



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



FACT SHEET
2019 Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 875
AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Summary of Proposal:

This proposal allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), to conduct a solicitation for offshore wind resources. DEEP is authorized to select proposals to meet up to 15% of the state's electric load, or approximately 1,000 MW. That new authority supplements previous offshore wind selections that meet approximately 4.5% of load, as well as existing, as yet unallocated, authorizations to procure additional offshore wind energy or other renewable energy resources to meet up to 16% of load.

The proposal does not require DEEP to select certain projects, but provides the opportunity to use a competitive process to secure those that provide the best pricing and benefits for ratepayers. In determining whether to select proposals, DEEP must consider certain factors, including whether a proposal is in the best interest of ratepayers, positive impacts to the state's economic development, and policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy and Integrated Resources Plan.

Reason for Proposal:

Procuring new offshore wind energy can help the state reduce carbon emissions, improve winter fuel security in the electric sector, and catalyze green jobs and economic development opportunities. In two separate procurements in the last two years, DEEP has procured 304 MW of offshore wind and garnered economic commitments from the offshore wind developer that include significant investments in New London and in the Connecticut State Pier.

Other states in the New England region have made similar commitments and/or investments in offshore wind procurement. Massachusetts has a goal of procuring 1,600 MW (~13.35% of MA electric load) by 2027, has already procured 800 MW, and is currently studying whether to seek authorization to procure up to an additional 1,600 MW. Rhode Island has procured 400 MW (~23.72% of RI electric load) and New York has a goal of procuring 9,000 MW by 2035 (~25% of NY electric load).

Significant Impacts:

- This proposal requires DEEP to work with the Department of Economic and Community Development to evaluate commitments made by proposals and ensure any selected proposals maximize economic development benefits.

Contacts:

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- The costs and benefits of any contract entered into with the electric distribution companies would flow to all electric ratepayers. Any proposals selected by DEEP must be in the best interest of ratepayers, including the delivered price of the resources and the economic development benefits provided. Over the term of the contract, the projected benefits must outweigh the projected costs.
- This proposal allows DEEP to increase the amount of zero carbon generation serving its load to meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements and Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) targets. Increasing the amount of offshore wind purchases displaces other carbon-emitting resources in the state's GWSA accounting.

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