

March 7, 2023

**PUBLIC ACT 13-303 – SECTIONS 6 AND 7 –
AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS**

**PUBLIC ACT 15-107 – SECTION 1 –
AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY**

**JUNE SPECIAL SESSION PUBLIC ACT 17-3 – SECTION 1d – AN ACT CONCERNING ZERO CARBON
SOLICITATION AND PROCUREMENT**

**PUBLIC ACT 19-71 – SECTION 1 –
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND**

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING AND PUBLIC MEETING

I. Introduction

In August 2022, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued its 2022 Procurement Plan Update (Procurement Plan Update),¹ announcing procurements that DEEP planned to undertake in the coming calendar year to implement the findings and recommendations of the 2020 Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) for Connecticut.² The IRP further noted the need for additional offshore wind procurement. This Notice initiates two of the procurements identified in the IRP and Procurement Plan Update.

Pursuant to Sections 6 and 7 of Public Act No. 13-303; Section 1 of Public Act No. 15-107; Section 1d of June Special Session Public Act 17-3; and pursuant to Section 1 of Public Act No. 19-71 (the Acts), DEEP initiates the above referenced proceeding and announces a public meeting regarding grid-scale renewable energy procurements. By way of this notice, DEEP expresses its intent to conduct the following two procurements in 2023:

- A procurement for new zero carbon electricity generating resources that deliver incremental power into the control area of the regional independent system operator including the Class I, emission-free, renewable energy sources identified in Table 1.^{3,4}
- A procurement for energy derived from offshore wind.⁵

The purpose of these procurements is to secure cost-effective zero carbon resources that can improve the reliability of the region's electric grid, while also improving energy affordability by reducing dependence on fossil fuel resources that are subject to volatile pricing and delivery constraints. The procurements are also consistent with the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals and other energy and environmental goals and policies established in the IRP and the Comprehensive Energy

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/IRP/2022-Procurement-Plan-Update.pdf>

² <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/IRP/2020-IRP/2020-Connecticut-Integrated-Resources-Plan-10-7-2021.pdf>

³ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/act/pa/pdf/2013pa-00303-r00sb-01138-pa.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/act/pa/pdf/2015PA-00107-R00SB-01078-PA.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/act/pa/pdf/2019PA-00071-R00HB-07156-PA.pdf>

Strategy.⁶ The Global Warming Solutions Act, as set forth by Public Act 08-98, *An Act Concerning Connecticut Global Warming Solutions*, as amended by Public Act 18-82, *An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency*, and as codified in Section 22a-200a of the Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stats.), mandated achievement of GHG emissions reduction targets of at least 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030 and at least 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050. Public Act 22-5, *An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation*, established the 100 percent zero carbon electric sector by 2040 goal as a statutory mandate. As directed by Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 3, the IRP modeled multiple pathways to achieve a 100 percent zero carbon electric sector goal. This modeling shows that Connecticut has already made significant progress towards achieving this goal and demonstrates multiple achievable pathways to a zero carbon electric sector by 2040 while increasing reliability and controlling costs.

The Acts grant the DEEP Commissioner the authority to procure these resources and list specific considerations the Commissioner shall make when selecting proposals. DEEP intends to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit offers from private developers for the eligible electricity generating resources in order to secure cost-effective zero carbon resources. DEEP will exercise its remaining procurement authority under each of the Acts to receive and evaluate proposals and select projects that help achieve the policy goals of affordable, equitable, and reliable emission-free energy. Table 1 summarizes the authority granted by each Act to the DEEP Commissioner to procure the identified eligible technologies and the remaining authority as of the date of this notice.

Table 1: DEEP Procurement Authority and Eligible Technologies

	13-303		15-107	19-71
	Sec. 6	Sec. 7	Sec. 1	Sec. 1
<i>Total Authority Granted Under Statute (% of load*, MWh, or MW)</i>	≤4%	≤5%	≤10%	2000 MW
<i>Remaining Authority**</i>	1.4%	5%	7.6%	1196 MW
Eligible Technologies Included in Instant Procurements				
Energy Efficiency/Demand Response			X	
Zero Carbon Fuel Cells	X	X	X	
Geothermal	X	X	X	
Hydropower (run-of-river)	X	X	X	
Landfill Methane Gas	X	X	X	
Offshore Wind	X	X	X	X
Onshore Wind	X	X	X	
Solar	X	X	X	
Energy Storage	X	X	X	

* Estimated total load is 26,000,000 MWh

** Total authority less contracted projects from previous procurements⁶

As detailed in DEEP’s Procurement Plan Update, since the completion of the IRP modeling, over 300 MWs of solar and land-based wind energy projects selected by DEEP through its statutory authority

⁶ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/CES/2018ComprehensiveEnergyStrategypdf.pdf>

have been terminated. The Procurement Plan Update identified the near-term need for procurement of resources to replace the capacity lost due to recent project terminations. The Procurement Plan Update also identified the need to consider cost-effective strategies for transmission upgrades to unlock additional offshore wind resources, including procurements in coordination with other states in the region. In January 2023, Connecticut filed multiple concept papers, two jointly with other New England states, with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to request federal support for innovative electricity transmission proposals for multistate transmission infrastructure that would support the growth of the New England region's supply of clean, reliable, and affordable energy.⁷ The proposed projects would allow the states to proactively plan, identify, and select a portfolio of transmission projects to unlock the region's significant offshore wind potential, improve grid reliability and resiliency, and invest in job growth and quality jobs.

DEEP will align future, and depending on timing, amend the instant procurement with regional coordination efforts on transmission infrastructure investments to maximize the benefits of clean energy resources for Connecticut ratepayers, including prioritization of strategies that reduce winter energy security and reliability risks.

II. Public Informational Meeting

By way of this Notice, DEEP announces it is holding a virtual public informational meeting to present for discussion and receive feedback on siting and environmental best practices for clean energy projects on **March 29, 2023, via Zoom**. To join the meeting, please register using this link:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PUItxAbDQsSn-uxaJh6mXA. The objective of the informational meeting is to receive stakeholder input to inform the development of the RFPs under this proceeding. The draft RFPs will be released for public comment following the public meeting and prior to issuing the final RFPs.

For each solicitation issued pursuant to Section 1 of Public Act No. 19-71, the Commissioner of DEEP must establish a Commission on Environmental Standards (CES) to provide input on best practices for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing, during the construction and operation of eligible offshore wind facilities. The CES will convene and hold public meetings as part of the development of the offshore wind RFP under this proceeding.

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Notice filed with the Secretary of State on March 7, 2023.

⁷ <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/News-Releases/News-Releases---2023/CT-ME-MA-NH-RI-and-VT-Working-Together-on-Multi-State-Transmission-Infrastructure>