Agenda Date: 4/11/12 Agenda Item: 8E



STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/bpu/</u>

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF FISHERMEN'S ATLANTIC CITY WIND FARM, LLC FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE WATERS PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING OFFSHORE WIND RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR APPLICATION REVIEW

ORDER ON EXTENSION OF TIME FOR APPLICATION REVIEW

DOCKET NO. EO11050314V

Parties of Record:

Stefanie Brand, Director, Division of Rate Counsel
Stephen B. Pearlman, Esq., Inglesino, Pearlman, Wyciskala &Taylor LLC, on behalf of Fishermen's Atlantic City Windfarm, LLC
Phillip J. Passanante, Esq., on behalf of Atlantic City Electric Company
Marc B. Lasky, Esq., on behalf of Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Alexander C. Stern, Esq., on behalf of Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Susan J. Vercheak, Esq., on behalf of Rockland Electric Company

BY THE BOARD:

BACKGROUND/PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 19, 2010, Governor Chris Christie signed into law the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act ("The Act"), <u>P.L.</u> 2010, <u>c.</u> 57, which amends and supplements the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:3-49 <u>et seq.</u> On February 10, 2011, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") adopted <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:8-6.1 <u>et seq.</u>, providing an application process and a framework under which the Board will review any application and ultimately approve, conditionally approve, or deny the application.

By Order dated May 16, 2011, in Docket No. EO11050290V, the Board opened an application window for 30 days for offshore wind projects in New Jersey territorial waters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.2. Fishermen's Atlantic City Windfarm, LLC ("FACW" or "the applicant"), submitted, on May 19, 2011, the only application to the Board.

Upon receipt of the application, Board staff immediately began the administrative review process pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:8-6.4 <u>et seq.</u> The initial review uncovered administrative deficiencies which were outlined in letters to the applicant on June 2, 2011 and June 13, 2011. The applicant responded to the administrative deficiencies with written submissions on June 8, 2011 and June 14, 2011. Staff then determined that the application was administratively complete as of June 14, 2011, and provided such notice to FACW on June 22, 2011.

Pursuant to the Act, the Board has 180 days to conduct its review, and to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the application. N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.1(d). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:8-6.3 and 6.4, the 180-day period for the Board's review began to run on June 14, 2011, when staff determined that FACW's application was administratively complete. Hence, the Board's review period was set to expire on December 11, 2011, unless the applicant consented to an extension of time. By letter dated November 23, 2011, the applicant consented to an initial additional 60 days of review, beyond the initial 180 days, which placed the requirement to act no later than February 8, 2012. By letter dated December 13, 2011, the applicant consented to an additional extension, which placed the requirement for the Board to act on or before March 21, 2012. By order dated December 15, 2011, Docket No. EO11050314V, the Board ordered that the review period be extended to March 21, 2012. By letter dated February 6, 2012, the applicant consented to an additional extension of time, which required the Board to act on FACW's application on or before April 11, 2012. By order dated February 10, 2012, Docket No. EO11050314V, the Board ordered that the review period be extended to April 11, 2012. By letter dated March 2, 2012, FACW requested an additional extension of the review period until October 31, 2012 and agreed to provide an amended application by April 20, 2012, in order to respond to the evaluation reports by Boston Pacific Company, the Board's consultant, and Acadian Consultants, consultant for the Division of Rate Counsel. By order dated March 12, 2012, Docket No. EO11050314V, the Board ordered that the review period be extended to October 31, 2012 and that FACW provide an amended application on or before April 20, 2012.

By letter dated April 2 2012, FACW notified the Board that it would not be able to submit the amended application by April 20, 2012. Accordingly, FACW requested an extension of the deadline for the submission of the amended application to June 1, 2012, and for an extension of the review period to December 31, 2012.

In addition to the orders granting an extension of time for the Board to act upon FACW's application, the Board appointed President Robert M. Hanna as the presiding officer in this matter by order dated January 18, 2012, Docket No. EO11050314V.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Board has carefully considered staff's recommendations and, hearing no objections, <u>HEARBY</u> <u>FINDS</u> that FACW has consented to extend the time for the Board's review of its application. The extension until December 31, 2012 represents a fair and reasonable extension and is in the public interest. The Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ORDERS</u> that the review period to consider the above referenced application has been extended to December 31, 2012. Additionally, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that FACW has requested additional time to file an amended application that responds to issues raised by consultants for the Board and Rate Counsel. Again, having no objections from the parties, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>GRANTS</u> FACW's request to submit an amended application to the Board on or before June 1, 2012. The Board continues to recognize President Hanna as the appointed presiding officer in this manner.

DATED: 4/12/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

ROBERT M. HANNA PRESIDENT

NNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Kust d **KRISTI IZZO** SECRETARY

JØSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

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