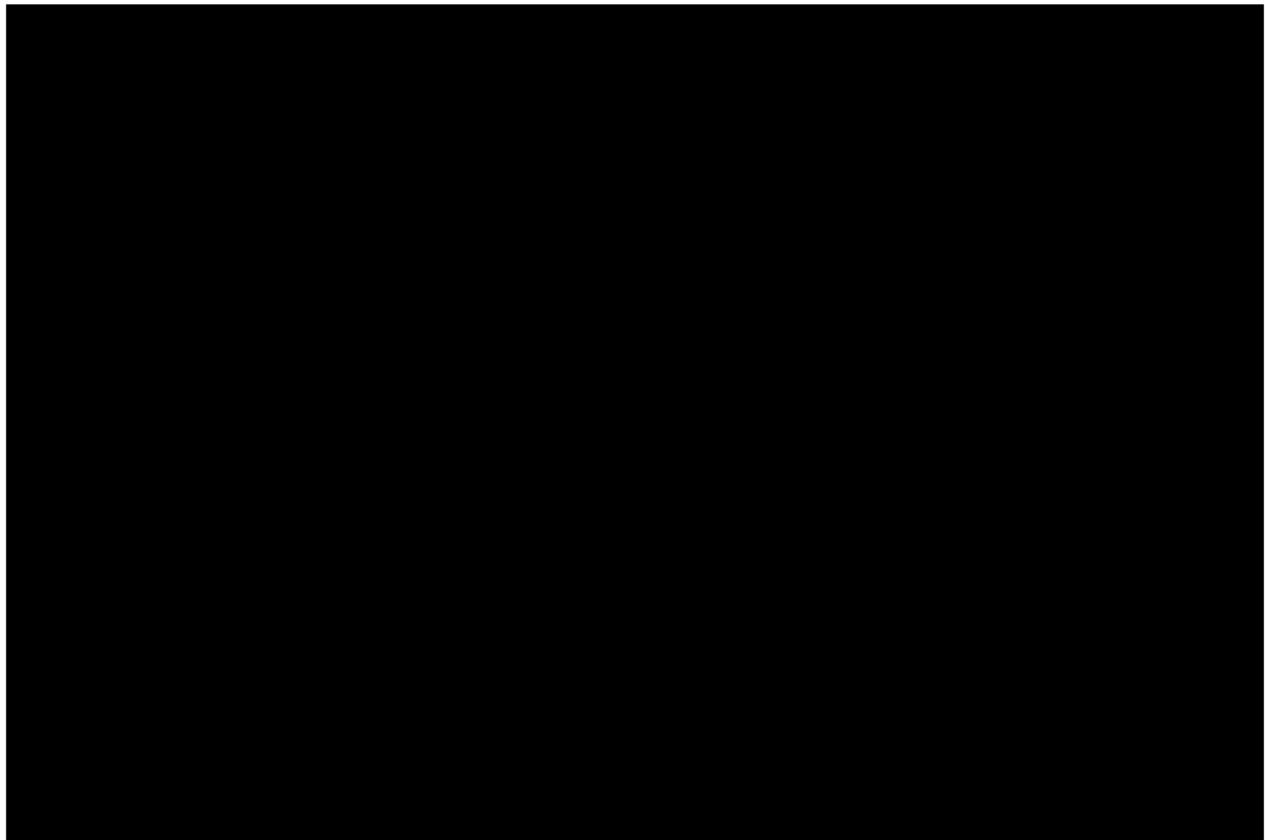
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[REDACTED]			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]		



11.2.4 Illustration of the Proposed Future O&M Facilities

SouthCoast Wind developed indicative renderings for the selected sites to assess and illustrate the visual integration into the local environment.





11.3 O&M Funding Mechanism

11.3 Describe in detail the proposed O&M funding mechanism and funding levels to support planned and unplanned O&M requirements.



[Redacted text block]

11.4 Equipment Warranties and Guarantees

11.4 Describe the terms (or expected terms) of the warranties and/or guarantees on major equipment that the bidder is utilizing or proposing to utilize.

11.4.1 Material Defect Warranties

All manufacturers selected or pre-selected to supply SouthCoast Wind have committed to industry standard warranties (defect notification periods), covering their equipment against defects.

The contractors will provide letters of credit and/or parent company guarantees as security for the warranties provided.

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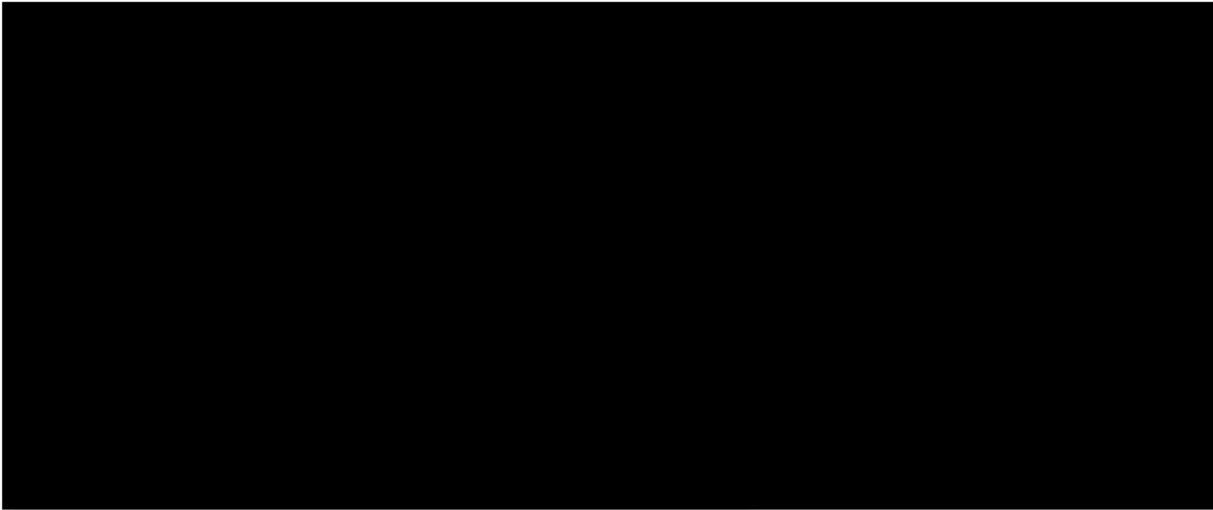
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

11.5 O&M Agreements and Contracts

11.5 Describe the status of the project sponsor in securing any O&M agreements or contracts. Include a discussion of the sponsor's plan for securing a medium-term or long-term O&M contract, including the expected provider of O&M services.

[REDACTED]



11.5.2 Status and Plan for O&M Contracts

SouthCoast Wind’s procurement and contracting efforts for the O&M phase followed the process outlined in **Section 8** for the project’s major equipment packages. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

11.6 SouthCoast Wind’s O&M Experience

11.6 Provide examples of the bidder’s experience with O&M services for other similar projects.

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors have been operating onshore wind projects since 1996 and offshore wind projects since 2020, including pioneering floating offshore wind in 2011.

Today, their combined global offshore wind portfolio reaches more than 1.5 gigawatts (GW) in operation, an additional 1.9 GW in advanced construction (to be commissioned within three years), and 13.2 GW in development to be delivered in the coming decade.

[REDACTED]

A complete list of Ocean Winds’ offshore wind projects is provided in **Table 11-8**, **Table 11-9**, and **Table 11-10**.

Table 11-8. Sponsor Offshore Wind Projects - Operated

Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Type	Location	Status
SeaMade	487	Fixed	Belgium	Operation
WindFloat Atlantic	25	Floating	Portugal	Operation
Moray East	950	Fixed	UK	Operation

Table 11-9. Sponsor Offshore Wind Projects - In Construction (with PPA)

Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Type	Location	Status
Moray West	882	Fixed	UK	Construction
Dieppe Le Treport	500	Fixed	France	Construction

Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Type	Location	Status
Isle Yeu - Noirmoutier	500	Fixed		Construction
EFGL	30	Floating		Construction

Table 11-10. Sponsor Offshore Wind Projects - Under Development

Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Type	Location	Status
SouthCoast Wind	2,400	Fixed	USA	Development
Golden State Wind	2,000	Floating		Development
Bluepoint Wind	1,700	Fixed		Development
B&C Wind	500	Fixed	Poland	Development
KF Wind	1,200	Floating	South Korea	Development
Hanbando	1,125	Fixed		Development
Caledonia	2,000	Fixed	UK	Development
Arven-Shetland	2,300	Floating		Development

Thanks to this track record, SouthCoast Wind has access to decades of knowledge, data, and procedures and dozens of world-class experts in the following areas:

- Management of high-risk assets and field operations;
- Optimizing logistics using the latest technologies and protocols for personnel and cargo transfer;
- Top offshore HSSE standards;
- Leveraging big data across all operational assets to evaluate and improve individual assets and WTG performance;
- Maintenance of all components, including subsea components;
- Engineering and operational support, including specialist areas such as WTG O&M, high-voltage infrastructure, and SCADA data analysis;
- Renewable energy power trading, marketing, and scheduling;
- Working with business, industry, regulatory, and governmental partners to continuously improve standards;

- Working cooperatively with local stakeholders; and
- Supporting the local supply chain, including in the O&M phase.

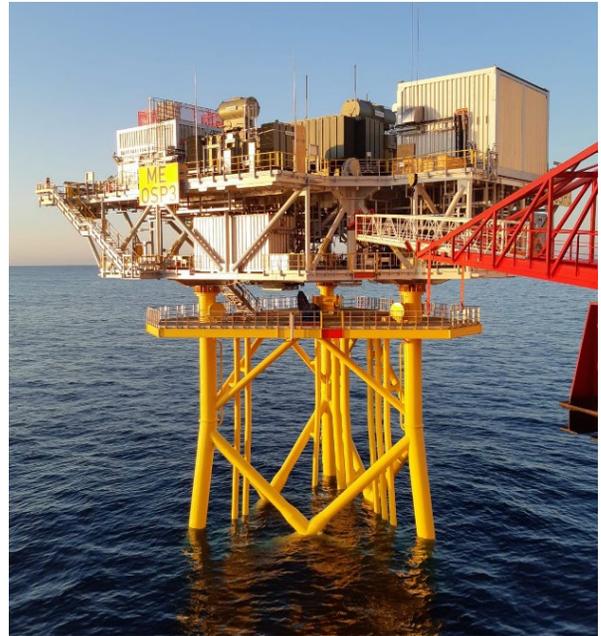


Figure 11-10. Moray East Project (UK)

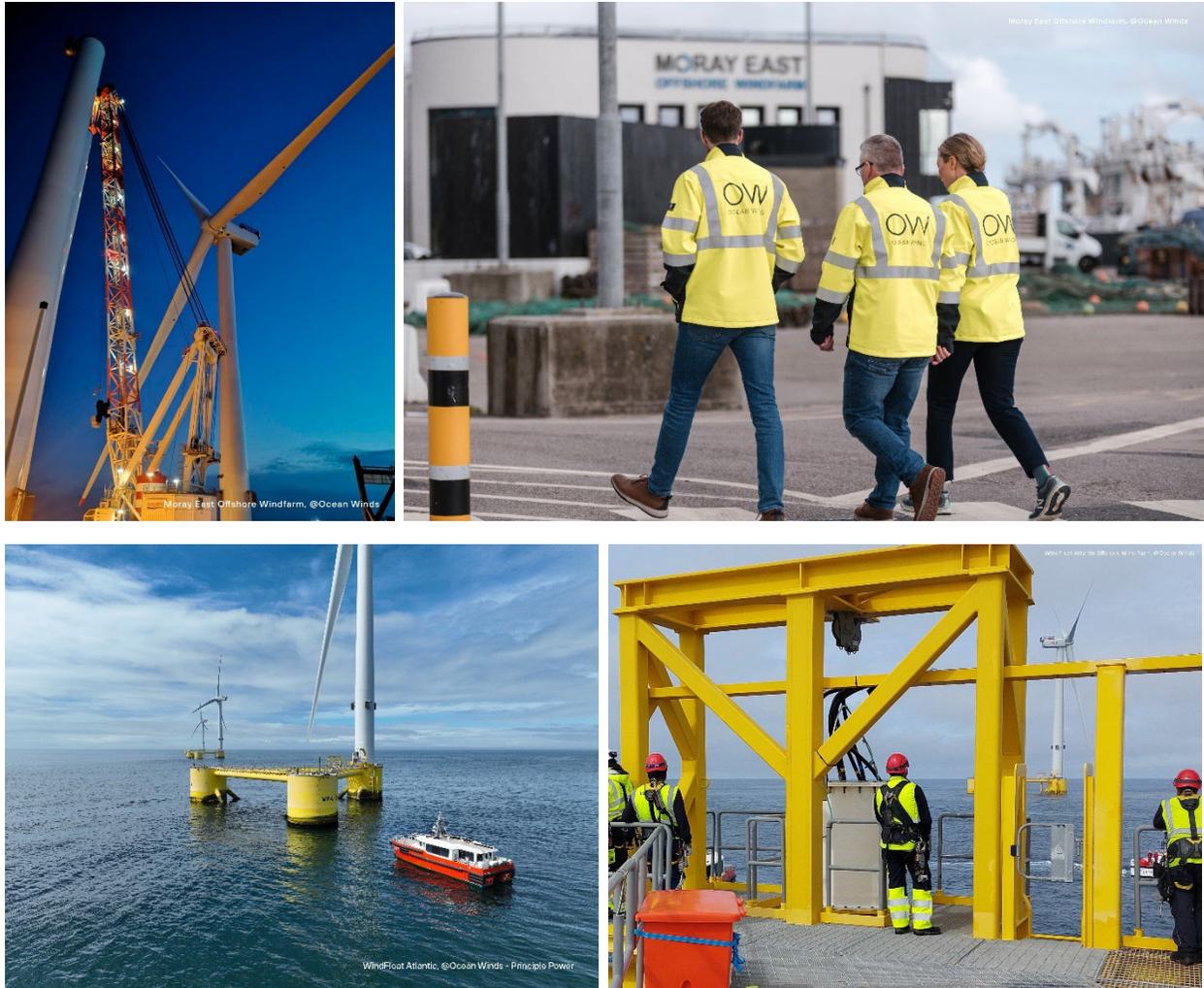


Figure 11-11. Wind Float Atlantic (Portugal)

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12-3
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12-4

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SECTION 12 PROJECT MANAGEMENT/EXPERIENCE

Section Overview

Bidders are required to demonstrate project experience and management capability to successfully develop and operate all aspects of the project proposed. The Evaluation Team is particularly interested in project teams that have demonstrated success in projects of similar type, size and technology and can demonstrate an ability to work together effectively to bring the project to commercial operation in a timely fashion.

[Redacted text block]

- **Operational Experience Ensures Long-Term Energy Delivery** - The Project and the SouthCoast Wind team bring the best practices from operating over 1,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind. The Project is supported by the experience of its Sponsors in setting up renewable energy projects worldwide, both onshore and offshore.

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

12.1 Organizational Chart

12.1 Provide an organizational chart for the project that lists the project participants and identifies the corporate structure, including general and limited partners.

SouthCoast Wind is a project under its sponsor, Ocean Winds, as described in **Section 5 Financial Legal**. SouthCoast Wind is underpinned by the resources and experience of its Sponsor and the support of industry-leading consultants, as detailed in **Section 12.5** below.

12.2 SouthCoast Wind’s Experience

12.2 Provide statements that list the specific experience of the bidder and each of the project participants (including, when applicable, the bidder, partners, and proposed contractors), in developing, financing, owning, and operating generating and delivery facilities, other projects of similar type, size and technology, and any evidence that the project participants have worked jointly on other projects.

12.2.1 Sponsor Experience Progressing the Project

SouthCoast Wind leverages its Sponsor’s deep experience in safely and successfully developing, permitting, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining offshore and

onshore wind power projects. SouthCoast Wind is 100% owned by OW North America LLC (Ocean Winds), an award-winning joint venture (JV) formed by EDPR and ENGIE SA (ENGIE), the “Sponsors” with the exclusive purpose to develop, build and operate Offshore Wind globally. Between them, the Sponsors have a diverse renewable portfolio consisting of 50,000 MW in operation across solar, wind, and hydro. In the US alone, EDPR has 9,100 MW of renewables in operation financed through over \$7 billion in tax equity partnerships since 2007. Together as Ocean Winds they have an offshore wind portfolio of 1,500 MW in operation, an additional 1,900 MW under construction, and 13,200 MW in development. This breadth of real-world experience in designing, permitting, financing, and constructing wind energy projects empowers SouthCoast Wind to fully accommodate the recent changes in the energy finance landscape to ensure that lessons learned are part of the going-forward strategy which secures the Project to withstand future risk and [REDACTED]

Further information is available in **Section 5**.

After winning the federal lease auction for Lease Area Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)-A 0521 in December 2018, the SouthCoast Wind Project was established with a team working exclusively on the Project. Through the combined efforts of its Sponsors, local and international consultants, and the Project, the following milestones have been achieved:

- **Permitting**
 - Achieved SAP approval on May 26, 2020;
 - Submitted COP on February 15, 2021, which included all necessary surveys and assessments;
 - Achieved FAST-41 status on June 15, 2021;
 - Submitted supplementary COP on August 30, 2021;
 - Notice of Intent (NOI) issuance on November 1, 2021;
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issuance on February 13, 2023.
- **Site Investigation**
 - Completed geophysical surveys;
 - Completed geotechnical surveys;
 - Completed Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), Site Assessment Plan (SAP), and metocean surveys and data collection;



The sections below detail SouthCoast Wind's, the Sponsors', and Project participant experience.

12.2.2 Offshore Wind Experience - Development, Construction, and Operation

Ocean Winds has a global offshore wind portfolio of 17 projects totaling over 16,600 MW, which includes over 1,500 MW in operation, over 1,900 MW currently under construction, and 13,200 MW in development. Supported by their experience, expertise, and global business relationships, SouthCoast Wind brings strong core capabilities across the entire value chain of offshore wind, including development, procurement, finance, construction, and operation.

Figure 12-1 provides an overview of the global offshore wind presence of Ocean Winds. Additional details on Ocean Winds' global offshore wind portfolio are included in **Section 12.4**.

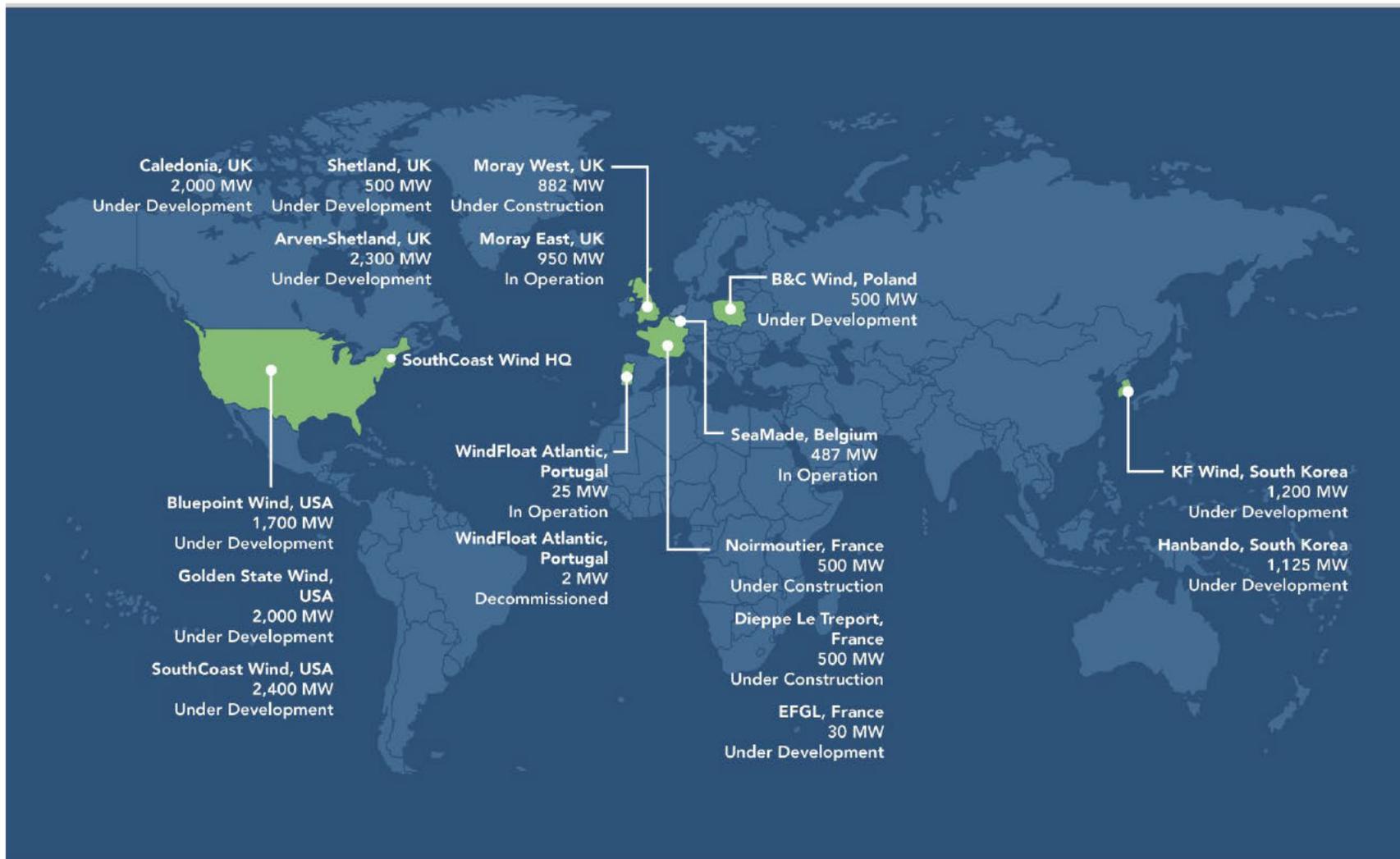


Figure 12-1. Global Map of Installed Capacity and Presence for Ocean Winds

12.2.3 U.S. and Global Industry Leaders

SouthCoast Wind was initially established as a JV between Shell and EDPR and later between Shell and Ocean Winds. ENGIE joined EDP Renováveis, S.A. (EDPR) to form Ocean Winds to combine the skills and experience of each company. Ocean Winds is now the sole sponsor for the project. Following Shell's exit in March 2024 to focus on other corporate ventures, Ocean Winds is now the sole sponsor for the project (See **Attachment 2-2** for Transaction Summary). Ocean Winds is a leading offshore wind developer with over 16,600 MW of offshore wind project capacity in various stages of development and construction. A 50-50 EDPR-ENGIE JV, Ocean Winds' mission is to make offshore wind one of the world's main sources of renewable energy by delivering more efficient and sustainable wind energy solutions.

