CAPE COD COMMISSION
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

New England Wind 1 Connector
CCC No. 22005

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

TIME: 5:00 P.M

The meeting will be held virtually, with members of the subcommittee participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021

CAPE COD COMMISSION

1

HEARING AGENDA

- **Announcements**
- Attendance – Roll Call
- Applicant's Presentation
- Staff Presentation
- Subcommittee Discussion
- Public Comment
- Further Subcommittee Discussion/Actions

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This meeting is being held virtually as allowed pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021
- Because there are members remotely participating, we will be taking a roll call vote on any action.
- This meeting is being recorded for the purposes of creating minutes.

2

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3

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Fred Chirigotis, Chair
- Kevin Grunwald
- Harold Mitchell
- Richard Roy
- Thomas Wilson

4

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COMMENTS FROM APPLICANT

5



6

New England Wind 1 Connector

DRI Submission Updates

- Supplemental Routing Analysis
  - Drafted in September 2022 in response to questions raised by abutters in Centerville
  - Focuses specifically on engineering and constructability
  - Provides details regarding enhanced survey, including Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigation, to better locate/identify subsurface utilities
- Revised Substation Landscaping Plan
  - Incorporated request to increase planting variety, including the addition of lower shrub plantings
- Natural Resources Inventory Supplement

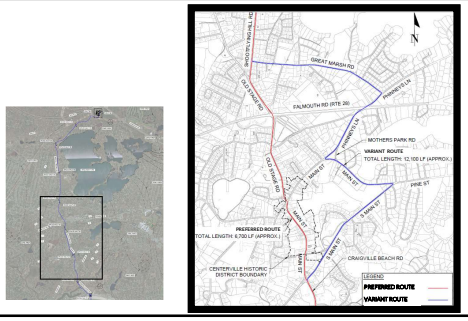
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7

New England Wind 1 Connector

Duct Bank Route Selection

- Preferred Route
- Variant Route



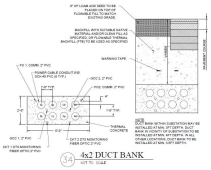
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8

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Duct Bank Engineering Criteria

- 4x2 Conduit Configuration / Concrete Encased
- Spice Vaults Spaced ≈0.4 - 0.6miles
- Minimize Sharp Bends-Facilitates Cable Pulling
- Design & Construction Coordinated with New Town of Barnstable Sewer Project
- Stay within Town Right-Of-Way





Duct Bank Construction – Vineyard Wind Project March 2022

9

9

New England Wind 1 Connector

Onshore Routing Analysis – Key Considerations

- Route Length & Geometry
- Constructability & Duration
- Coordination with Town Sewer Project
- Temporary Impacts /Traffic Management
- Inventory of Existing Trees, Sidewalks, Fences, etc.
- Utility Interface / Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey
- Critical Intersections/Crossings



GPR analysis of both route options



GPR analysis overview of existing utilities along Main St

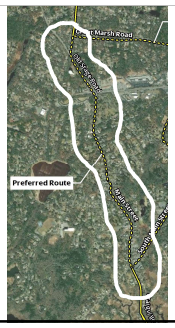
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10

New England Wind 1 Connector

Preferred Route

- 6,700 linear feet (1.3 miles)
- Coincides with active Town sewer project – design actively underway
- Shorter, fewer splice vaults
  - Est. 2 construction seasons (offseason)
  - Less construction impact
- Straighter roads/no sharp bends/better electrically
- Routing through Centerville Main Street



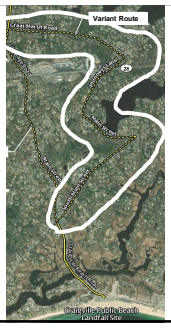
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11

New England Wind 1 Connector

Variant Route

- 12,100 linear feet (2.3 miles)
- Coordinate with future Town sewer, but more technical challenges
- Longer route (~2X), more spice vaults
  - Est. 3 construction seasons (offseason)
  - Greater construction impacts
- Multiple sharp bends, not preferred electrically (further increases needed splice vaults)
- Avoids Centerville Historic District/Main Street



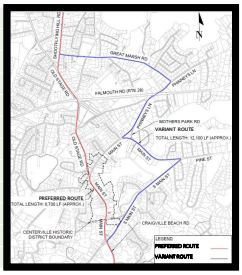
12

12

New England Wind 1 Connector

Onshore Route Summary

Attribute	Preferred Route	Variant Route
Distance	1.3 miles	2.3 miles
Estimated Construction Seasons	2	3
Sharp Bends in Road Layout	No	Yes
Preferred Electrically	Yes	No
Fewer Splice Vaults	Yes	No
Sewer Project Interface	Active	Future
Efficient Coordination with Sewer	Yes	No
Routing through Centerville Historic District	Yes	No
Traffic Detours	2 Seasons of Detours	3 Seasons of Detours
Anticipated Tree Impacts	Yes	Yes
Traffic - Route 28 Crossing	Yes	Yes



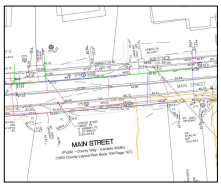
13

13

New England Wind 1 Connector

Current Status

- Design development efforts have confirmed selection of Preferred Route
- GPR results incorporated into the duct bank design
- Active design coordination with Town sewer project
- Active coordination with various utility companies
- Optimizing location and number of splice vaults



14

14



15

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PRESENTATION FROM COMMISSION STAFF

- Staff Comments (Jeffrey Ribeiro)

16

Project Description

- Two export cables through 6.9 miles of state waters within Barnstable County
- 4.0 miles of buried duct bank and export cables, primarily in public roadway layouts
- New substation located at 6 and 8 Shootflying Hill Road
- 0.7 miles of buried duct bank and export cables primarily proposed in existing utility right-of-way (ROW) to the West Barnstable Substation
- New equipment at the existing West Barnstable Substation on Oak Street

17

Project Description



18

Procedural History

- DRI review as the Project required the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to MEPA:
  - Alteration of ten or more acres of wetlands (land under the ocean)
  - Construction of electric transmission lines with a capacity of >230kV
- DRI hearing period procedurally on March 14, 2022
- Host Community Agreement with Barnstable in May 2022
- DRI Subcommittee hearing on March 7, 2023
- DRI hearing period extension requested to June 10, 2023

19

Route Analysis



20

Route Analysis

- Preferred
- Shorter: less disturbance
- Proximity to many historic resources (NR district)
- Limited proximity to natural resources
- Construction Impact Mitigation Plan protocols proposed

- Alternative
- Longer: more disturbance
- Greater proximity to wetlands
- Limited proximity to historic resources (one NR house)
- Potential Article 97 impacts
- Erosion control and natural resource mitigation proposed

With conditions, staff suggests both are consistent with the RPP

21

Other Outstanding Issues

- Can be reviewed as part of draft decision:
  - Final Open Space requirement calculation
  - Further detail on area of disturbance at revised Route 6 crossing
  - Further detail on hazardous materials containment
  - Landscape plans

22

Next Steps

- Subcommittee questions
- Public comment
- Subcommittee discussion
  - Probable project benefits and detriments
- Motion to direct staff to draft DRI decision
- Motion to Continue
  - Time/Date/Place Certain

23

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SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS

24

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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25

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26

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FURTHER SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

27

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FURTHER SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

Recommended Motions:

- Move to instruct staff to prepare a draft decision with conditions as discussed for review by the subcommittee.
- Move to continue the public hearing on the project to April 24, 2023 at 5 p.m. to be held virtually.

28

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

29