

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Offshore Wind Prebuild Infrastructure Solicitation | Docket No. QO23100719
Public Stakeholder Meeting | October 1, 2024
Oral Testimony from Advanced Energy United

Good evening. My name is Katie Mettle, and I am the Policy Principal for the state of New Jersey for Advanced Energy United. We are an industry association that represents the full spectrum of technologies that are needed to power the transition to a 100% renewable energy economy.

I am here today to speak in favor of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' opening a solicitation for a prebuild transmission infrastructure project to support the development of offshore wind. This project will enable 3,742 MW of offshore wind generation to connect to the grid, accommodating up to four Qualified Projects. It will be the most cost-effective way to connect multiple offshore wind projects to a single point of interconnection. It will have only one landing point instead of multiple points of interconnection across the shore.

Building offshore wind will be a critical piece to transitioning to a clean, renewable, and resilient grid. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower air pollution while sustaining jobs. It is predicted that offshore wind will create thousands of sustainable union jobs in multiple sectors, including manufacturing, construction, operations, and maintenance – right here in New Jersey.

New Jersey has already positioned itself as a national leader in offshore wind generation by developing the New Jersey Wind Port, the country's first greenfield port dedicated exclusively to supporting offshore wind projects.

The offshore wind industry has already generated \$2.5 billion for long-term investments in new ports, factories, transmission systems, workforce development, and innovative environmental research for New Jersey. Nine hundred and thirty-four companies have joined the offshore wind supply chain registry.

Completing the prebuild transmission infrastructure project is necessary to realize the full potential of offshore wind to grow New Jersey's economy, improve public health, and mitigate climate change. This investment will reap benefits for generations to come.