EDPR is a global leader in the renewable energy sector and the fourth-largest wind energy producer in the world. With a sound development pipeline, first-class assets, and market-leading operating capacity, EDPR has grown steadily and now operates in 28 international markets: Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and Vietnam.

ENGIE is the largest electric utility company in Europe and is one of the top five retail energy providers to U.S. commercial and industrial customers. ENGIE is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions as a corporation by 2045 and leading the Eurozone power generation market to a green future. Currently, ENGIE provides retail electricity and renewable energy in 14 U.S. markets.

SouthCoast Wind's Sponsors have successfully constructed and operated over 50,000 MW of onshore renewables projects globally.

12.2.4 Global Leaders with Strong Massachusetts Presence

SouthCoast Wind's company headquarters are in Boston's Financial District. SouthCoast Wind's Sponsor, Ocean Winds, has operated in Greater Boston in 2019. In 2021, SouthCoast Wind opened a second Massachusetts office in Fall River to expand its outreach and connections within the SouthCoast Wind region. SouthCoast Wind has nearly doubled its Massachusetts-based Project team, from 35 members in 2019 to approximately 65 members in 2024, and plans to continue expanding.

Ocean Winds' North American headquarters is in Government Center, Boston, adjacent to Boston's City Hall. The company expects to grow its U.S. headcount (over 100 full-time employees, widely based in New England) and its worldwide headcount (over 500 full-time employees) in line with the growth of projects and pipeline. Ocean Wind's worldwide headquarters are in Madrid, Spain.

ENGIE's U.S. headquarters are in Houston, Texas. Their North American team of 1,550 employees is part of a larger global team numbering over 101,500 employees. ENGIE Resources LLC is among the top five retail energy suppliers to commercial and industrial customers in the U.S. ENGIE entered the Massachusetts market in 2002 and currently serves over 5,600 customers. ENGIE operates many energy production and storage facilities in New England (as further described in **Section 12.9.1**). The company's global headquarters are in La Defense, Paris.

EDPR's U.S. headquarters are also in Houston. EDPR operates regional offices in Bloomington, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Mexico City, Mexico; New York City, New York; Overland Park, Kansas; Portland, Oregon; and Toronto, Ontario (Canada).

12.2.5 Primary Consultants

SouthCoast Wind is working with the following industry-leading consultants to complement the experience of the Project team. **Table 12-1** below describes their functions and experience.

[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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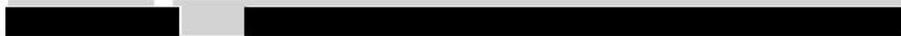
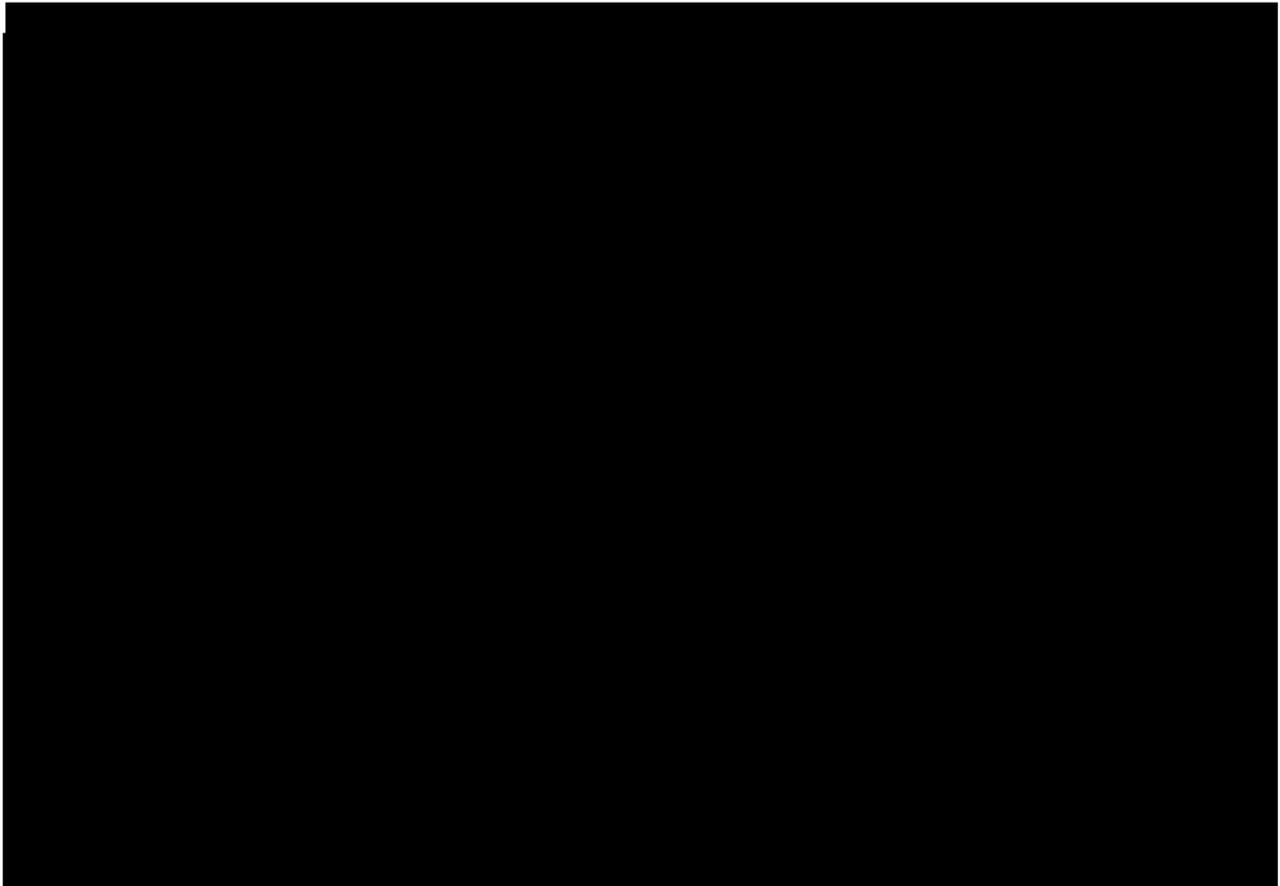
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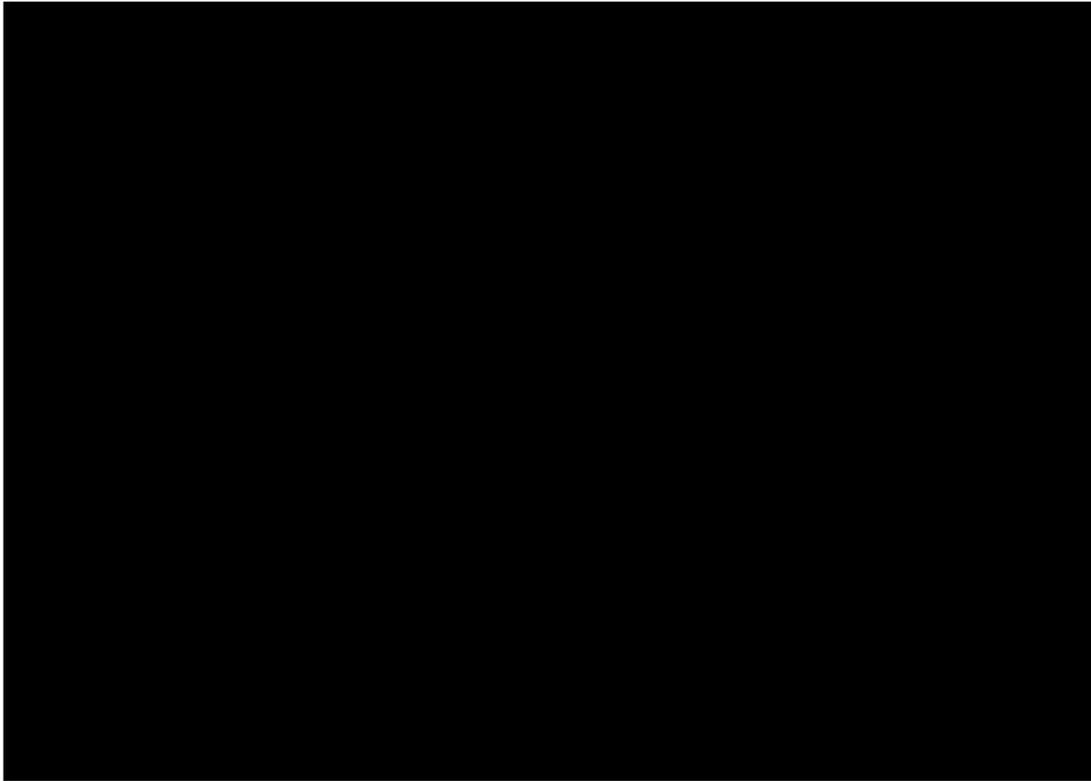
12.3 SouthCoast Wind's Management Chart

12.3 Provide a management chart that lists the key personnel dedicated to this project and provide resumes of the key personnel. Key personnel of the bidder's development team having substantial project management responsibilities must have:

- i. Successfully developed and/or operated one or more projects of similar size or complexity or requiring similar skill sets; and
- ii. Experience in financing power generation projects (or have the financial means to finance the project on the bidder's balance sheet).

SouthCoast Wind's team has experience and expertise in U.S. onshore and European offshore wind markets, onshore and offshore permitting processes, the U.S. offshore construction supply chain, and global financing markets (**Figure 12-2**). Key management staff who have successfully developed and financed projects of similar size and complexity have been designated to SouthCoast Wind (shown below in **Figure 12-3** and detailed in **Section 5**).





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12.4 Sponsor’s Successful Development Track Record

12.4 Provide a listing of all projects the project sponsor has successfully developed or that are currently under construction. Provide the following information as part of the response:

- i. Name of the project
- ii. Location of the project
- iii. Project type, size and technology
- iv. Distance from shore and mean water depth of project
- v. Commercial operation date
- vi. Estimated and actual capacity factor of the project for the past three years
- vii. Availability factor of the project for the past three years
- viii. References, including the names and current addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to contact for each reference.

Table 12-2 details offshore wind projects under development, construction, and operations by SouthCoast Wind's Sponsors. **Figure 12-4** shows examples of the projects in operation.

For all further details contact Michael Starrett at [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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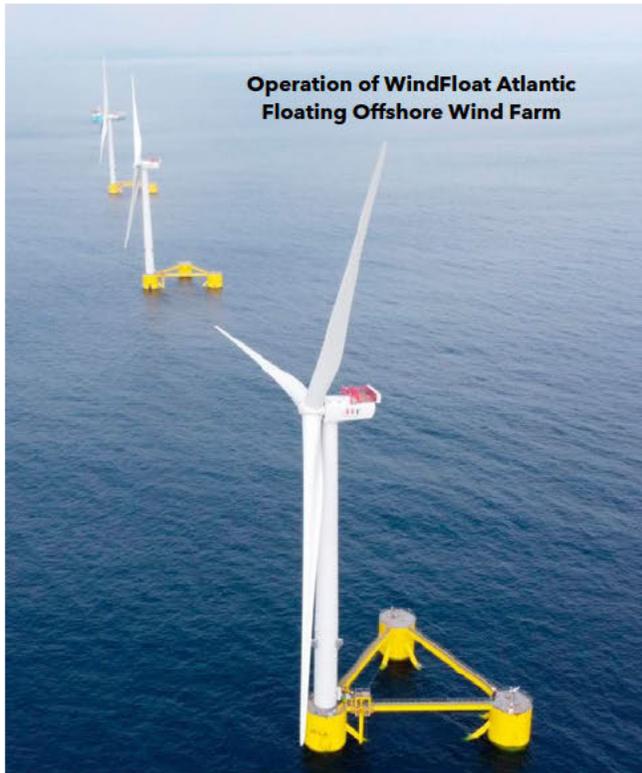


Figure 12-4. Example of Sponsor's Projects in Operation

12.5 External Entities Supporting the Project

12.5 With regard to the bidder's project team, identify and describe the entity responsible for the following, as applicable:

- i. Construction Period Lender
- ii. Operating Period Lender and/or Tax Equity Provider
- iii. Financial Advisor
- iv. Environmental Consultant
- v. Facility Operator and Manager
- vi. Owner's Engineer
- vii. Transmission/Delivery Consultant
- viii. Legal Counsel

SouthCoast Wind and its Sponsors have built comprehensive relationships with companies that will fill the roles listed in this subsection (see **Figure 12-5** and **Table 12-3**). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

12.6 Expertise and Continuity of Management

12.6 Describe the experience and expertise of the bidder and project team needed to successfully develop, finance, construct, and operate and maintain its proposed eligible project on schedule and according to the bidder’s commitments to a competitive procurement process. Describe the Bidder’s continuity of corporate management through successful project development.

SouthCoast Wind’s Management Team and Package Leads were selected for their experience and expertise, which is needed to develop, permit, finance, construct, operate, and maintain an offshore wind project successfully. These key roles and responsibilities are mapped below in **Table 12-4**.

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Ocean Winds operates the SouthCoast Wind Project with robust corporate governance and management of change procedures to ensure long-term success. Succession planning, filling of roles with Sponsor staff, and management of change processes are embedded in SouthCoast Wind’s governance. Ocean Winds has significant experience providing personnel to project teams to enable the successful completion of projects that have run for many years.

12.7 Development Track Record

12.7 Describe the Bidder’s track record developing similar projects, including consideration of any project delays, amendments, defaults, and performance issues, including on prior long-term contracts. Describe any prior failures to achieve commercial operation dates under other

PPAs and credible description of how the current proposed project will avoid similar project delays or development issues.

SouthCoast Wind’s Sponsors have successfully delivered the following offshore wind projects without contractual delays, amendments, defaults or performance issues:

- SeaMade
- Moray East

For additional details on these projects please refer to **Table 12-2**.

SouthCoast Wind has recently negotiated Amendment and Termination agreements for awards under Massachusetts 83C II and 83C III. For additional details, please refer to **Section 12.9**.

[Redacted text block]

12.8 Relevant Experience

12.8 Describe the bidder’s relevant experience supporting similar projects in a state or federal regulatory or judicial forum. This experience can be established with examples of one or more key member(s) of the development team advocating in favor of a similar project in a regulatory proceeding, before a court, or in another tribunal.

[Redacted text block]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12.9 Previous Failures, Withdrawals, and / or Contract Terminations

12.9 If the bidder or any of its past or present affiliates has either (1) been involved with a complex development project that failed, was withdrawn, or otherwise did not proceed, or (2) defaulted under, or agreed to terminate a contract for a complex development project, then the bidder should provide relevant details.

SouthCoast Wind negotiated Amendment and Termination Agreements on nine PPAs with the Massachusetts electric distribution companies (EDCs) for its awards under the 83CII and 83CIII processes on mutually agreeable terms. The agreements were negotiated and then submitted for DPU approval. The settlement amounts negotiated under those agreements were passed on to the ratepayers. The Amendment and Termination Agreements are negotiated settlements per the terms of the PPAs and not a default on obligations. The Termination Agreements were finalized for all nine PPAs on October 23rd, 2023.

SouthCoast Wind terminated the prior PPAs after seeking all other alternatives with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the EDCs through months of negotiations to explore creative solutions in restructuring or renegotiation. Sadly, those efforts fell short. However, that experience allowed the Project to examine itself thoughtfully, explore all vulnerabilities, and come to this solicitation with solutions we are confident will be successful. Despite terminating the prior PPAs, SouthCoast Wind has progressed its permitting and development at the cost of millions of dollars to ensure that what is offered in this round is credible, deliverable, and effective even in this uncertain financial environment.

Further information can be found in **Section 5.6** and **Section 5.18**.



SECTION 83C

Section 13

Proposal SouthCoast Wind Project
Applicant SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC

Public

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Acronyms

ACCESS	Accelerating Contractors of Color in Energy for Sustainable Success	MA	Massachusetts
CDFI	Community Development Financial Institution	MassCEC	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CT	Connecticut	NABTU	North America’s Building Trades Unions
CTV	Crew Transfer Vessel	NE	New England
DEI	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	NOWI	National Offshore Wind Institute
DLT	Department of Labor and Training	O&M	Operations & Maintenance
ED	Economically Distressed	ORE	Ocean Renewable Energy
EJ	Environmental Justice	OW	Ocean Winds
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PLA	Project labor agreement
FTE	Full-time Equivalent	PSO	Protected Species Observers
GGRF	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fund	R2E	Roots 2Empower
GVA	Gross Value Added	RI	Rhode Island
HDD	horizontal Directional Drilling	SCCF	SouthCoast Community Foundation
IEP	Individual Employment Plan	SOV	Service Operation Vessel
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act	States	Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut
ITC	Investment Tax Credit	WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
KPI	Key Performance Indicators		

SECTION 13 DEMONSTRATED, VERIFIABLE COMMITMENT TO CREATE AND FOSTER EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER DIRECT BENEFITS

Section Overview

Development of the SouthCoast Wind Project will galvanize New England’s maritime communities, workers, and businesses. With a comprehensive package of community investments, on-the-ground engagement, and thoughtful program design, SouthCoast Wind’s economic development package will focus on impacts on local communities that have historically been overlooked from the benefits of earlier industrial and economic developments. Through community partners, SouthCoast Wind’s operations, and direct investments in new activity, the Project will act as an engine to generate [REDACTED]

We are pleased to present our proposal for the Project, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Minimize Energy Cost Impacts to At-Risk Ratepayers** through direct support to households to pay utility bills and use energy more efficiently;

[REDACTED]

- **Usher in a Just Transition** to a clean economy by investing in the capacity of local environmental justice organizations and coordinating with environmental justice advocates to minimize Project impacts;
- **Give All Communities Equal Access and Pathways to Offshore Wind** careers and reduce barriers to reskilling; and
- **Commit to Using Labor from Local Skilled Trades** wherever possible.

