



**State of Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Customer and Technical Assistance  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 260  
Providence, RI 02908-5767**

**April 10, 2013**

## **Notice of Public Hearing**

**RIDEM File Number:**

**Block Island Wind Farm  
DP-12-119; WQC 12-037**

**Block Island Transmission System  
DP- 12-120; WQC 12-039**

This office has under consideration the application request of Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC; Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission, LLC (“the Applicant”) for a State of Rhode Island Dredge Permit, that includes a state of Rhode Island Water Quality Certification in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations for Dredging and the Management of Dredge Materials and State Water Quality Regulations*.

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is also reviewing the application under their File Number NAE-2009-789. The Corps will attend this RIDEM Public Hearing. They will participate and be available to explain the ACOE role and permit review process.

Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC proposes to construct and maintain the Block Island Wind Farm (BIWF), a 30-megawatt (MW) offshore wind farm located in Rhode Island state territorial waters. The BIWF would consist of five 6-MW wind turbine generators (WTGs), a submarine cable interconnecting the five WTGs, and a 34.5-kilovolt (kV) submarine transmission cable from the northernmost WTG to an interconnection point on east-central Block Island where the cable will go ashore to a new substation built at the existing Block Island Power Company (BIPCO) property. In connection with the BIWF, Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission, LLC proposes to construct the Block Island Transmission System (BITS), a 34.5-kV alternating current bi-directional submarine transmission cable from Block Island to the Rhode Island mainland.

Deepwater Wind has submitted an Environmental Report as part of their application. This large document is not attached to this public notice. However, Deepwater Wind has made the Environmental Report available on their website at the following address:

[www.dwwind.com/block-island/block-island-project-overview](http://www.dwwind.com/block-island/block-island-project-overview)

Paper copies of the Environmental Report are also available for public review at the Block Island Town Hall and at the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in Narragansett.

The five WTGs are proposed to be built approximately 3 statute miles off of the southeast coast of Block Island in Rhode Island Sound (Atlantic Ocean). The proposed locations on the USGS Block Island, RI quadrangle sheet for the five WTGs are listed in **Table 1** below. The BITS would make landfall on east-central Block Island at the same location as the BIWF cable and would also interconnect at a new substation built at the existing Block Island Power

Company (BIPCO) property. The BITS would make landfall on the Rhode Island mainland in the Town of Narragansett.

**Table 1. WTG Coordinates**

#	Coordinate Plane WGS 1984	
	Latitude	Longitude
WTG 1	41° 7' 32.596" N	71° 30' 27.230" W
WTG 2	41° 7' 11.770" N	71° 30' 50.208" W
WTG 3	41° 6' 53.060" N	71° 31' 16.183" W
WTG 4	41° 6' 36.710" N	71° 31' 44.810" W
WTG 5	41° 6' 23.050" N	71° 32' 15.540" W

The Project would also include construction of one new substation at the site of an existing power generation facility on BIPCO property (Block Island Substation). The Block Island Substation will provide a point of interconnection for the power from the BIWF and will be the point of interconnection for BITS on Block Island. The Block Island Substation would consist of two adjoining switchyards: one dedicated to the BIWF (BIWF Generation Switchyard) and the other dedicated to the BITS (BITS Island Switchyard). The Project would also include upgrades to the existing substation on the BIPCO property. The BITS would connect to the existing The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (TNEC) distribution system on the Rhode Island mainland via a new switchyard located in the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island.

The BIWF would consist of five 6-MW WTGs, a submarine cable interconnecting the WTGs (Inter-Array Cable), and a 34.5-kV transmission cable approximately 6.2 miles long from the northernmost WTG to an interconnection point on Block Island (Export Cable). The WTGs would be attached to the seafloor using jacket foundations secured with four foundation piles or skirt piles driven to a depth of up to 250 feet below the mudline. Deepwater Wind plans to install five WTGs with a hub height above mean low water (MLW) between 269 feet and 328 feet and a rotor diameter between 505 feet and 541 feet, for a total height between 581 feet and 659 feet above MLW. The blade clearance will range between 75 feet and 118 feet above MLW.