Table 13-1. Meeting Massachusetts' Evaluation Criteria

Category	Prompt (MA)	Section
Job Creation	13.2 Please provide an estimate of the number of jobs to be created directly during project development and construction, and during operations, and a general description of the types of jobs created, duration of employment, estimated annual compensation, the employer(s) for such jobs, and the location. Employment impacts should be broken out by state and the region as a whole and highlight any impacts in economically distressed areas. Please treat the development, construction, and operation and maintenance periods separately in your response. All information provided must be measurable.	13.3.2; 13.3.3
Opportunities for Historically Disadvantaged Groups	Please describe employment opportunities for members of federally recognized and state acknowledged tribes in the Commonwealth, workers from low-income communities and certified minority-owned and women-owned small business enterprises in the Commonwealth, as well residents of any Environmental Justice neighborhoods impacted by the project.	13.1.2; 13.5.1
Investments in Workforce	Please describe any investments in workforce development to support the offshore wind industry, which may include partnerships with proximate vocational and technical schools, community colleges, labor groups, and community-based organizations to create paid training, internship, apprenticeship programs and educational programs paired with transitional work opportunities.	13.3.1
Community Benefits Agreements	Please describe project support for workforce harmony and community benefits through Community Benefits Agreements and workforce agreements with appropriate labor organizations for construction, renovation, reconstruction, alteration, installation, demolition, expansion, maintenance, and repair.	13.11.3
Contractual Job Commitments	Please describe the status of any contractual commitments with respect to direct job creation and provide any pertinent agreements that have been executed.	13.3.3
Maximizing Federal Tax Credits	13. 3 Please describe any plans to meet federal domestic content and labor requirements in order to maximize federal tax credits available to the project under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).	13.6.2
Direct Economic Benefits	<p>13.4 Please describe and quantify any other economic activity or development expected to result directly from the proposed project. Impacts should be broken out by state and the region as a whole and highlight any impacts in economically distressed areas. Direct economic activity/development will be evaluated based on scale relative to project size, credibility and firmness. Preference will be given to commitments that secure long-term benefits; begin to provide benefits during project development, construction, installation, and the first five years of operations; direct benefits to Environmental Justice populations and host communities. Commitments will be evaluated by the degree or extent to which the asserted benefits are contractually committed to by the bidder. Specific commitments to economic activity or development may include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and reasonably certain commitments made on or after July 1, 2022 to capital investments in the manufacture, fabrication and assembly within the commonwealth of domestic supply chain components of the offshore wind industry. Bidders are further directed to describe, if applicable, how the proposed supply chain investments are complementary to any other supply chain investments made by the parent company to support other offshore wind projects in the region. 	13.4

Category	Prompt (MA)	Section
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization and investment in port facilities and infrastructure during project development, construction, and operation and maintenance of the project. • Investment in offshore wind-related research and innovation initiatives or partnerships. • Economic development activities and investments that directly benefit economically distressed areas and Environmental Justice populations, especially those directly impacted by the project. 	
Contractual Economic Development Commitments	13.5 Please describe the status of any contractual commitments with respect to economic development and provide any pertinent agreements that have been executed.	13.4.1; 13.8
Funds Administration	Please specify the administrator of any funds (i.e. fund administered by a third-party or by the Bidder).	13.7.1; 13.8
Additional Benefits	13.6 To the extent not already specified elsewhere in your response, please address the factors listed in RFP Section 2.2.4.1 and describe any benefits or impacts associated with the proposed project.	13.6
Low-income Ratepayer Support	13.7 Please demonstrate any benefits to low-income ratepayers in the Commonwealth, as outlined in Section 2.2.4.2, and describe how the project minimizes and mitigates, to the extent feasible, ratepayer impacts. Benefits to low-income ratepayers may include, but are not limited to, projects that reduce the energy burden for low-income ratepayers through energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades; direct funding of rate relief through grant programs, support of existing community programs or other funding opportunities. Describe the impact, if any, those benefits will have on the cost to the project. Please provide copies of any agreements to effectuate those benefits.	3.8; 3.8.1
DEI Plan	13.8 Please provide a diversity, equity and inclusion plan that includes a Workforce Diversity Plan and the Supplier Diversity Program Plan as outlined in Section 2.2.4.3 of the RFP. Describe consultation with the MA Supplier Diversity Office, as applicable.	13.1.2; 13.10.1; 13.10.2; 13.10.3
Reporting Strategy & Mechanism	13.9 Please describe the strategy and mechanisms to track and report on any applicable commitments, including progress in achieving promised employment and economic benefits and the goals in the diversity, equity and inclusion plan, based on the template provided in the Form MOU with DOER and MassCEC and any other supplemental plans for tracking and reporting.	13.5.2; 13.5.3; 13.7.1; 13.10.3
Marked Form MOUs	Please provide a marked version of the Form MOU with DOER and MassCEC for this solicitation (see Appendix L) showing any specific proposed changes to the Form MOU. Bidders are discouraged from proposing any material changes or conditions to the Form MOU and any such changes will be considered in the Stage Two Qualitative Evaluation.	13.3.1; 13.4.2; 13.6
Economic Development Summary Sheet	13.10 The Section 13 Addendum: Economic Development Summary Sheet is a Microsoft Excel workbook provided on MACleanEnergy.com. Please fill out and submit the Section 13 Addendum to accompany responses in this section.	13.3.2 / Attachment 13-3

Table 13-2. Meeting Rhode Island's Evaluation Criteria

Category	Prompt (RI)	Section
Annual Estimates for Economic Benefits	Bidders must provide annual estimates for all economic benefits, including employment, expenditures, and investments, and identify the specific in- state commitments during the development, construction and operation and maintenance phases of the project. Bidders are required to fill out the Economic Development Summary Sheet workbook provided as an addendum to this Appendix.	13.4.1; 13.8
Job Creation	14.1 For the direct economic benefits to the State of RI, please provide an estimate of the number of jobs to be created directly during project development and construction (for a project that includes new facilities or capital investment), and during operations, and a general description of the types of jobs created, estimated annual compensation, the employer(s) for such jobs, and the location. Please treat the development, construction, and operation periods separately in your response.	13.3.2; 13.3.3
Directly Funded Initiatives	14.2 Describe the proposed project's commitment to the following: investing in offshore wind-related environmental research, monitoring and mitigation sponsored by the DEM and/or the RI Coastal Resource Management Council; investing in workforce development and environmental research facilities to support the offshore wind industry; utilizing port facilities and office space; and investing in development activities that directly benefit economically distressed areas and/or low-income populations.	13.7.1; 13.8
Indirect Benefits	14.3 Please describe any other direct economic benefits to the State of RI (either positive or negative) that could result from the proposed project, such as creating property tax revenues or purchasing capital equipment, materials, or services for RI businesses. Please provide the location(s) where these economic development benefits are expected to occur.	13.8
Other Benefits	14.4 To the extent not already specified elsewhere in your response, please describe any additional benefits or impacts associated with the proposed project.	13.6
Economic Benefits Summary Sheet	14.5 The Section 14 Addendum: Economic Development Summary Sheet is a Microsoft Excel workbook provided on ricleanenergyrfp.com . Please fill out and submit the Section 14 Addendum to accompany responses in this section.	13.3.2 / Attachment 13-4

Table 13-3. Meeting Connecticut's Evaluation Criteria

Category	Prompt (CT)	Section
Local Procurement	14.1 Describe the extent to which goods and services procured for the proposed Eligible Project's development, construction, and maintenance will be sourced within (a) Connecticut, (b) New England (i.e., all states between Connecticut and Maine), and (c) the United States, outside of New England. In this response, provide (i) a percentage out of total dollar amount invested in the proposed Eligible Project, for (a-c), (ii) information regarding the location where these goods and services will be procured, including whether they will be within Connecticut's distressed municipalities or other historically disadvantaged communities, and (iii) the firmness of each of your commitments to the source of goods and services procured. Include a clear outline of goods and services to be procured, presented in five-year periods, over the lifespan of the proposed project (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.).	13.3.4
Direct Job Creation	14.2 Provide an estimate of the number of jobs to be directly created in (a) Connecticut, (b) New England, and (c) the United States, outside of New England, during the following project phases: (1) development; (2) construction; and (3) maintenance/operations. For each job identified, include a general description of the type of job created, estimated annual compensation, estimated duration of such job, the employer(s) for such jobs, and the location. Treat the development, construction, and maintenance/operation periods separately in your response. Identify if any such jobs will be in Connecticut's distressed communities or other historically disadvantaged communities. All information provided must be measurable, and if econometric modeling/projections are utilized, please include the full document which gives the rationale for such models/projections. Include a clear outline of direct job creation commitments, presented in five-year periods, over the lifespan of the proposed project (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.).	13.3.2; 13.3.3
Indirect Job Creation	14.3 Provide the same information as provided in response to question 14.2 above but with respect to jobs in Connecticut that would be indirectly created as a result of the proposed Eligible Project. Include a clear outline of indirect job creation commitments, presented in five-year periods, over the lifespan of the proposed project (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.).	13.3.2; 13.3.3
	14.4 To the extent not already specified elsewhere in your response, please address the factors listed in Section 2.3.2 and describe any benefits or impacts for Connecticut that are associated with the proposed Eligible Project, including but not limited to investment in supply chain capabilities, infrastructure improvements, business development supports, and research and development. Include a clear outline of benefit commitments or other impacts, presented in five-year periods, over the lifespan of the proposed project (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.).	13.6; 13.8
Economic Benefits to Historically Disadvantaged Groups in CT	14.5 Describe the economic benefits which will accrue to historically marginalized or disadvantaged groups in Connecticut. Be as specific as possible. Include a clear outline of the benefits, presented in five-year periods, over the lifespan of the proposed project (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.).	13.1.2; 13.5.1

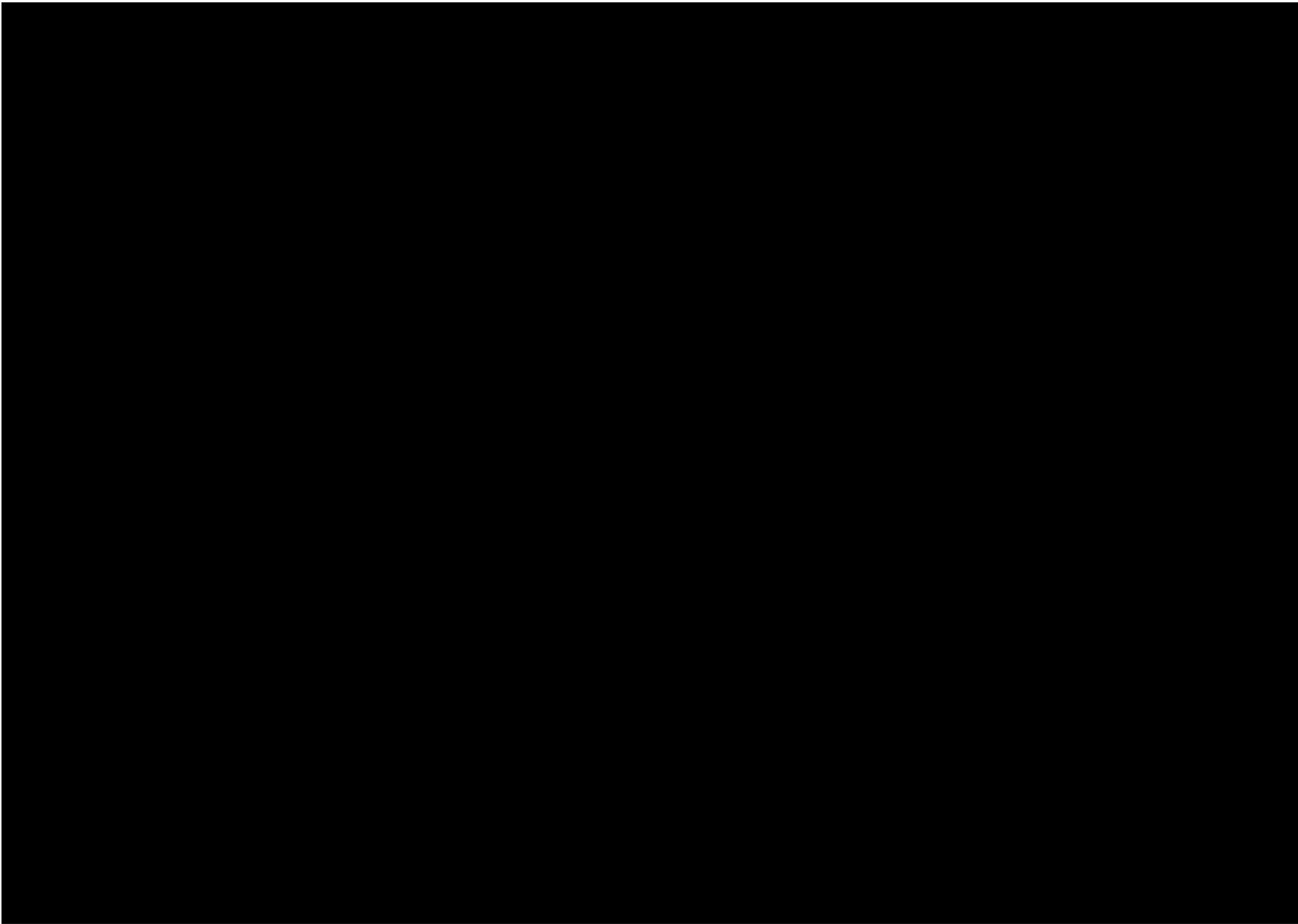
Category	Prompt (CT)	Section
Economic Benefits Commitments	14.6 Describe what mechanisms you propose to put in place to guarantee or backstop the economic benefits described in your above answers. Should a selected bidder fail to meet its direct investment and direct job creation commitments at the end of any designated five-year period (i.e., years 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc.), the bidder must commit at a minimum to both completing the commitment plus providing an additional 10% of the direct investment and direct job creation commitment value for the period, to be deposited into a DECD-controlled offshore wind investment fund. Final terms will be negotiated between DECD and the selected bidder.	13.4.1; 13.8
Commitment Progress Tracking and Reporting	14.7 Describe any tracking or reporting mechanisms, such as quarterly and/or annual report(s) of milestones achieved and jobs created, that will be provided to verify the contributions to previous questions within this section.	13.5.2; 13.5.3; 13.7.1; 13.10.3
Community Outreach & Engagement	14.8 Provide documentation of community outreach and engagement regarding the Bid conducted to date. A passing response must include at least two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Copies of any agreements with communities and other constituencies in the relevant community that may be impacted by the proposed Eligible Project; ii. Emails, letters, and/or other communications with or directed to local municipal officials describing the Bid, projected timelines, and ways in which the proposed Eligible Project would affect the local community, and soliciting feedback; iii. Emails, letters, and/or other communications with or directed to municipality residents and/or community organizations (including but not limited to environmental non-profits, social services non-profits, environmental justice organizations, or other organizations that serve the local community) describing the Bid, projected timelines, and ways in which the proposed Eligible Project would affect the local community, and soliciting feedback; and/or iv. Time of, date of, and materials from any in-person or virtual meeting held with local officials, property owners, abutters, community organizations, environmental justice organizations, and/or other community residents to educate them about and receive feedback about the proposed Eligible Project. 	13.2
DEI	14.9 Describe how the Bidder is addressing and advancing issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) with its mission, professional development, staffing, and/or Connecticut based recruiting efforts. If the Bidder has a social impact statement, submit a copy with this bid.	13.1.2; 13.10.1; 13.10.2; 13.10.3

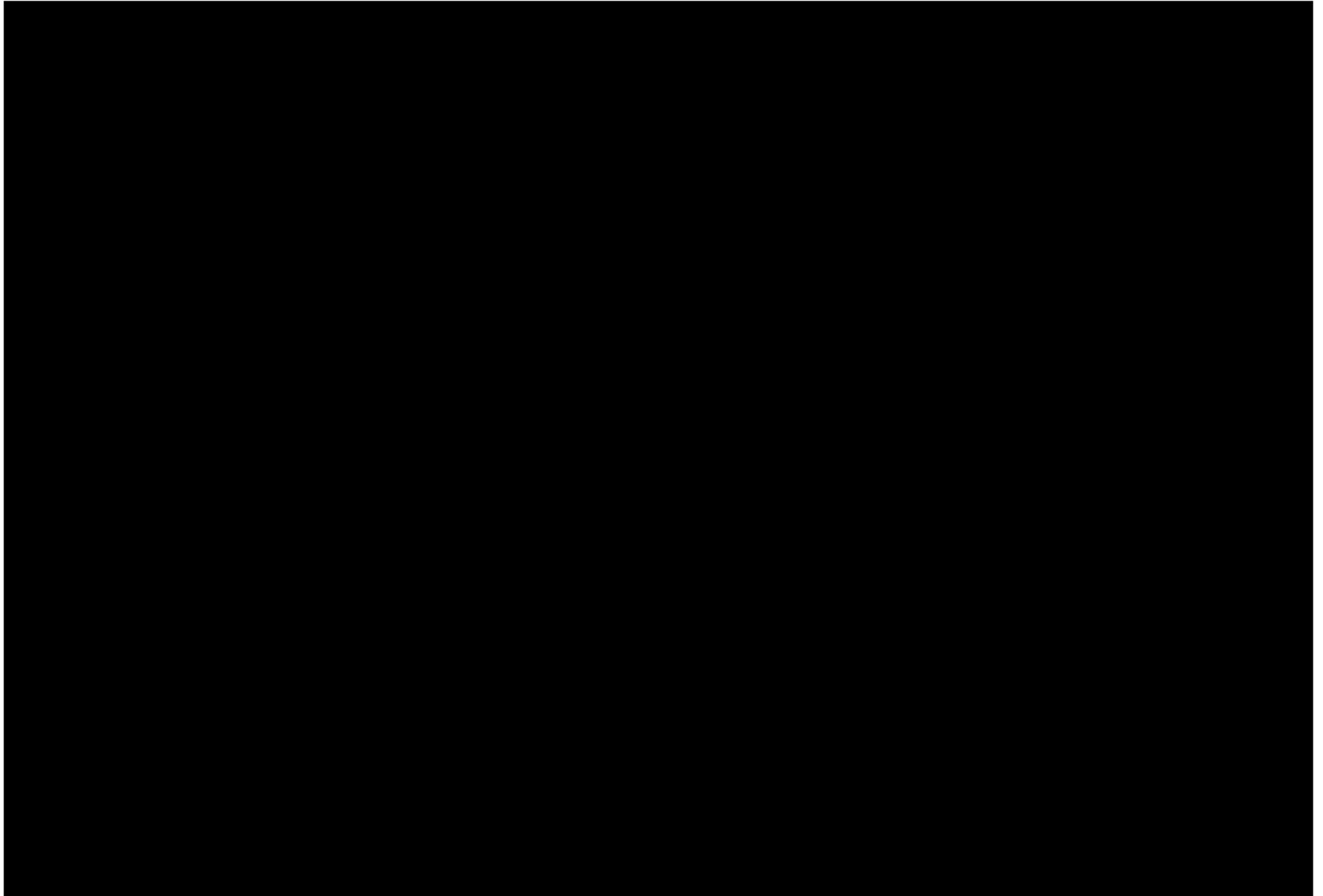
13.1 One of the largest investments in New England's South Coast

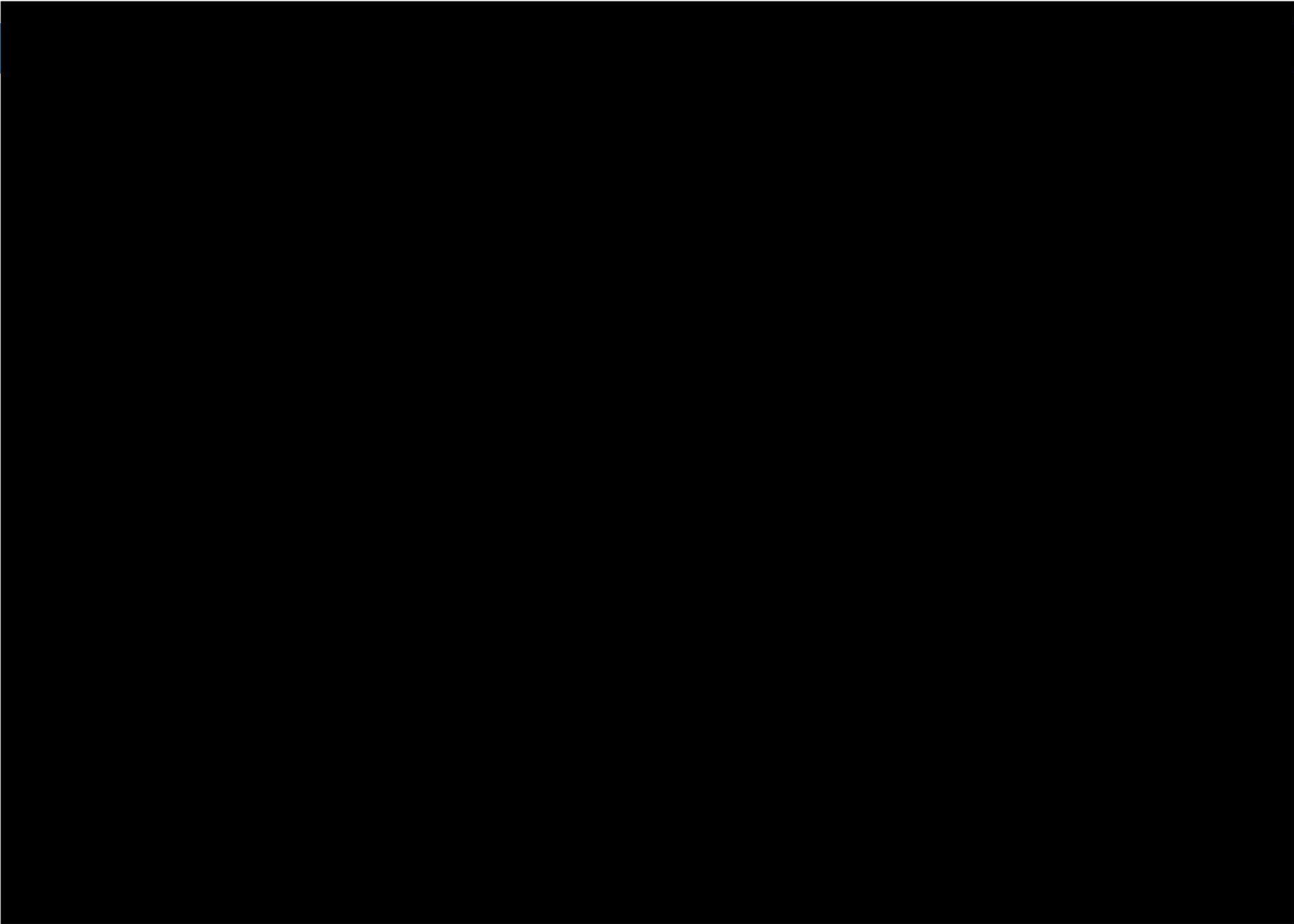
SouthCoast Wind focuses its benefits on the **South Coast of New England**, our namesake region.

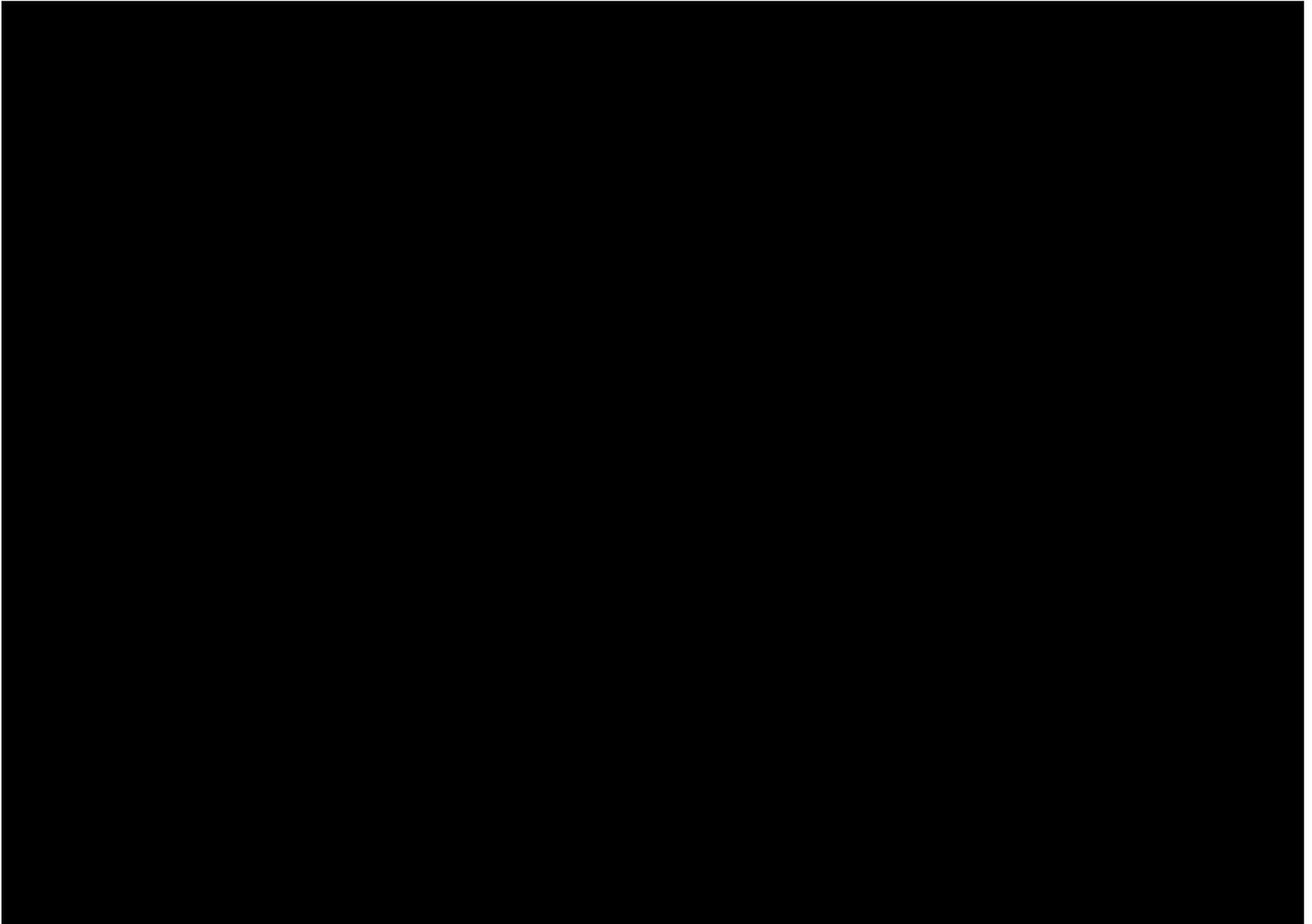
In preparing our economic development package, SouthCoast Wind **listened to community voices** and state leaders to understand local concerns and priorities. Over the last five years of engagement, we **built trusted relationships** with our host communities, advocates, organizations, and the Native American Tribal Governments in our focal area.

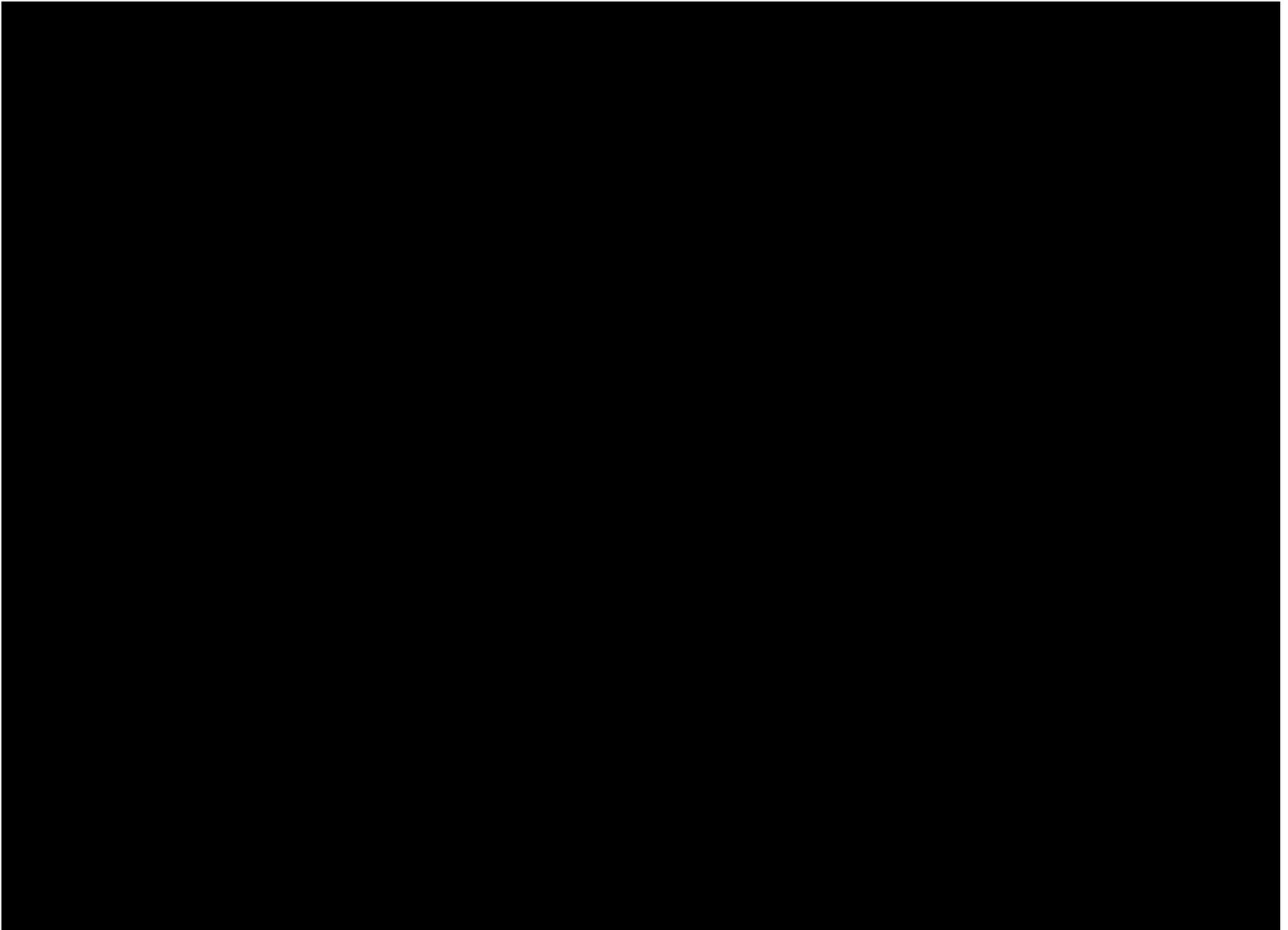
Our Project delivers benefits to the communities that have long shouldered a disproportionate burden from the legacy of fossil fuel and industrial development. We will **focus our investment on these communities**, working with leading organizations to ensure they benefit the most from the Project's impact.