The WTG foundations would result in approximately 0.35 acre seafloor disturbance from the WTG foundations of all five WTGs, including armoring of the Inter-Array Cable at the base of each turbine. Construction activities would result in up to 1.2 acres of seafloor disturbance associated with jack-up and/or anchored derrick barges used to install the foundations and WTGs. The submarine cables would be installed using a jet plow to minimize sediment resuspension and seafloor disturbance during cable laying. Installation of the Inter-Array and Export Cable would result in up to 14.91 acres of seafloor disturbance. During operation, cable armoring in areas where the target depth is not achieved may require up to 0.39 acre of sand and/or cement bags for cable protection. The Export Cable would be brought ashore on Block Island at Crescent Beach using either a short-distance or long-distance horizontal directional drill (HDD) that would temporarily disturb up to 2.3 acres of beach and parking areas onshore. The long-distance HDD would require the installation of a temporary cofferdam up to 1,900 feet from shore. The cofferdam would result in dredging and refill of approximately 333 cubic yards of sediment. The onshore BIWF facilities will not result in fill or discharge into wetlands. The Export Cable will require one crossing of a navigable water attached to the existing bridge that spans Trims Pond and Harbor Pond on Beach Avenue.

The BITS is a proposed 34.5-kV AC bi-directional submerged transmission cable that will run approximately 21.8 miles from the substation on Block Island to the switchyard in Narragansett, Rhode Island and to its interconnection point with the TNEC distribution system. The BITS would be located within the state of Rhode Island, its territorial waters, and federal waters (approximately 9 miles on the OCS). The BITS would make landfall on Block Island at Crescent Beach adjacent to the BIWF Export Cable and would be collocated with the BIWF Export Cable within existing road rights-of-way to the BIPCO property. The BITS cable route on the Rhode Island mainland would make landfall on Rhode Island mainland at the Narragansett Town Beach parking lot and would follow an onshore route to a

new switchyard located on municipally owned land in the Town of Narragansett.

The BITS would be installed offshore using a jet plow to minimize sediment resuspension and seafloor disturbance. Installation activities would result in a maximum of 39.64 acres of seafloor disturbance. During operation, bags of sand and/or cement for cable armoring associated with two existing telecommunications cable crossings and areas where the target burial depth may not be achieved would result in up to 1.33 acres of seafloor disturbance. The BITS cable would be brought ashore using either a short-distance or long-distance HDD that would temporarily disturb up to 2.3 acres of beach and parking areas onshore. The long-distance HDD option would require the installation of two temporary cofferdams that would result in dredging and fill of approximately 333 cubic yards of sediment per cofferdam. The onshore BITS facilities will not result in fill or discharge into wetlands and waters of the United States. The BITS would be collocated with the BIWF Export Cable attached to the existing bridge that spans Trims Pond and Harbor Pond on Beach Avenue.

**Comments and Public Invited:** In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments we invite you to attend the public hearings listed below that the RIDEM will hold and the US ACOE will attend in the project area. All interested federal, state and local agencies, interested private and public organizations, and individuals are invited to attend.

**Public Hearing Locations: April 24, 2013**

**Narragansett Town Hall  
Assembly Room  
25 Fifth Avenue  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**May 8, 2013**

**New Shoreham Town Hall  
16 Old Town Road  
Block Island, RI 02807  
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Additional Information:** Written comments shall be accepted until May 22, 2013. Any questions or written comments regarding this notice should be directed to Ronald Gagnon, Chief at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management – Office of Customer & Technical Assistance, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908, or by email at [ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov](mailto:ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov) or at (401) 222-6822, Ext. 7500. Documents related to this Notice may be reviewed at this Office BY appointment by calling Angela Spadoni (401) 222-6822, Ext. 7307.