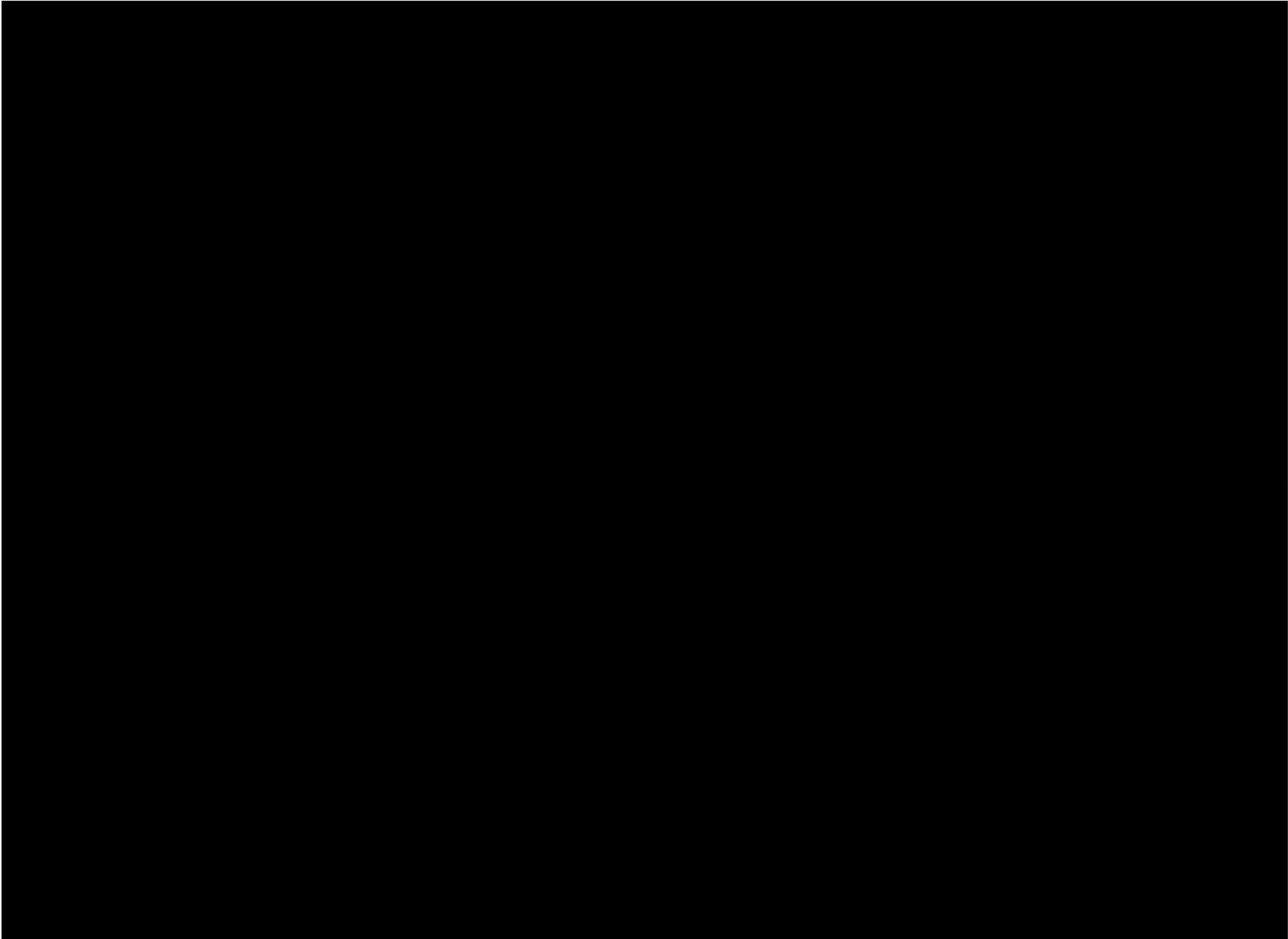




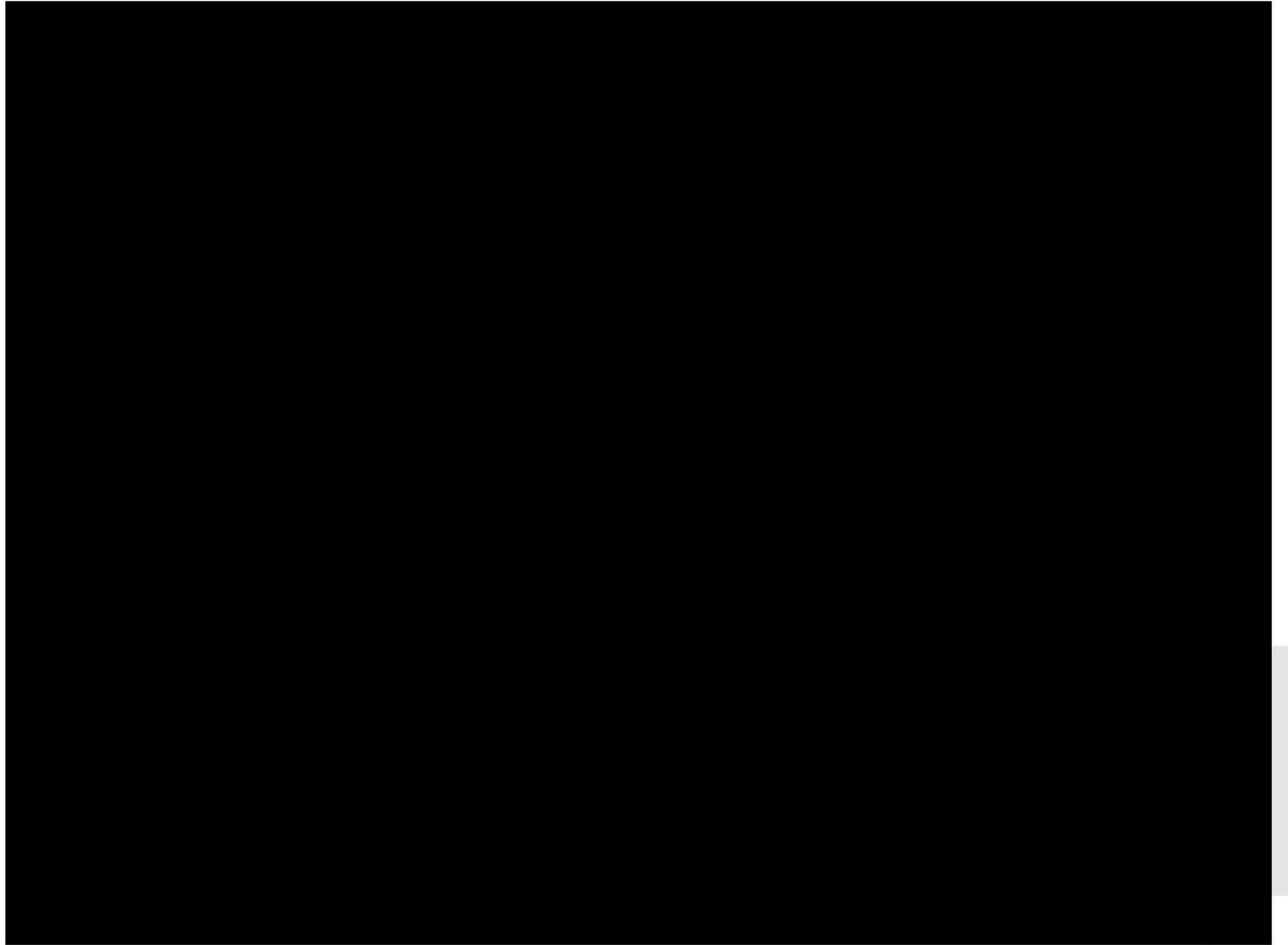




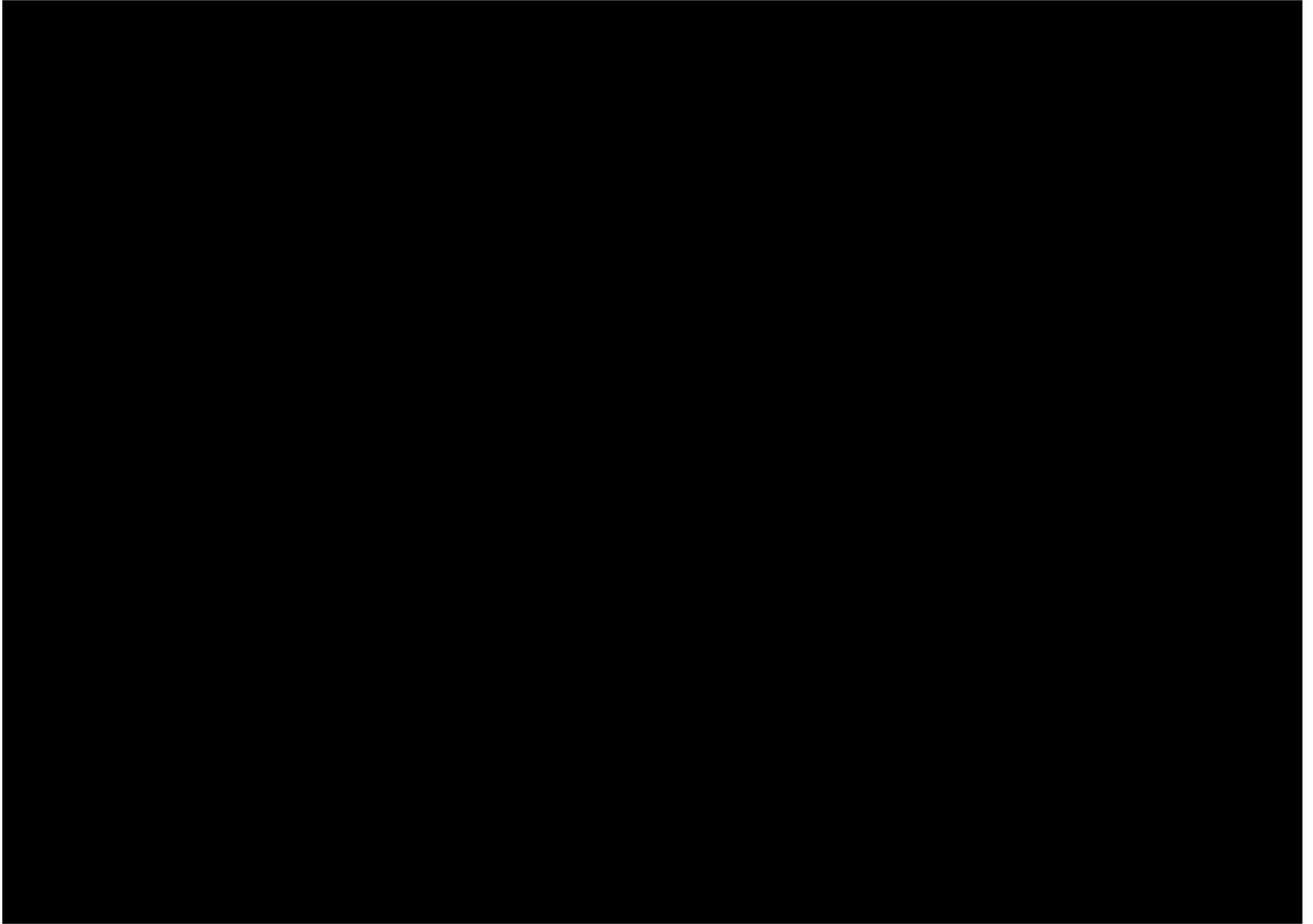


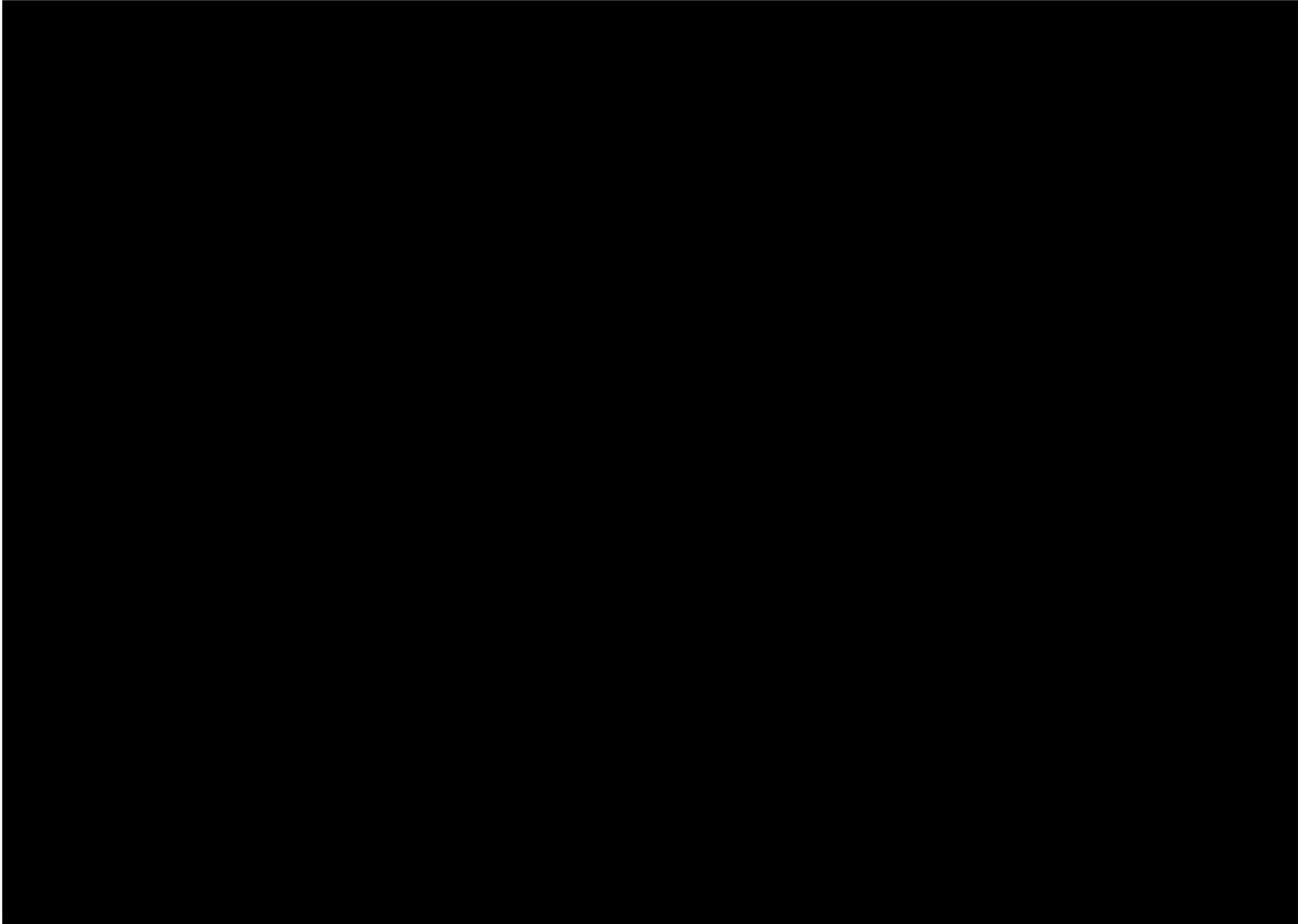


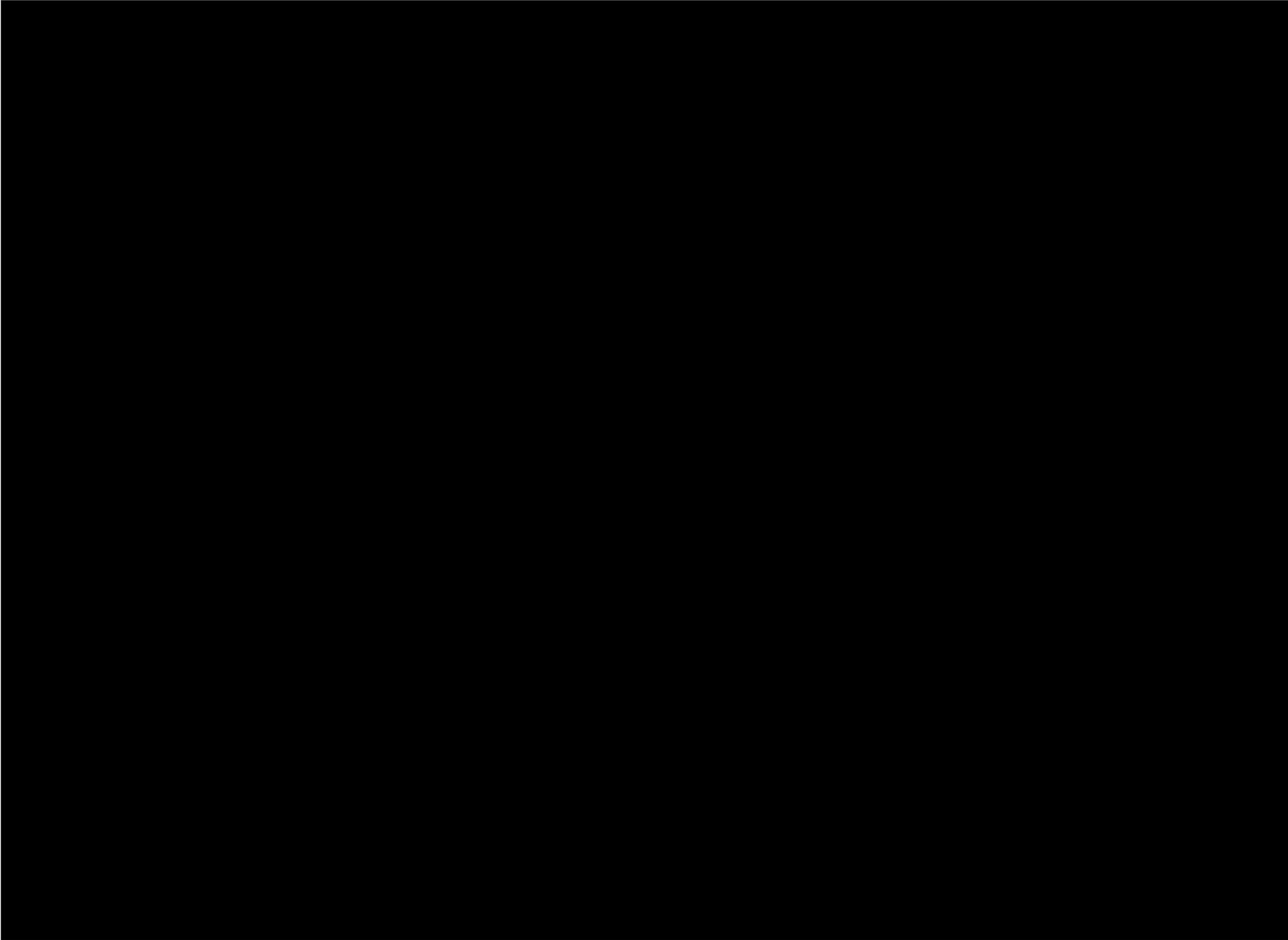


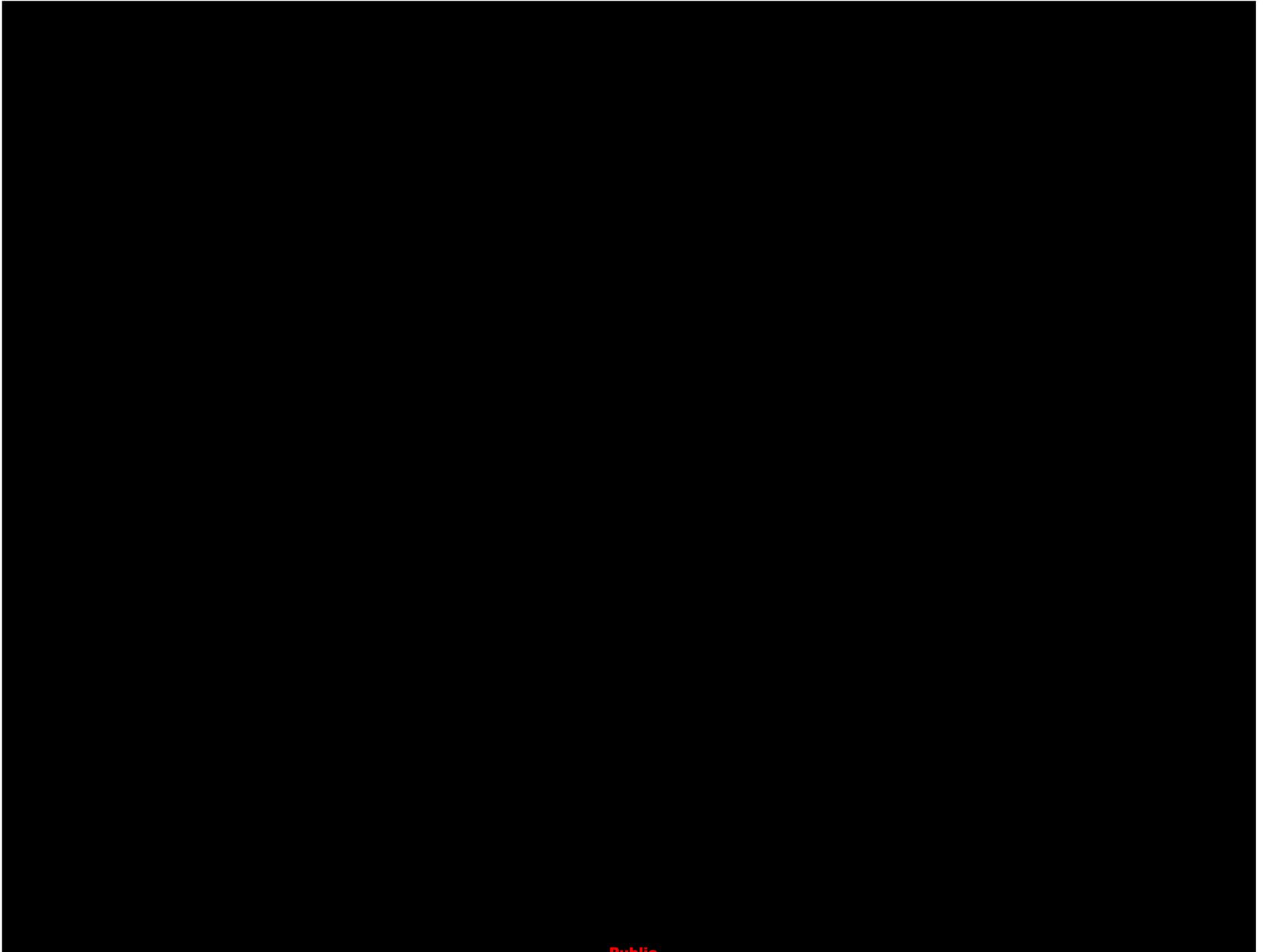


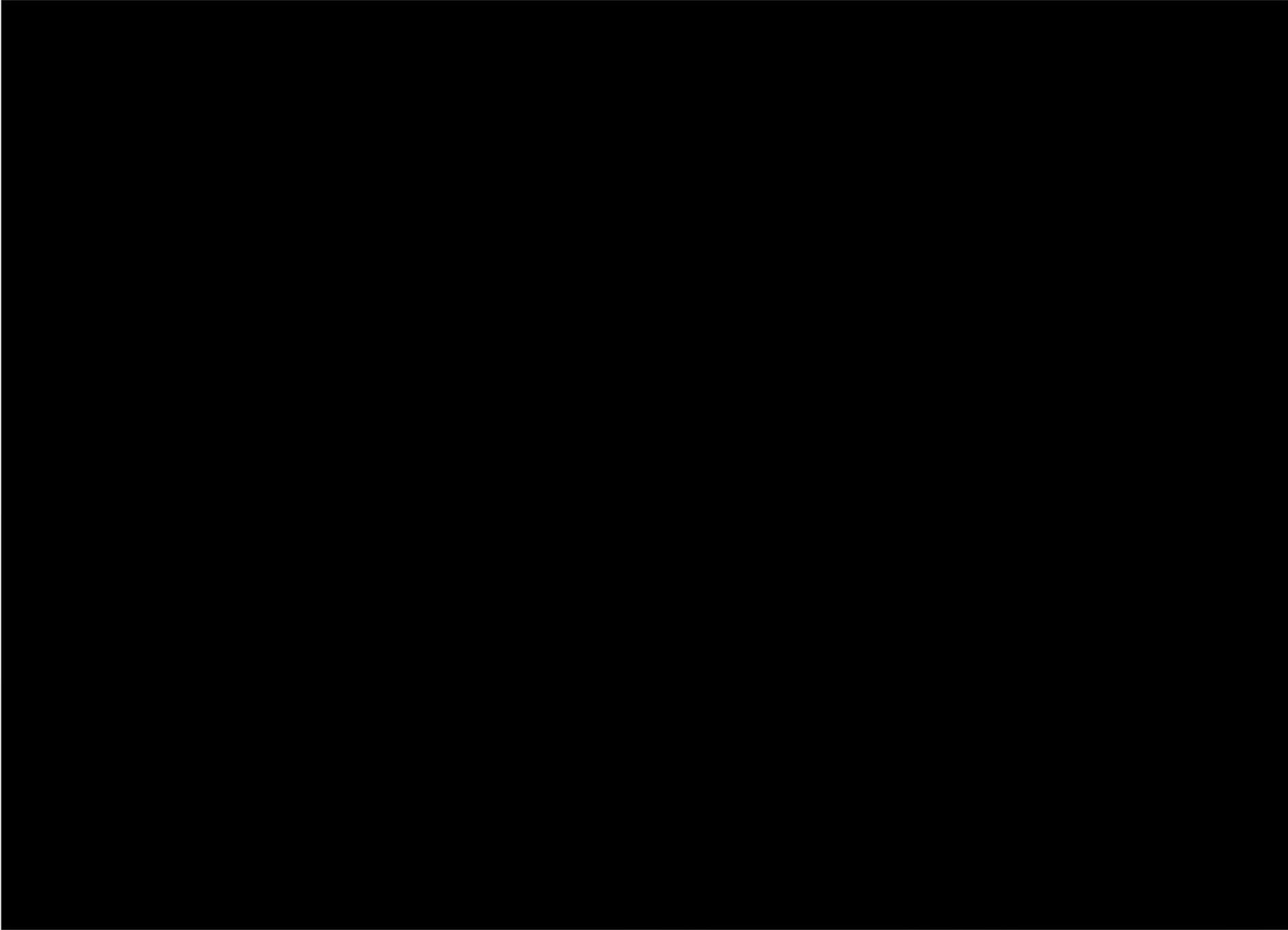


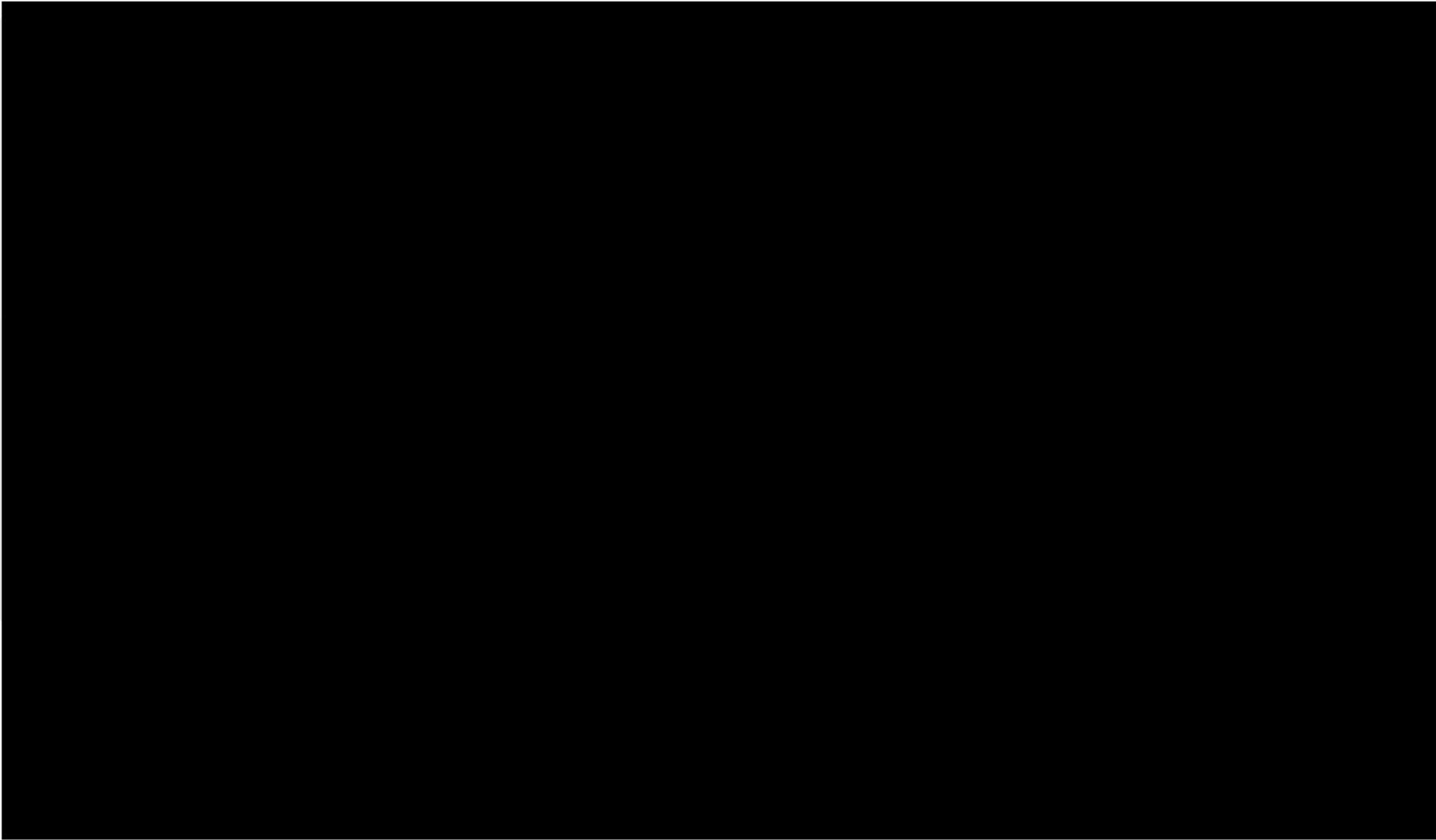






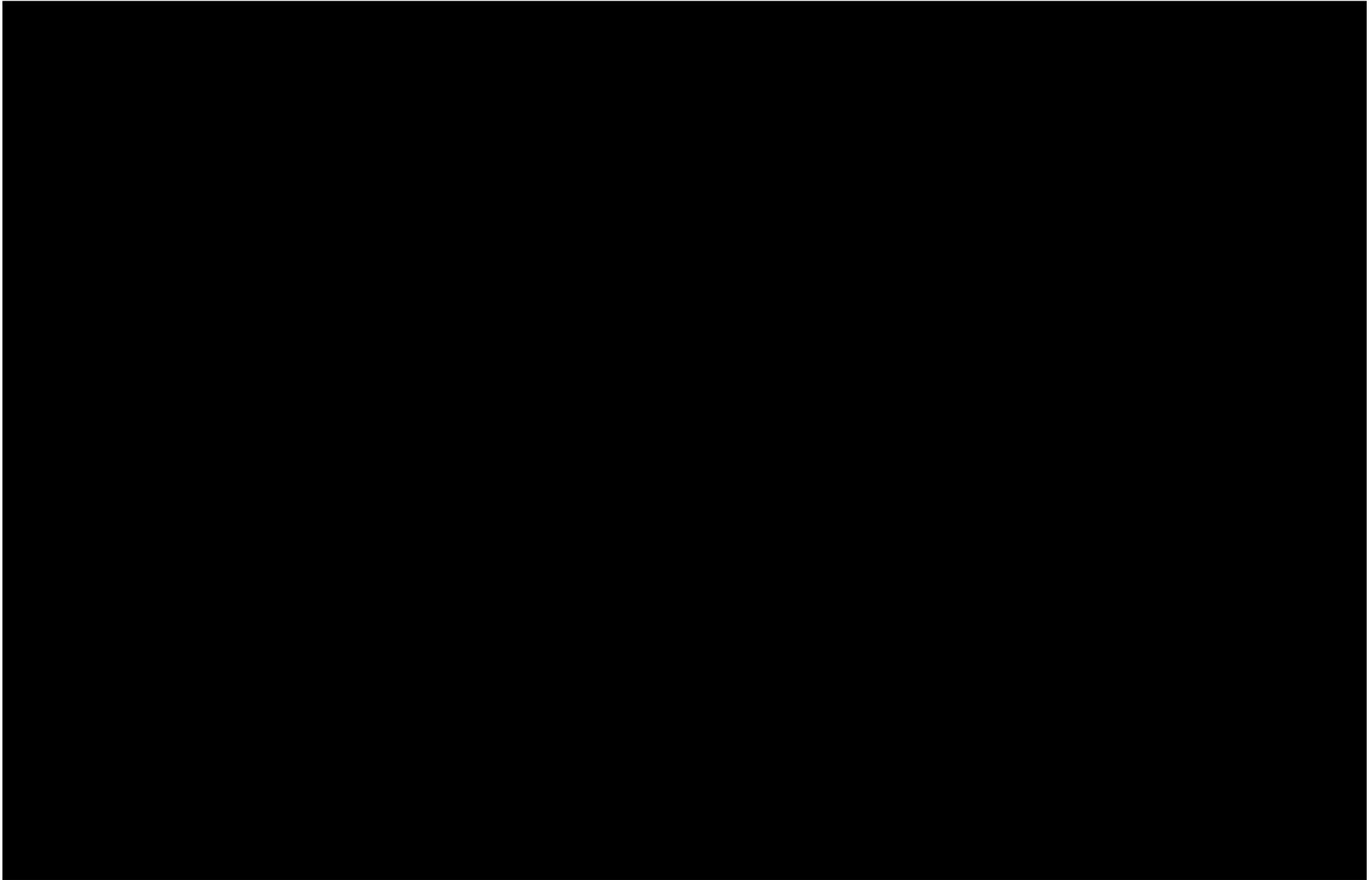


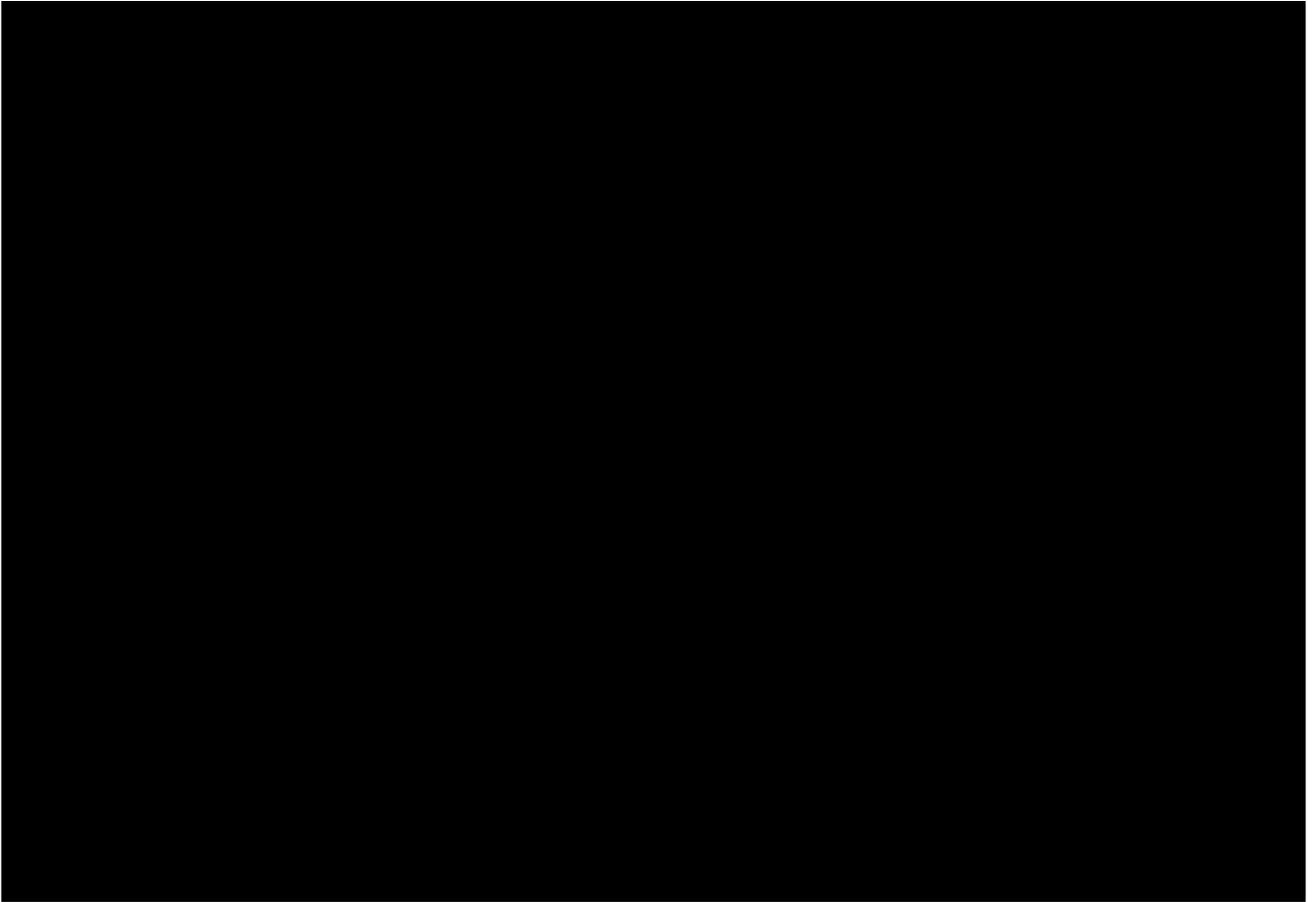




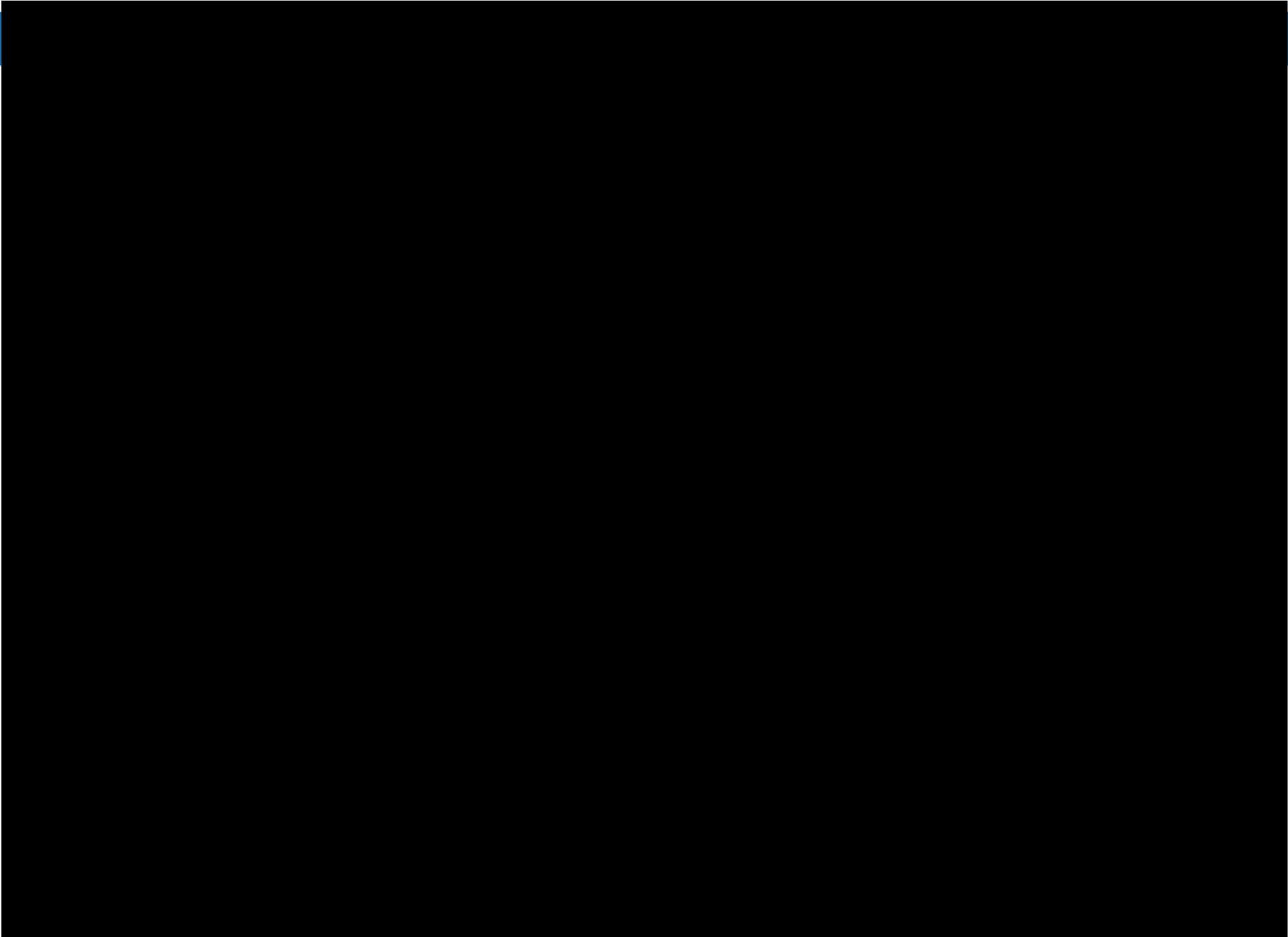


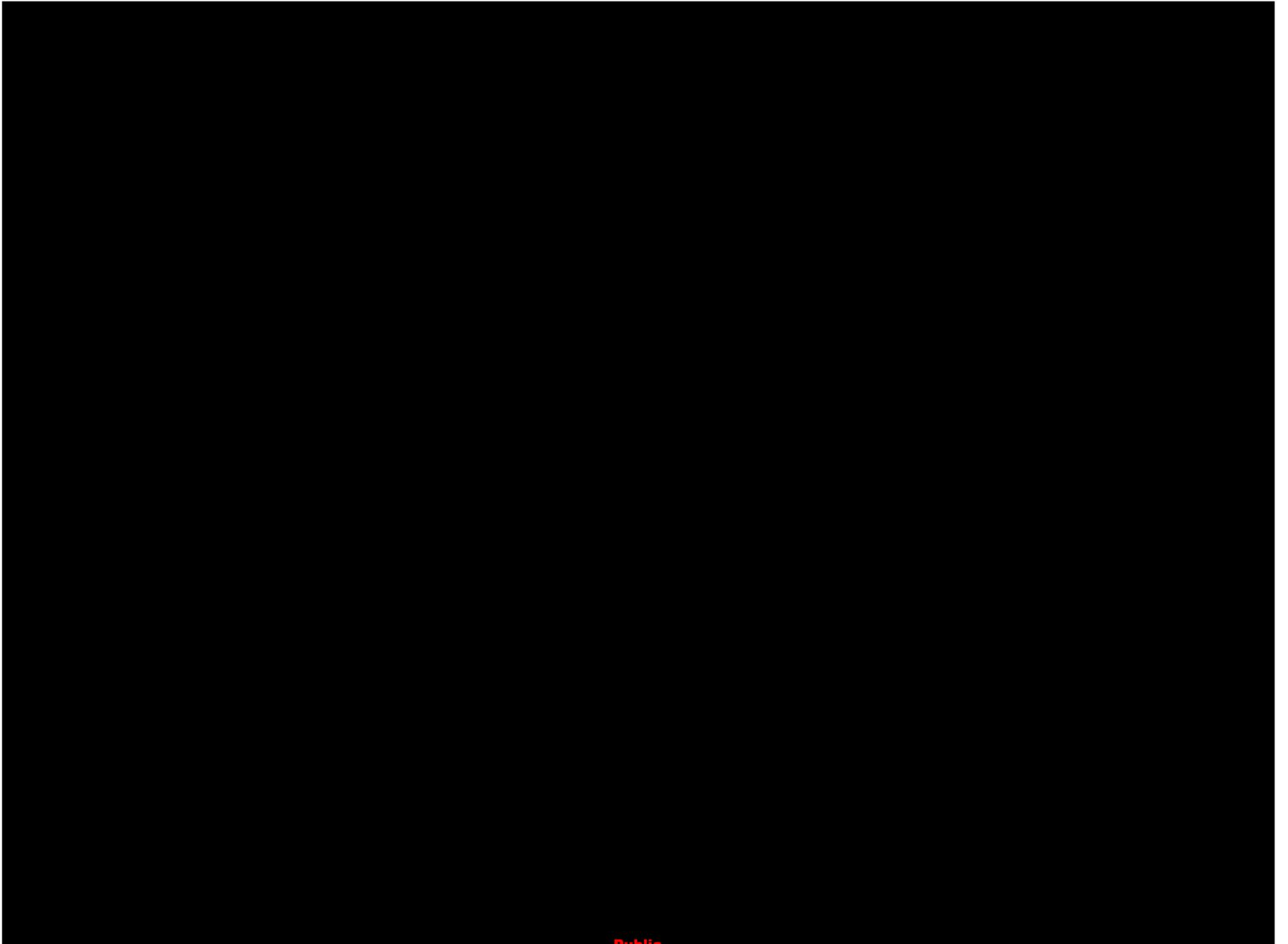


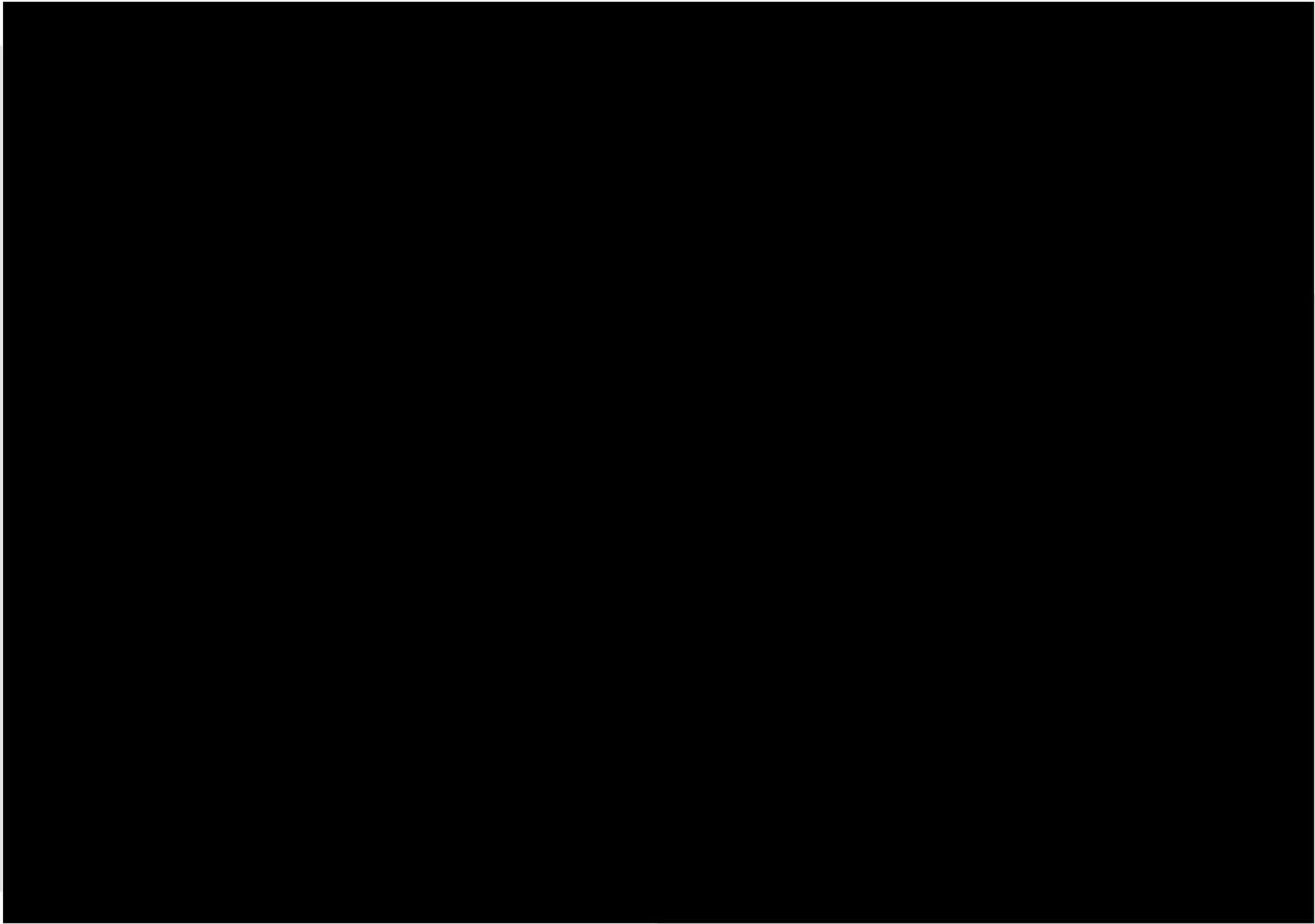


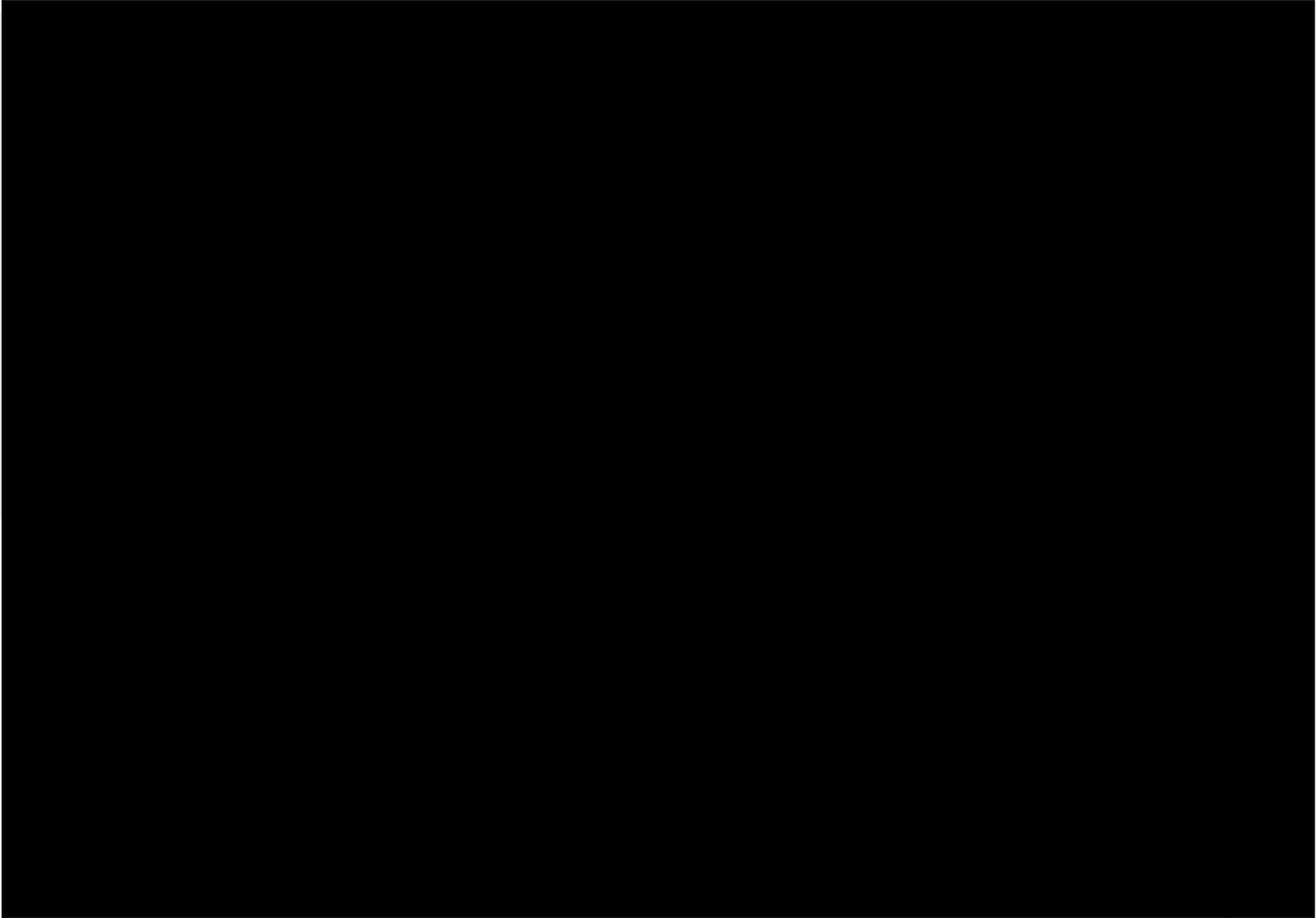


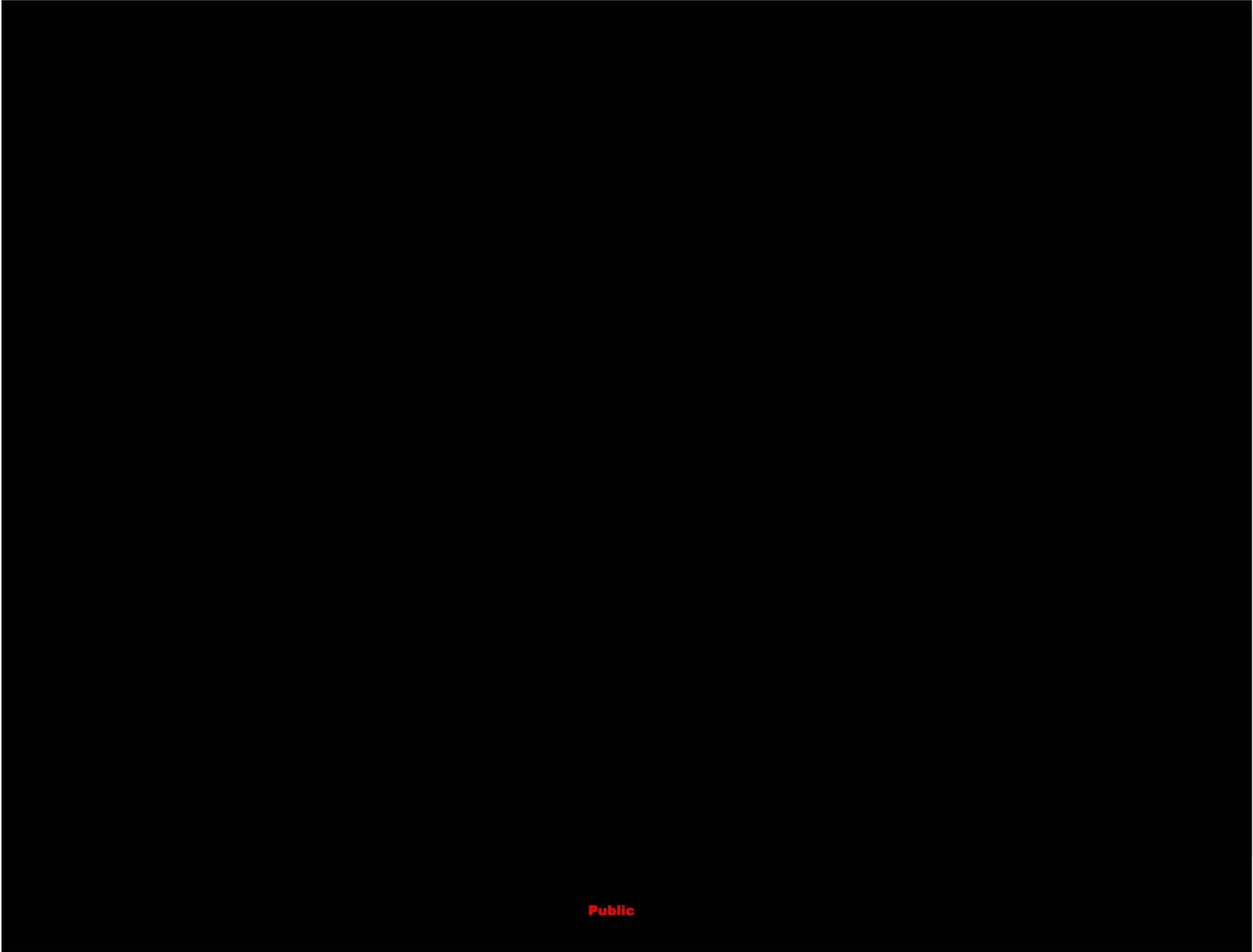


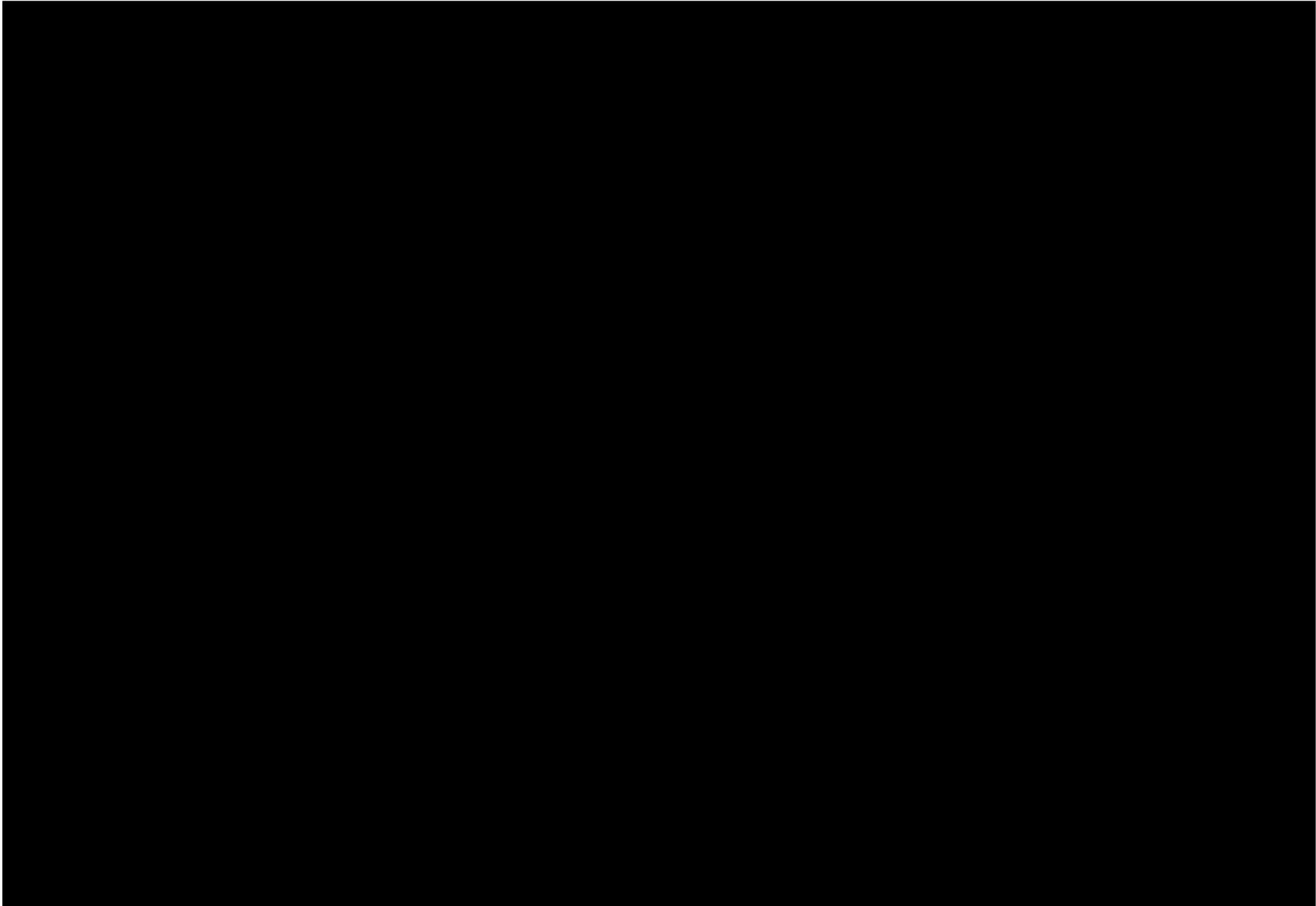


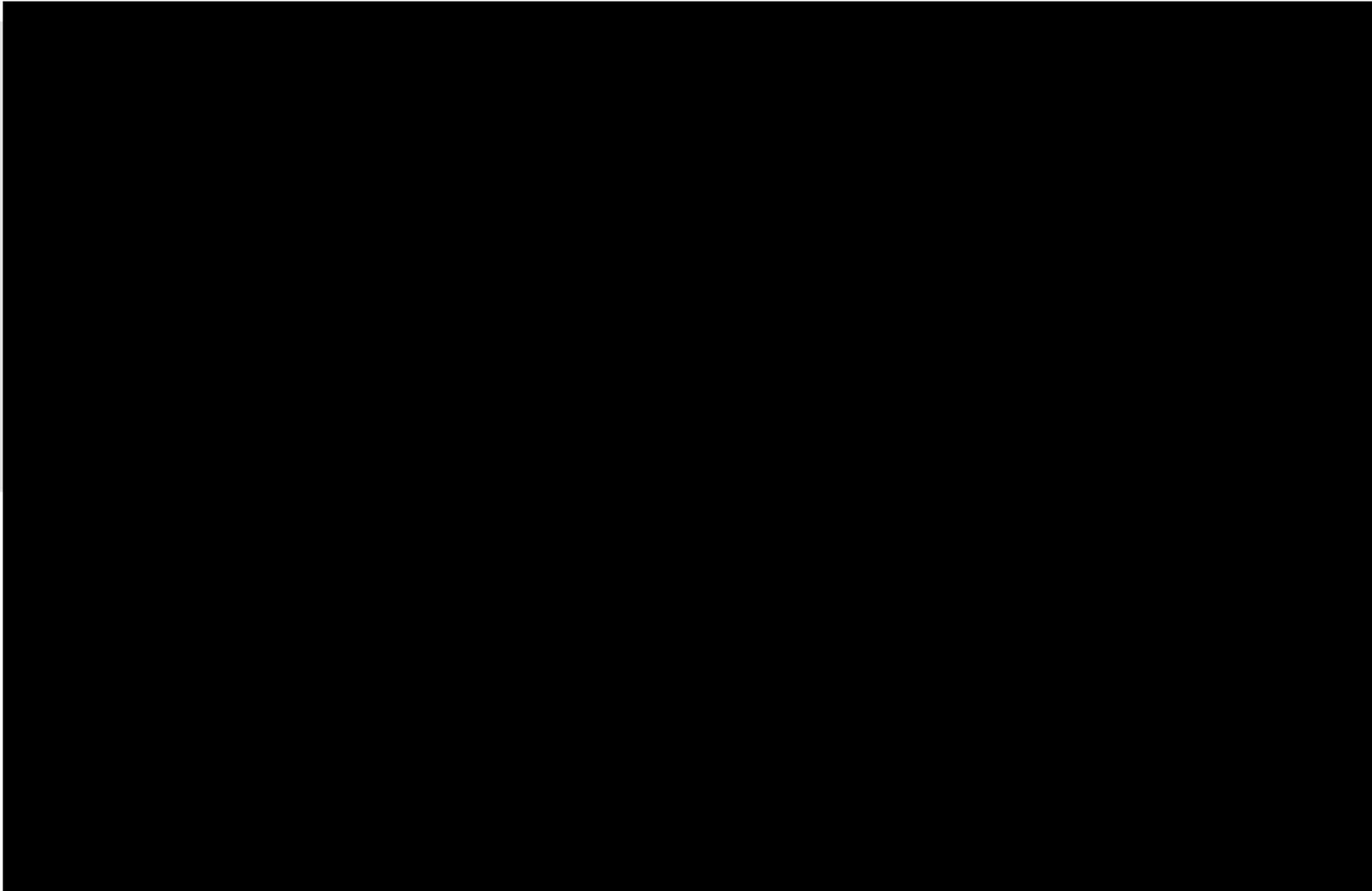


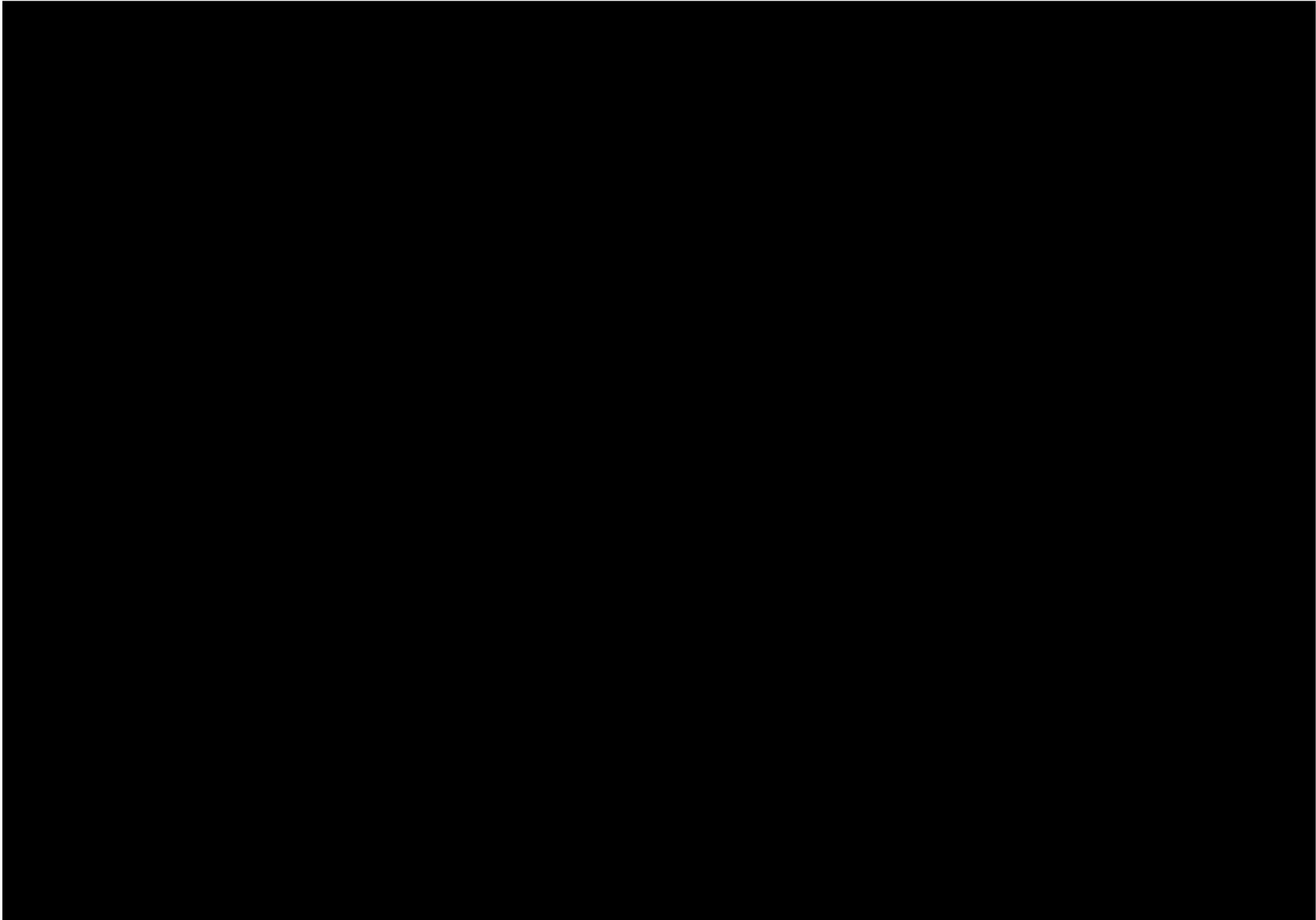


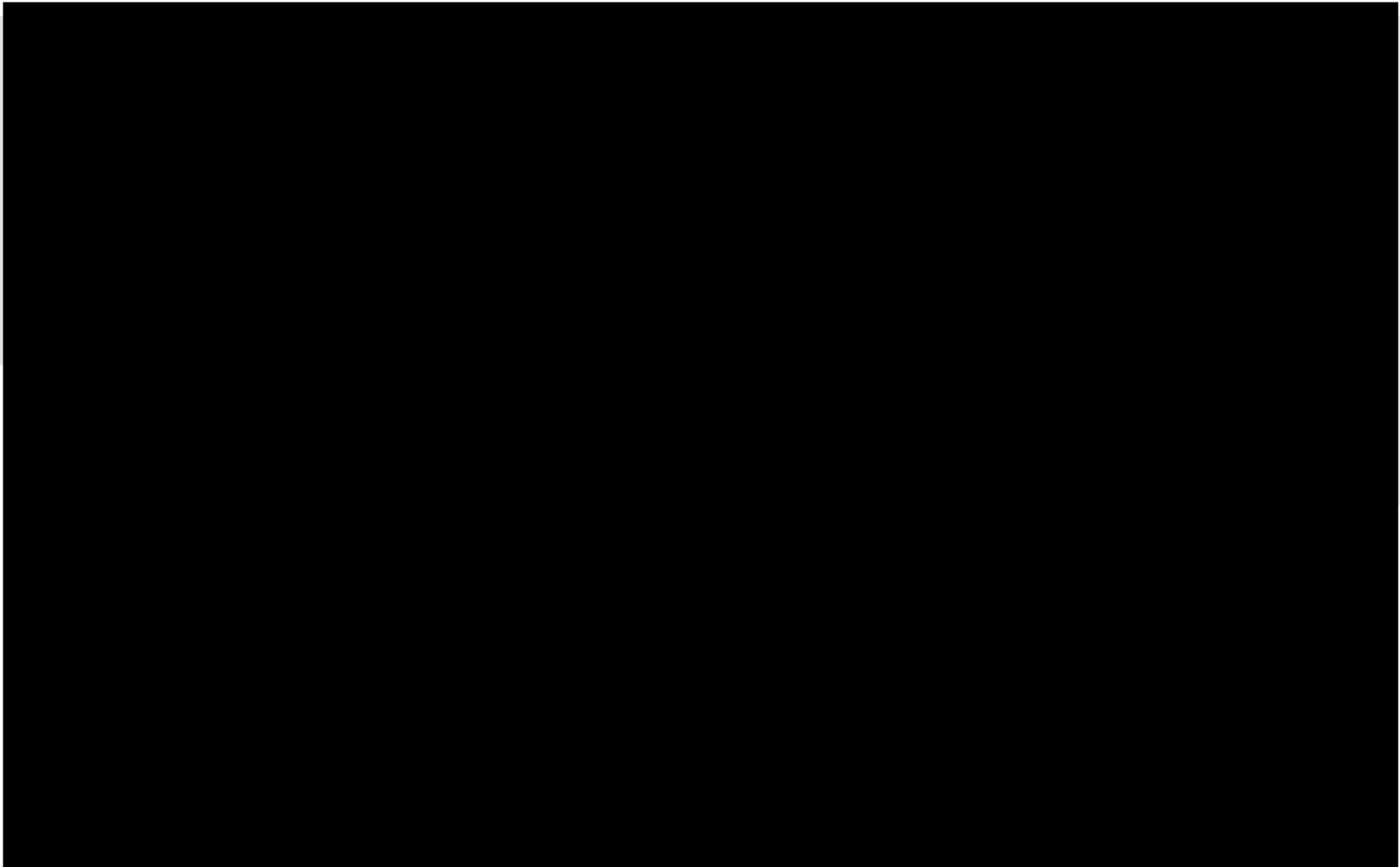


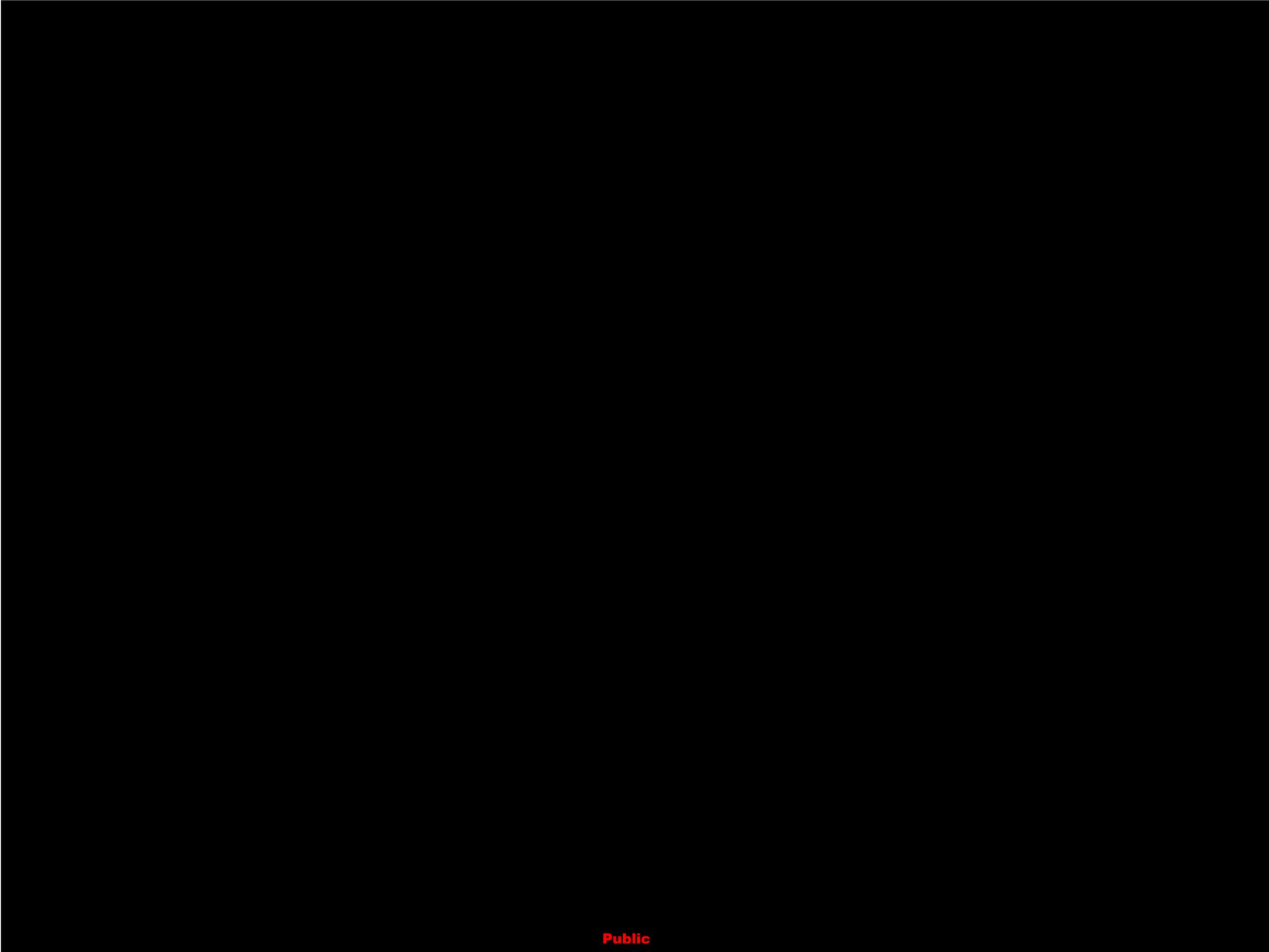


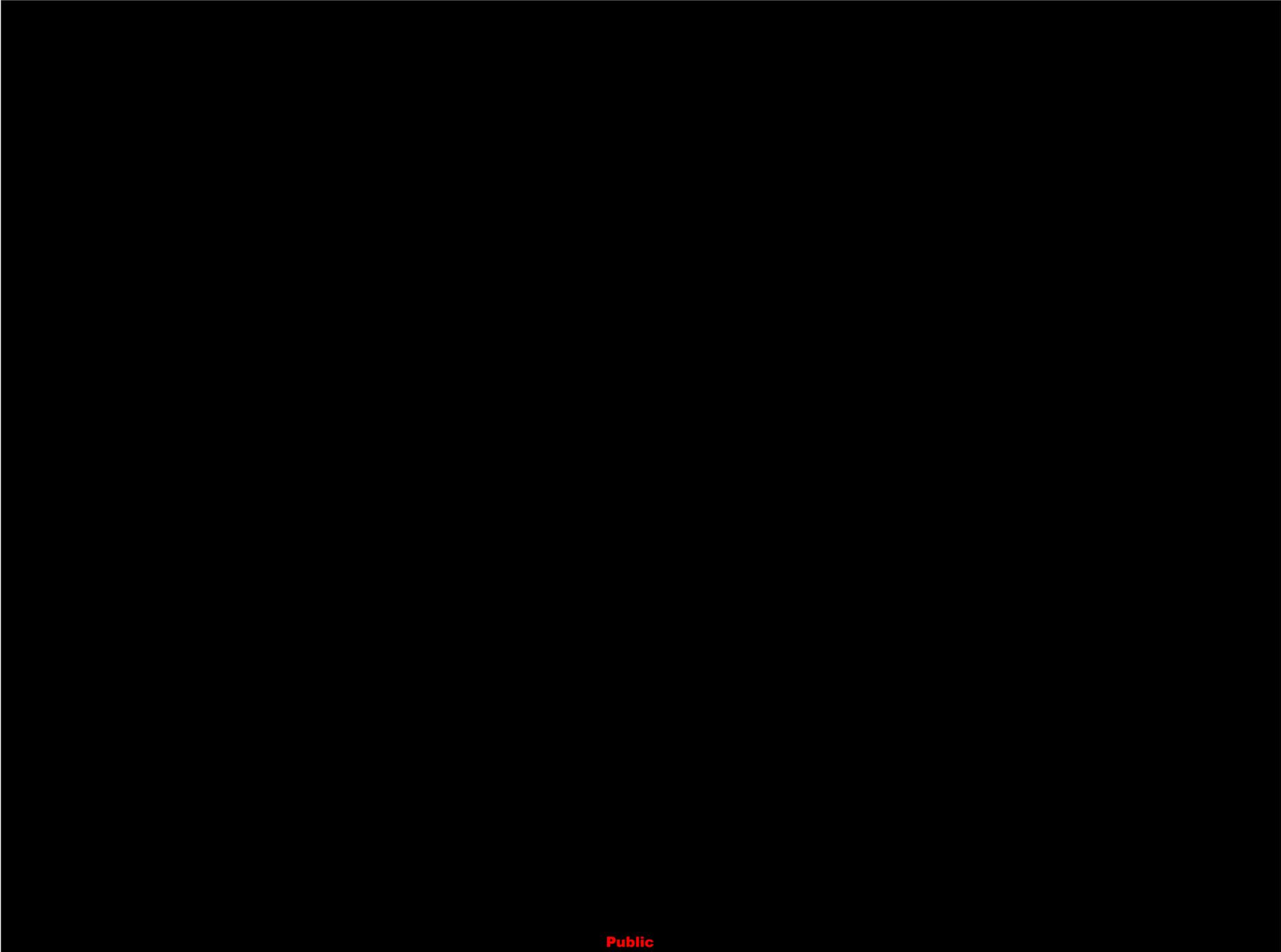


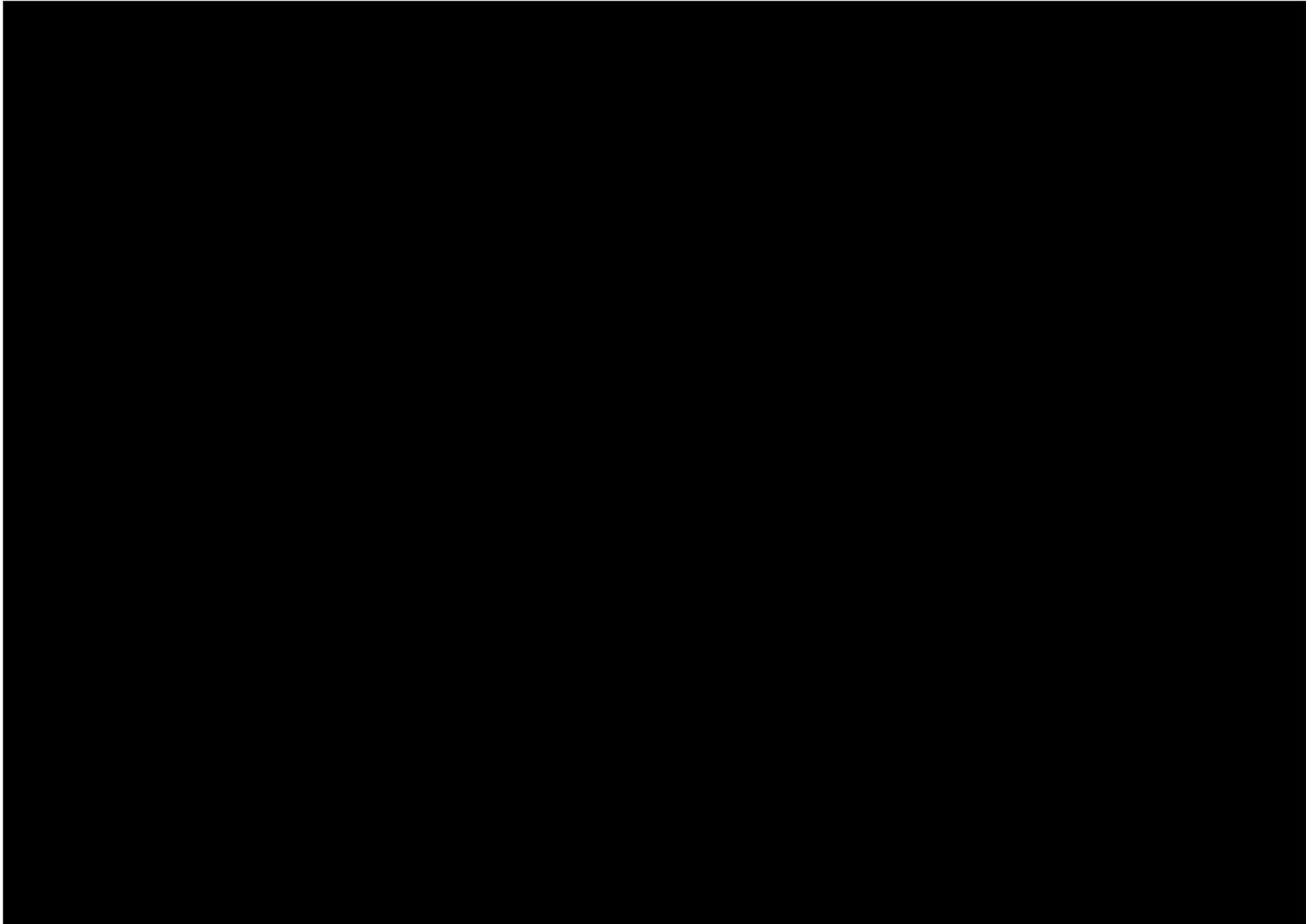


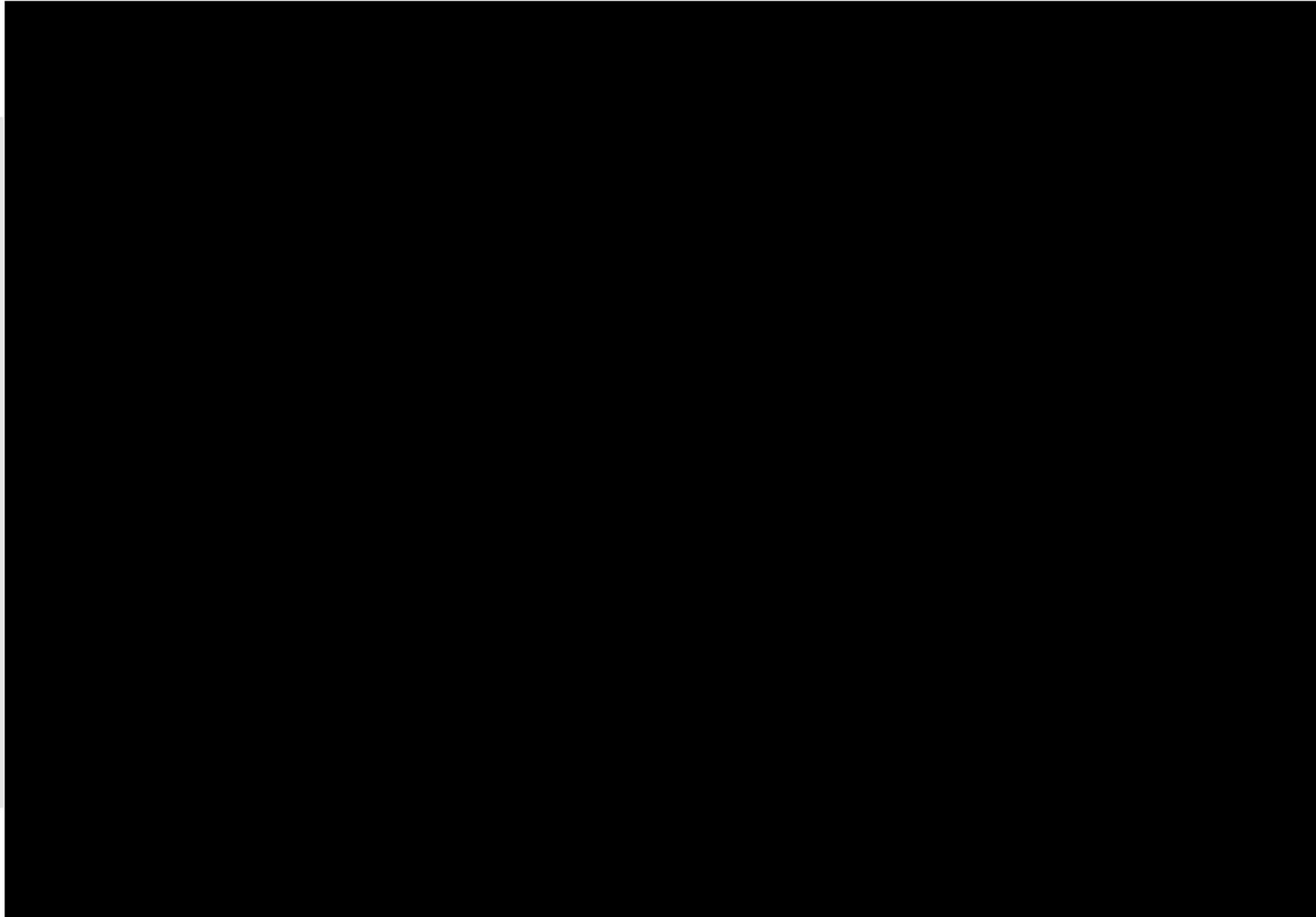


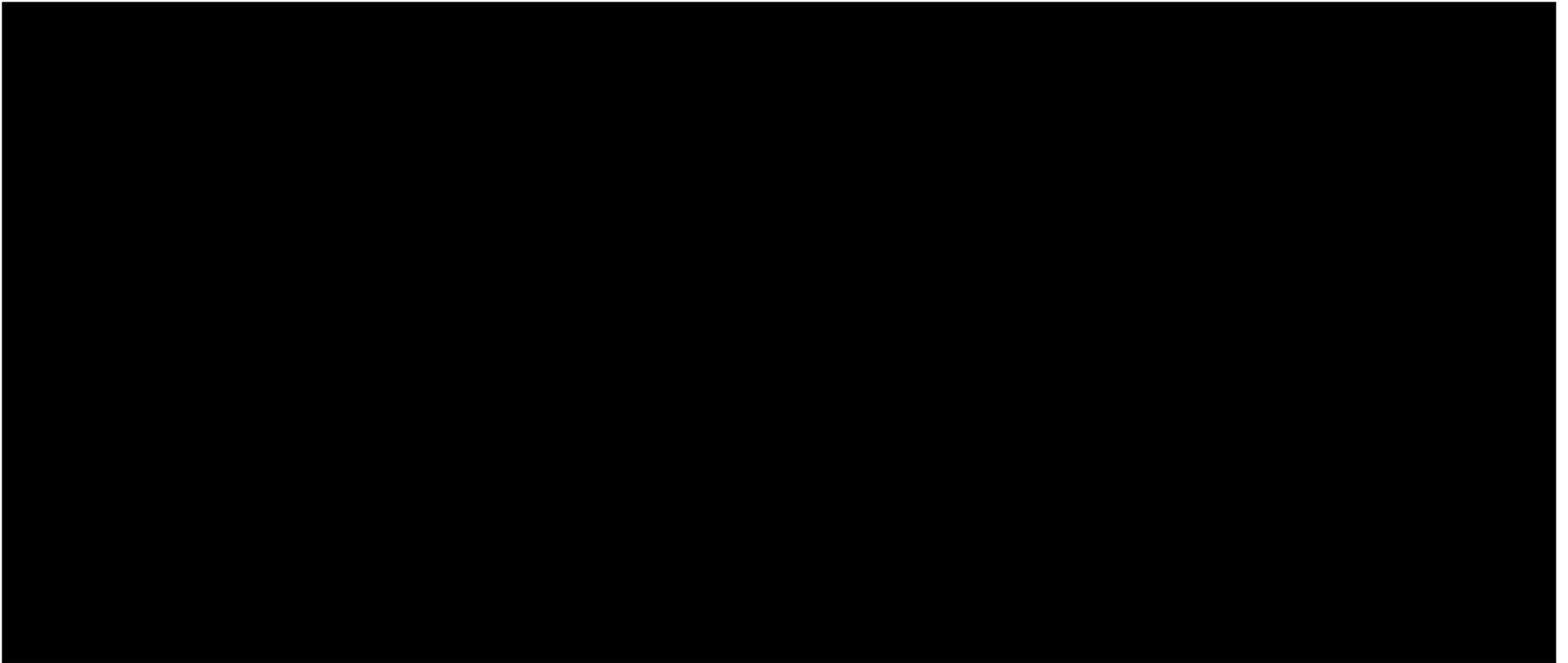


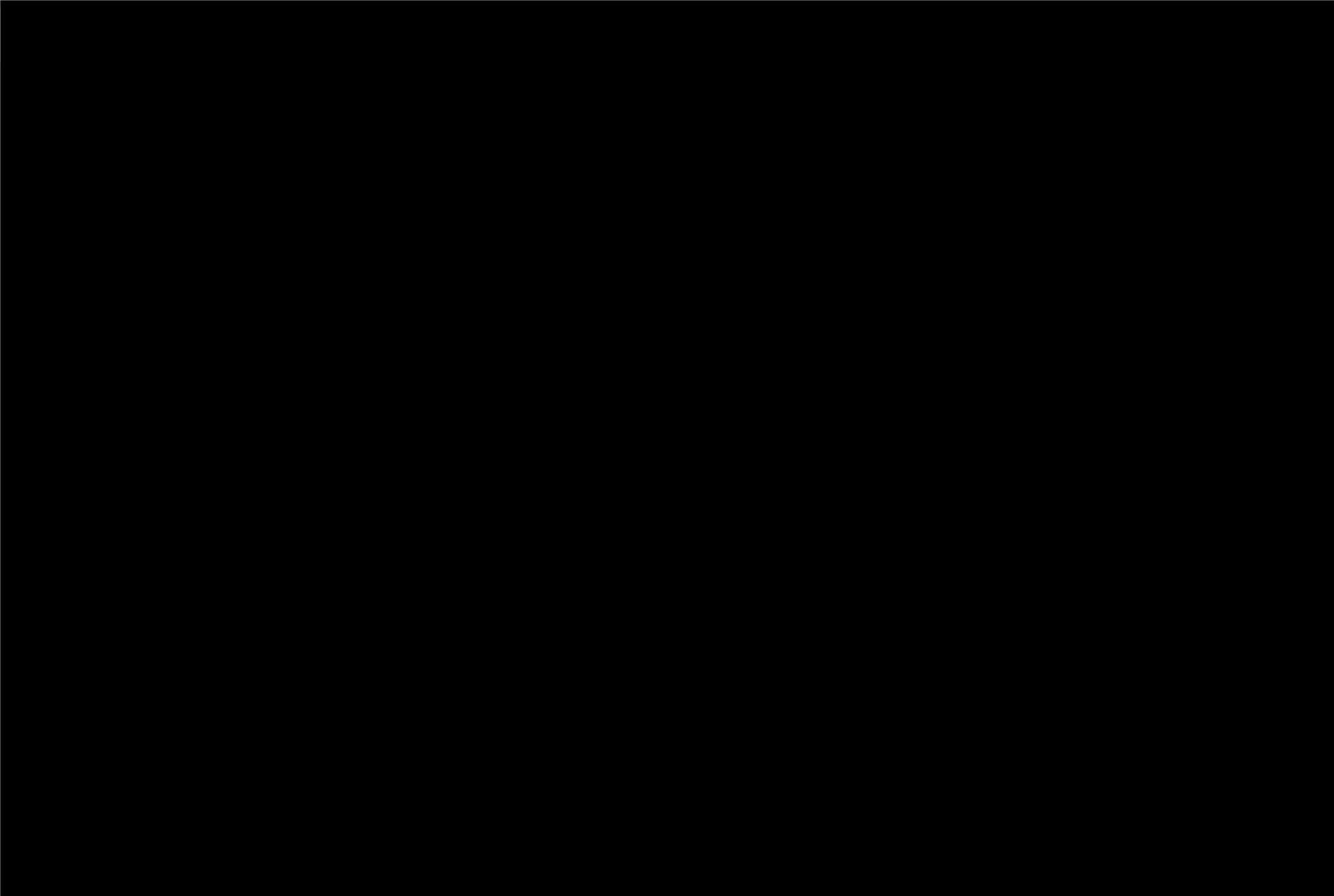




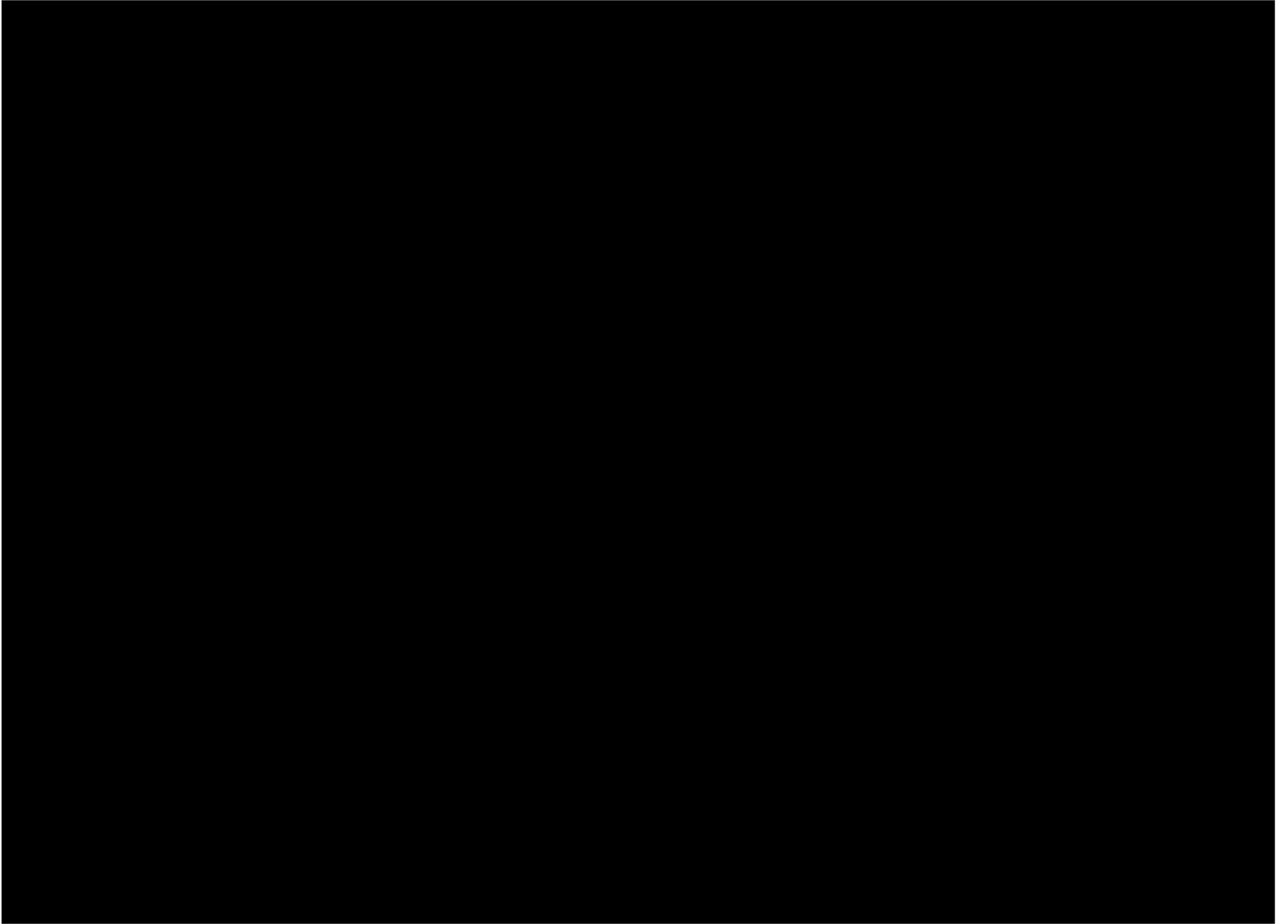












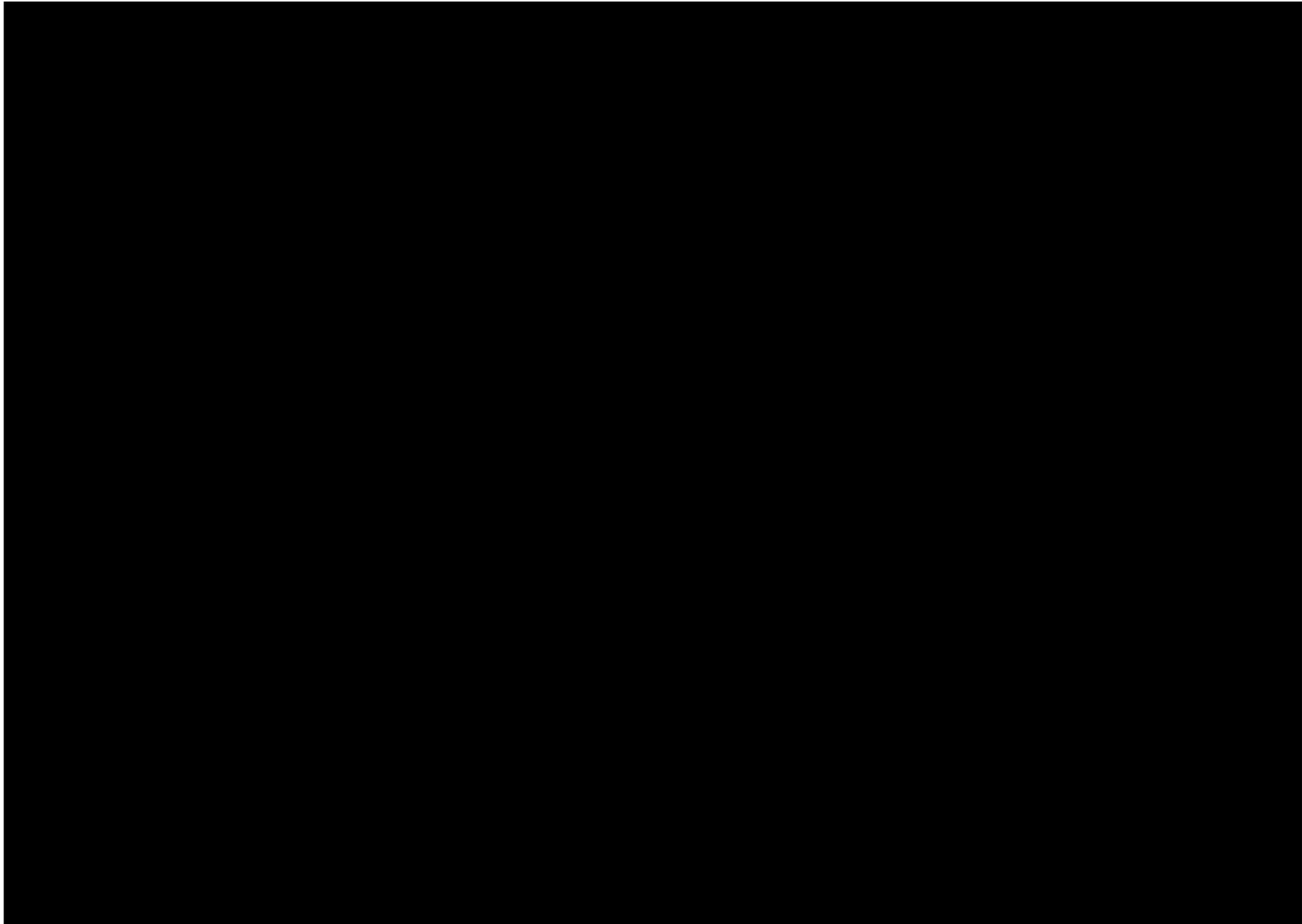


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SECTION 14 EXCEPTIONS TO FORM PPA

Please attach an explanation of any exceptions to the Form PPA set forth in Appendices B-1 and B-2. Comments to the proposed Form PPA must include any specific alternative provisions in a redline format to the Form PPA. If the bidder is proposing a two-phased project with each phase covered by a separate contract, the bidder should provide two separate contracts with specific alternative provisions to the Form PPA in redline format.

Bidders are discouraged from proposing material changes to the Form PPA.

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

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SECTION 15 EXCEPTIONS TO FORM COMMITMENT AGREEMENT 15-1

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No table of figures entries found.

List of Figures

No table of figures entries found.

SECTION 15 EXCEPTIONS TO FORM COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Section Overview

Please attach an explanation of any exceptions to the Form Commitment Agreement set forth in Appendix G. Comments to the proposed Form Commitment Agreement must include any specific alternative provisions in a redline format to the Form Commitment Agreement.

Bidders are discouraged from proposing material changes to the Form Commitment Agreement.

SouthCoast Wind proposes no exceptions to the Commitment Agreement set forth in **Appendix G**.